

YOU NEED A PLAN

In order to get the most out of this series, we will list some optional activities each week you might consider doing this week. These are designed to help you work toward experiencing God's financial freedom, making God your master and money your slave.

1. **Give something away this week.** Set a certain amount of money aside this week to give to someone else. The amount could be anything from \$1 to \$100 or more. Take that money and pray about it. Ask God to show you who He wants you to give it to. God may direct you to give the money to a complete stranger such as a waiter or waitress at a restaurant, a delivery person, a family in need, or a cashier at a store. He may direct you to give it to a co-worker, friend, or relative. Try to stay anonymous, giving as a steward on behalf of the One who truly owns it all.
2. **Consistently tithe for three months.** In Malachi 3:10, God says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." This is the only time where God asks us to test Him. So, if you are not consistently tithing, try it. Commit to tithe 10 percent of your income over the next three months. During that time, ask God to help you be very aware of how He uses your giving to change your heart and relationship to Him.

FINANCIAL FREEDOM
How Do I Honor God With My Finances?
Luke 12:16-21

Pastor John Fanous
Edgewater Covenant Church
February 27, 2011

FINANCIAL FREEDOM: HOW DO I HONOR GOD WITH MY FINANCES?

Luke 12:16-21

THE ANSWER: " _____ "

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Proverbs 3:9-10

Hezekiah's example: **2 Chronicles 31**

EDGEWATER'S VISION: We long to see a church that will...

1. be captivated by Jesus
2. emphasize both evangelism and love for the marginalized
3. reach a multi-ethnic, semi-urban community
4. strategically develop new believers into mature followers of Jesus
5. grow large enough to have significant positive influence in its community
6. start a non-profit to minister to the needs of the poor in its community
7. start new churches that would reach unchurched communities in East Contra Costa County

THREE LEVELS

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the Lord Almighty. "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty. Malachi 3:10-12

Growth Group Homework

For the Week of February 27, 2011

QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's message on "How Do I Honor God With My Finances?" what challenged you the most? What questions do you have?

MY STORY

1. Share about a time in the past year when your financial situation limited your ability to give.
2. Discuss a time when you were able to meet another person's financial need. Did that act of giving change you? If so, how?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read **Malachi 3:10-12**. What types of blessings have you seen come from tithing?

Why do you think God says to test Him in this?

Have you tested Him in this? What have been the results?

2. In order to be Christ-like, we must be givers. Even though God created us in His own image to be givers, why is it often difficult for us to give?

3. Read **Psalms 24:1**. Giving is a reminder that we are to be good stewards of what God has given us. What happens when we start acting like "owners" instead of "stewards"?

4. Read **2 Corinthians 9:7**. Have you ever given reluctantly or out of guilt?

Why isn't God interested in that kind of giving?

What is the connection between our hearts and our giving?

Has giving been a way of praising and worshiping God for you personally? Why or why not? If so, how has it brought you closer to God?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Ask God to continue His work in your heart to make you look more and more like Him. Ask Him to guide your management of His resources so you can be the radical and extravagant giver He designed you to be.