
GOD'S WAY TO DEBT FREEDOM

If you're like most people you've already tried to get out of debt yourself but you weren't successful or it didn't last. Maybe you've experienced debt-induced fear and depression in your life or strife and financial pressure in your family and you long with all your heart to be permanently set free from indebtedness.

We have good news for you today: God wants to help you achieve debt freedom. Certainly you could do some of it on your own but His way will be easier and more perfect. If you would like His help, the Bible says you must first acknowledge His Son Jesus Christ who He sent to die for your sins and for the sins of all mankind. If you have already made Jesus the Lord of your life, you can skip over to page 3 of this article and continue with your reading.

But if you have never accepted Jesus and you are ready to do so, just say the following prayer and mean it with all your heart. Most people like to speak it out loud but you don't have to.

Jesus, I believe in you and I receive you as my Lord and Savior. I believe that you died for me and I ask you to forgive me for my sins. Come into my life today and show me a new way. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer today and meant it with all your heart, the Bible says you have been born again and have received eternal life. As of this moment you are a new Believer and you are also eligible for God to take over your debt elimination efforts. Just ask Him to.

Advice To New Believers

As a new Believer there are several things you need to consider to insure that you will get off to a good start in your walk with Jesus Christ.

- 1) You will soon be tempted with doubt that what you have done is true and meaningful. The truth is: if you said the Sinners' Prayer and meant it with all your heart, that's all there is to it. The Bible says that salvation comes only by faith in Christ. There is nothing else you have to do. In fact, there is nothing else you can do to receive forgiveness and salvation. Jesus died for you and His work on your behalf was perfect and complete. Expect the doubt to come and then resist it when it shows up. One great way to resist doubt is to tell one or more people as soon as you can about your decision to receive Christ. They can be Believers or non-believers. God will strengthen your resistance to doubt through your willingness to tell others.
- 2) You need to understand that God has a specific purpose for your life and a plan for how He wants you to achieve it. He loves you very much and He wants to help you achieve the purpose He created you for. You are unique in the universe and God created you with your particular

talents and abilities to perform a function in the Kingdom of God that no one else can perform as well as you.

- 3) You need to find a Bible-teaching church as soon as possible. God wants all Believers to assemble together as often as possible so they can stimulate and encourage one another. Church is also the place where you will be equipped to accomplish what God has for you to do in His Kingdom. Try out several churches and become a member in the one where you feel at peace. Then attend your church as often as possible, whenever the doors are open, so you will learn quickly and grow rapidly.
- 4) Buy yourself a Bible with the same translation your new Pastor preaches from. Carry it with you when you attend church so you can refer to it while the ministers are teaching. And then begin to read it so you come to know what it says. Read a little every day and don't worry that you don't understand everything; God will reveal what you need to know. Most Christians are still discovering new insights in the Word after a lifetime of study so be content to progress at your own pace.
- 5) Request an appointment with your new Pastor so you can identify yourself and inform him that you are a new Believer. Tell him that you want to learn and discover God's purpose for your life. Put yourself under his authority and then believe God will speak to you through the church leadership. Keep in mind that they are only imperfect people and will make mistakes but God has chosen to use this system and it is up to each of us to help Him make it work.
- 6) Expose yourself to helpful publications and teachings that can expand the knowledge you will be acquiring in your church. For example, you may want to consider subscribing to our FREE financial newsletter since indebtedness is probably what brought you to this article. In the event that in any of these publications you run across some information that contradicts what you have been taught in your church, assume that your church is correct until the Holy Spirit confirms something different.
- 7) Send us an E-mail or letter telling us of your decision to accept Christ today so we can pray for you. Your testimony will encourage us more than you know.

Now you are ready to find out how God wants to be directly involved in your debt elimination efforts by reading the following sections of this article:

- Affirming God's Role
- Getting Started God's Way
- Twelve Steps To Debt Freedom By Faith

Affirming God's Role

Once the decision is made to get out of debt, most people assume they have to do everything themselves. We go out in our own strength thinking we have total control over being in debt or not being in debt. We got in debt ourselves so we figure we have to get out of debt the same way. And, we expect to be able to reach our debt freedom in a short period of time even though it has probably been a long process that brought us to our present situation.

What most people fail to take into account is that God loves them and wants to be at the controls of their debt freedom programs. Even so, if we insist on trying to get out of debt on our own, God will step aside and let us go ahead and try. Soon, as with any endeavor that excludes Him, many of us will become frustrated and burned out when we don't achieve debt freedom in a month or two and we will either finally turn to Him for help or revert back to what we were doing before. When we are finally ready to let Him take over, He will gladly do so and He will succeed where we failed.

Certainly many people have gotten out of debt without any help from God. They felt they didn't need His help and many of them are very proud of what they were able to accomplish. But God always has a better way than what we can achieve ourselves. Perhaps there were some tensions or some sacrifices that could have been avoided if He had been the source of the program. Perhaps it would have happened sooner had the Lord been at the controls. And if the process to achieve debt freedom was not based in faith, God wasn't pleased with it anyway (Hebrews 11:6).

For a Christian, achieving victory over indebtedness does not mean that you first have to be totally out of debt. And it does not mean that you necessarily have to go through a period of sacrifice and denial. It does mean that you have given the problem to God and that under His direction, you have taken whatever action you can to do your part toward achieving debt freedom without taking over the process yourself. What most people forget is that He alone is our Provider and that without adequate provision, we will never be able to get out of debt no matter how hard we try. In truth, we desperately need His help to overcome our indebtedness just as we need His help in every other area of life.

Getting Started God's Way

Putting the Lord at the head of your debt freedom program requires that you clear several important hurdles so that you get off to a good start. Lay the following foundation and the rest of it will flow easily.

- 1) Acknowledge that indebtedness represents a problem with your finances. This is not so easy because our society eagerly embraces credit. We are used to it and many of us have come to depend on it. Therefore, our flesh will resist admitting that living by credit is a problem. But Believers have been instructed to come out of the world and to put aside its ways. We must learn to live without something that God calls a curse and come back to living by faith in the area of our finances. Only after you have come to admit that your debt is a problem can you begin to set up the means for correction.
- 2) In setting up the means for correction, you need to ask God for a Spirit of Repentance so you can come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit that the pursuit of indebtedness, except in family emergency, is not desirable. If you can see that credit represents the flesh's alternative to God's provision, you will eventually come to the point where you long to be out of debt once and for all and you will cry out to God for His deliverance. God hears the cries of His people and if you can come to this conviction on a spiritual level, the outlook for success, in God's timing, is virtually assured.
- 3) When you have come under conviction, then you can repent for your sin and ask God for His leading to set up the details of a program to get out of debt. What changes do you need to make in the administration of the finances God provides? What do you need to learn and to change to become a good steward? By repenting you declare before God that you are prepared to live another way, without debt and on a cash basis, if He will help you and show you the way.
- 4) Understand that Jesus won the victory for you over indebtedness at the cross of Calvary. Go back and study Galatians, Chapter 3 and re-verify for yourself that for those who will live by faith, the blessings of Abraham are again available. Those blessings include financial prosperity and the ability to acquire wealth through faith instead of by indebtedness. By faith you can apprehend the victory of Christ and claim victory over your own circumstances. Ask God to stir up your faith for the eventual end of your indebtedness.
- 5) Once you have made God the head of your debt freedom program, make an irrevocable decision to change your lifestyle and live without debt. Irrevocable means you are not going back. Irrevocable means that you deprive yourself of the means of acquiring new debt by removing your credit cards to a safe place or even destroying them if necessary. Irrevocable means you will purpose to wait on God's provision instead of resorting to credit.

Twelve Steps To Debt Freedom By Faith

God wants Believers to live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, and Galatians 3:11). As the Holy Spirit leads us to actually live by faith, the time will come to face the fact that the use of credit represents a form of self-provision instead of living by faith. Living by faith means you are willing *to wait* for God to manifest His provision according to His plan for your life. Living by faith means you are *trusting* that God will always provide, out of the context of His absolute goodness, what is best for your life. Living by faith means you are *depending* on God for His provision and are reluctant to interfere by adding to His provision with credit or by any other means. Living by faith can never really incorporate being in debt because God considers indebtedness to be a curse (Deuteronomy 28:44).

And so, over the years in this Ministry, as we have encouraged thousands of people to become debt free, we have observed a series of steps that many people have to go through to break the credit habit. In this article we have summarized these observations, which coincidentally turned out to be twelve steps like some other habit breaking programs most people are familiar with. If you are truly determined to get out of debt, we hope the following suggestions will be helpful.

1. Decide irrevocably to get out of debt.

Anytime we are about to start a new program, the hardest part is often making the final decision to take action. In order to get out of debt once and for all, the first step is to make an irrevocable decision to rely on God for your provision instead of creditors. Once you have made the decision, set aside (or destroy) your credit cards so you can *put your faith in the Lord to deliver you from indebtedness*. Without credit cards you will be forced to wait on God for His provision in His time and in His way. Without access to credit cards you have made your decision irrevocable.

2. Repent and ask God for help.

The second step is to get before God and ask Him to forgive you for using credit to circumvent His plan of provision for your life. Declare to Him your intention to take an opposite direction in your life away from credit and *toward faith* in the sufficiency of God's provision. Then ask Him to help you because you will never be able to accomplish your objectives without His assistance. Getting and staying out of debt is not easy in this society but God will see you through the course.

3. Study the Word to find understanding.

Anyone who is trying to leave indebtedness behind needs to become an expert on what the written Word of God says about finances. The enemy does not want you to get out of debt so you are in for

a fight. Be encouraged in the Word because God has a lot to tell you about how finances are supposed to work in His Kingdom. Be comforted by the Word as you review the promises God has made to His people. Learn from the Word so that *by faith* you can claim your inheritance boldly before the throne of Almighty God.

4. Pay your tithes and pray over your seed that God will make it grow.

Those who hope for deliverance from indebtedness and for the establishment of Abraham's prosperity in their lives must tithe to the particular local church (the storehouse) where God has called them to assemble. Scripture is clear that *the tithe is 10 percent of gross increase* and it belongs to God. Only after tithing can you hold Him accountable for His provision and for the manifestation of prosperity in your life (Malachi 3:10-11). And when you tithe, pray over it that it will work to establish His Kingdom, that it will be used to bless others and that it will be multiplied back to you according to God's plan for your life. Then *release your faith* for God's protection and provision.

5. Make a family budget and bring order to your finances.

One of the main reasons people have financial problems is that they fail to bring order to their affairs and in doing so they fail to consider basic financial principles that the Lord has provided in His Word. God is a god of order in all things. To correct financial disorder, the logical starting point is to develop and live by a family budget. Not only will a budget bring order, it will also provide financial vision and direction for the family and will serve as *a basis for faith* as family members believe together for God's provision in accordance with the budget He has approved. Remember, Habakkuk 2:2 tells to "write the vision, and make it plain...that (we) may run (with it)..."

6. Identify the amount of your debts and set up a specific plan of repayment.

Many people ask God to deliver them from indebtedness but they don't add up all the various amounts to know exactly how much to ask Him for. Also, if you want God to move in the supernatural, you have to show Him your willingness to take action in the natural. In setting up a specific repayment plan, we suggest that you review the article on Accelerated Debt Repayment in the Archives Section of this website. Follow the suggested model and begin to pay down your debts all the while asking God to move on your behalf in the supernatural so you can be debt free in the shortest possible time.

If you are past due with your creditors and unable to catch up, you should consider Debt Consolidation, which is a low cost service offered by this Ministry. In certain cases you can also consider Negotiated Debt Settlements, which is another low cost service offered by this Ministry. Return to the Home Page of this website to find out more about these services. In any event, once you have done your part, the rest is up to Him in His time and in His way. *Stand in faith* that He will respond affirmatively to your determination to become debt free.

7. Plant a sacrificial seed faith offering in good ground.

One of the things we tend to overlook in debt reduction is the power of giving. It is natural to be suspicious of “spiritual people” who tell us in church or on the media that we should “give into our need,” that we should plant seeds if we expect future harvests. The response of the flesh is that they are just trying to get our money. But the truth is clear; the Word of God confirms this principle and we have to overcome the reluctance of our flesh to line up with the Word. We have to give in order to receive and we will receive according to our willingness to give (Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6). It is interesting that God did not become known as Jehovah-jireh (the Provider) until after Abraham made an offering (Genesis 22:13-14). If you want to see God begin to move, sow something into a worthy Ministry where God is moving and the people are accomplishing something positive for the Kingdom of God. And, when you sow into *good* ground, release your faith for a hundred-fold return in “the same year” (Genesis 26:13). You can also sow a seed into the life of some individual you know that is trying to get out of debt. If you help someone get out of debt, God will help you and *multiply* it back to you.

8. Forgive a debt someone owes you.

If you want God to forgive you of something, you must be willing to forgive others. In money matters we have seen that if you forgive someone who owes you money, you have a stronger scriptural basis to ask God for forgiveness and the resumption of prosperity for yourself. Therefore, if someone, in particular a Believer, owes you money, even a small amount, you should consider calling or writing him/her to advise your forgiveness of the debt. Then God is released to move on your behalf.

9. Confess your prosperity; confess the Word.

A child of faith must begin to confess verbally what the Word of God says and not what circumstances look like. A child of faith is moved by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Therefore, since Galatians 3:29 says that Believers are heirs to the blessings of Abraham, we begin to confess that we are prosperous because Abraham was prosperous. We have a scriptural claim against his prosperity as our inheritance even if our bank accounts are presently zero and our credit card statements are piling up. I declare with my confession that the Word of God is true and I disregard my circumstances until God moves to bring my circumstances into line with His Word, which He will eventually do in His timing. This is not a “name it and claim it” faith game; this is simply confessing that the Word of God is true and my circumstances are not. You will become what you confess!

10. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

God requires that we take our faith to the level of trust. The principle is to trust in the lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5). When Abram went to Egypt at God’s command, he was a man of faith but he didn’t trust the Lord to protect his wife from Pharaoh

(Genesis 12:1-4, 11-13). Also, Abram believed God in Genesis 15:4 that he would have a son (heir) but he did not trust God to bring the heir through his wife and took matters into his own hands (the flesh) by conceiving Ishmael with the Egyptian servant girl Hagar (Genesis 16:4). Faith means we believe; trust means we are *confident* that what we believe will actually happen. If you believe today that God's Word is the Truth, stand on it and trust Him to do what He has said He will do.

11. Be content with where God has you.

Any problem of indebtedness usually starts with covetousness and related discontent with God's rate of provision. Accordingly, it is imperative that we learn to be content with where God has us financially. We have to trust that He has us at any point in time in the place we are supposed to be according to His plans and purposes. The flesh may not like it but God is busy ordering your steps and He knows better than your flesh what is best for you. Therefore, "let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have..." (Hebrews 13:5) By learning to be content you will eventually totally eradicate indebtedness from your life.

12. Rest in the Lord.

Finally, we must actually come to the point in our lives where we are so confident in what the Lord is doing, no matter what it is and over the objections of our flesh, that we are able to enter into His rest (please read Hebrews, Chapter 4). Resting in the Lord comes when we are totally confident, not wavering, that God will take care of us. Rest comes when our faith is so strong we are willing to get out of the way and let Him carry out His plans for our lives. And when you are able to rest in the Lord and the attitude of your heart is to wait for Him until He is ready to move, then God Almighty will do a great work on your behalf to demolish your indebtedness and restore you to the prosperity of Abraham. And because you waited and trusted and rested, God will get all the glory in your deliverance.