



FASTING FOR FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Debt is the slavery of the free.—Publilius Syrus

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJ)

WHAT IS "DOLLARS & SENSE"?

"Dollars and Sense" is a seven-week fast for financial freedom. It entails practicing wise stewardship and rethinking how we use our money.

- **DIAMOND JUBILEE: Our 75th Church Anniversary**

1. Every family debt-free
2. Liquidate the church's indebtedness
3. Home ownership for every family
4. Build an endowment for our church
5. Create wealth for generations to come

- **The Purpose of Money**

The purpose for money is not SPENDING; it is to meet needs and to make wise investments.

- **The Disease of Debt**

Nothing gets you into debt faster than trying to keep up with people who are already there.—William Shakespeare

Per the Federal Reserve Bank of NY, the total debt of Americans rose to \$17.29 trillion in 2023.

In 3Q 2023, credit card balances were \$1.08 trillion. In 1Q 1999, that number was \$478 billion. The credit card balance of Americans has risen by \$223 billion in two years.

Around half of Americans spend more than they earn at some point each year. One in five Americans spend more than they earn almost every month. Less than 10 percent of these people think they have a problem!

▪ Three Attitudes

1. The attitude of **covetousness**—the insatiable desire for more (whether we need it or not)
2. The attitude of **consumerism**—an obsession with the latest, newest, biggest, etc.
3. The attitude of **contentment**—thank God for what you have and ask God for what you need

Why the Attitude Matters

Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. (Luke 12:15 NKJ)

He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have.—Socrates

▪ How to Fast for Financial Freedom

1. Create a budget and follow it with intentionality.
Allocate 10% for God; 10% for savings; and 80% for living expenses.
2. Purchase only what is absolutely necessary (i.e. food, clothing, shelter, insurance, and transportation).
3. Vow to create no new debt.
4. Refrain from using credit cards (debit cards permitted for budgeted items).
5. Abstain from shopping.
6. Do not loan or borrow money.
7. Avoid recreational spending (i.e. dining out, fast food, coffee/drinks, games, movies, and other entertainment).

8. Practice discipline and exercise sound financial judgment.
9. Read the assigned material.
10. Trust God.

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT)

- **Our Sacrificial Journey**

Week One (January 14): Commit to fast for financial freedom.

Week Two (January 21): Begin fasting for financial freedom.

Week Three (January 28): Give the best offering that you can.

Week Four (February 4): Give more than you think you can afford to give.

Week Five (February 11): Obey God by contributing the tithe (10% of your income).

Week Six (February 18): Obey God with the tithe (10%) and honor God with an offering.

Week Seven (February 25): Bring firstfruits offering.

THE 10-10-80 BUDGET PLAN

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJ)

GOD (10%)		
"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house..." (Malachi 3:10 NKJ)		
SAVINGS (10%)		
"In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has." (Proverbs 1:20 NIV)		
LIVING EXPENSES (80%)		
"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13 NKJ)		
Housing (mortgage/s or rent, taxes, insurance, repairs, etc.)	30-35%	
Transportation (automobile payments, gas, oil, repairs, insurance, parking and/or public transportation)	6-20%	
Utilities (gas, electricity, water, cable, Internet, etc.)	4-7%	
Food (groceries, pet food, dining out)	15-20%	
Medical (health/dental insurance, doctor bills and prescriptions)	2-8%	
Clothing (clothing, shoes, accessories & alterations)	4%	
Insurance (life & disability insurance)	2-5%	
Personal & Misc. (cosmetics, toiletries, hairdresser or barber)	5%	
Monthly installment debt	< 15%	