
Spiritual Keys to Financial Freedom

Bible studies for private, family and small group study

May & June 2010



Key #1: Transfer Ownership to God

Message at NewHope on 30 May, Preacher Allan Demond

1. Read: Psalm 50:10-12 and Psalm 24:1. What do these verses teach about ownership? Why does this matter?
2. Read: Luke 19:1-10. What was Zacchaeus' initial response to Jesus (1-6)? What was the crowd's response to Zacchaeus (7)?
3. What does Zacchaeus promise concerning his possessions? What do you think motivates him to talk like this? What do you admire about him? What motivates you to give money away?
4. What was Jesus' response to Zacchaeus' declaration? How are "salvation" and "giving" linked in this story?
5. What does it mean to you to "transfer ownership to God"?

Key #2: Invest for Eternity

Message at NewHope on 6 June, Preacher Allan Demond

1. Read: 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and Matthew 6:19-21. What do these passages teach about wealth and the future? How can a person apply this teaching practically?

2. Read: Acts 4:32-37. Describe the social, economic and spiritual climate of the early church according to these verses. What inspires you in this picture?

3. Wealth was shared by the early disciples. Who made the decisions – selling property, distributing funds? What motivations are at work here? What problems and dangers do you think they had to contend with?

4. What kind of person was Barnabas (for more background see: Acts 9:27, 11:22-26, 13:1-5, 15:36-39)? How does he inspire you?

5. What does it mean to you to “invest for eternity”?

Ask God What He Wants

As you think and pray about the Spiritual Keys in these Bible studies, ask God what he wants you to do. Giving “by revelation” (when you are led by God’s Spirit) is much more exciting and rewarding than “giving by reason” (when you simply follow worldly wisdom and give what you think you can afford). Let God grow your faith and your trust in him as you learn new things about sacrifice and generosity. Risk a little and let our faithful God surprise you.

Key #3: Embrace Sacrifice

Message at NewHope on 13 June, Preacher Danny Hunt

1. Read 1 Timothy 6:10 and 2 Corinthians 8:2-4. Contrast these two passages. What do they teach about the heart and money?
2. Read: Mark 12:41-44. Where did Jesus sit? Why? How does it make you feel to think that Jesus is watching your give?
3. How does Jesus response to the widow's action? Why does he point out her action to the disciples? How does her story challenge you?
4. Do you know a modern day "widow" story that you could share? How does sacrifice affect others? How does it affect the giver?
5. What does it mean to you to "embrace sacrifice"? How might Jesus' sacrifice inspire our giving (2 Corinthians 8:9)?

Scriptures about Battling Materialism

Promises & Praise

Deuteronomy 16:10

1 Chronicles 29:1-18

Proverbs 8:17-21

Malachi 3:8-12

2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 12-14

1 Timothy 6:6-8

James 1:17

Warnings & Instructions

Deuteronomy 8:10-18

Psalms 62:10

Proverbs 30:8-9

Matthew 25:14-30

Luke 16:10-15

James 2:15-17

1 Timothy 6:9-10

Key #4: Practice Cheerful Generosity

Message at NewHope on 20 June, Preachers Allan Demond (AM), Jess Sanders (PM)

1. Read Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10 and Proverbs 19:17. What do these verses teach about God's dealings with the generous?
2. Read: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What does this passage teach concerning attitude? Why is God so concerned about the attitude of givers? What happens if we disobey verse 7?
3. Why does God make people "rich"?
4. What are the several outcomes of obedient generosity? Discuss these.
5. What does it mean to you to "practice cheerful generosity"?

Benchmark Your Generosity

In business and sport we often look for a benchmark – a way to measure progress. The Bible offers a benchmark for giving. It says 10% of what you have. Abram gave a tenth of everything to God's priest (Gen 14:20) and God instructed all of Israel to do the same (Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 14:22). God says we can even test him as we learn the skill of generosity (Malachi 3:8-12). The purpose of tithing is to teach us to put God first in our lives (Deut 14:22, 23). Jesus reminds us that we should do more than tithe in the way we live our lives (Luke 11:42). Like any benchmark, excellence in giving is about surpassing the norm (2 Corinthians 8:7).