

FORWARD ▶▶

Leader Conversation Guide – Forward: Part IV

Main Idea

This week Pastor Curt continued in our series **Forward**. He unpacked a topic that can quickly derail a lot of us from moving forward. Finances. The number one stress factor in Americans is financial stress. You cannot move forward if you're living under financial stress. PC shared if God calls you to do something, he wants you to be able to say yes! There are 2100 scriptures in the Word of God that talk about generosity. It's important to understand what the bible teaches because when you don't live by *principles*, you live by *pressure*.

**44% of working adults cannot handle a \$400 emergency.
38% of working adults are carrying \$16k in credit card debt
at a 16% rate. 33% of Americans have \$0 saved for
retirement.**

According to Forbes Magazine

Make it Practical: 3 Principles to live by.

- **Proper Scales.** Read Luke 12:13-21. God doesn't measure success the way we measure success. Your value is not found in your account, or in your possessions. If you can afford it and live in margin, God is not against stuff. More doesn't make you better. More just makes you more of what you already are! King Solomon was by far the wisest and wealthiest person who ever lived, and this is what he discovered in Ecclesiastes 2:11 "Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun."
- **Proper Perspective.** Read Luke 12:16 & 20, Deuteronomy 8:17-18. God is our source. Who gave you breath in your lungs? Everything you have is a result of the blessing of God. Did the farmer have to plant the seed? Did he have to get up early and water the field? Did he have to harvest the crop? Yes, he did. But who made the ground? Read Proverbs 11:25. We have to do the work, but God brings the increase.
- **Proper Management.** Read Proverbs 21:20, Psalm 51:5-6 (MSG), Proverbs 16:3. Do you have a plan for your finances? If we are going to live by principle, not pressure, we are going to have to face the facts and then create a plan. Maybe you need to cancel some things. Maybe you need to downgrade some things. Maybe you've never worked through a thorough budget plan. Take some next steps toward creating a plan and **start today**.

Talk About It

- If you were suddenly blessed with \$1 million, what would you do with it?
- What do you think of when you hear the word 'Success'?
- Have you ever faced the facts, created a budget, and *actually stuck to it*? When you did that, how did you see your finances change?
- If you have never created a budget plan, you can check out the resources on our website to start today. victorychurch.org/finance

"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.." Deuteronomy 8:17-18a NIV

Prayer

Father, thank You for everything You've given us. Every good thing we have is a gift from You. Help us be good stewards of the money and possessions You've given us. As you bless us, position us to use those blessings to bless others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Leader Tip

Invite Group members to join us during 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. "21 Days" will take place January 15 – February 4, 2023.

You can view our prayer and fasting guides at victorychurch.org/resources/21-days/