

SECRETS FOR IMPROVING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MONEY

The Secret of the Right Attitude – Please read 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7.

The *Webster's II New Riverside Dictionary* defines the word “thrive” as being healthy or doing well; to flourish. The second definition is to be successful and prosper. Are you thriving or just surviving when it comes to your lifestyle? What can make the difference for you? It begins with a spirit of thanksgiving that will focus more on what you give to life than what you get from life!

The Secret of Clear Focus - Please read I Timothy 6: 9-12.

Have you watched some of the popular “Survivor” shows? I think that their popularity is based on our human interest in how people handle hardship. Have you noticed that those who are “voted off the island” seem more self-centered, greedy personalities? Webster defines “survive” as “to continue to live or exist.” Who wants to “exist” when you can “flourish”? Research tells us that 75% of Americans between the ages of 25-75 find themselves “emotionally and spiritually fatigued from trying to keep up.” Jesus Christ offers us freedom from focusing on ourselves and our self-centered behavior.

The Secret of Managing Your Finances - Please read Proverbs 30: 7-9.

Can you live within your means?

This is a difficult question. Our Bishop asks each candidate for the ordained ministry, “Are you so in debt that you would embarrass yourself or the church?” Most of us need to get a grip on the danger of debt. FPU teaches biblical financial principles and practical ways to not just live within your means, but to thrive and find joy! Whatever your financial situation, Financial Peace University can be of great help. (For more information about this 9-week class see www.cor.org/fpu or call Nancy at 913-544-0275)

The Secret of a Successful Retirement - Please read Luke 14: 28.

Planning is important if you want to be a thriver and not just a survivor! Most of us plan for retirement, but we could do a much better job! Dr. Paul Pearsall, who wrote a book about thrivers called *The Beethoven Factor*, quoted one thriver who said, “Think of thriving as the 5 C’s. Think of it as the ability to transform a life Catastrophe into a Catalyst for a Creative Change of Consciousness.” Do you have a biblically based financial plan to help you thrive? God has a plan of abundant living for all of us!

The Secret of Following your Spending Plan – Please read Proverbs 27: 23-24.

The wisdom of Proverbs is for everyday living. Financial planners no longer use the term “budget” but instead talk about your “spending plan.” We are taught that our spending plan must be well thought out, realistic, flexible, understandable, and clearly communicated. Thrivers have a plan. They trust in God’s plan as they put the Lord first in their living and giving. Gail H. Stone says, “thrivers dream big, they believe in their dreams and they invest their time and energy in creating a way to make their dreams come true.”

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