

Your New Money Mindset Outline and Review Questions

Chapter 4: Longing for Security

&

Chapter 5: Living in Freedom

I. Key Concepts (both chapters)

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. Security | a. Insecurity |
| b. Control | b. Enough |
| c. Anxiety | c. Prayer |
| d. Familiarity | d. Faith |

Chapter 4: Longing For Security

II. Money Planning

- a. Life often presents challenges that rattle our sense of security. (I.e., simple convenience, familiar environment, risks)
- b. The desire for safety & security is healthy and normal, the longing is sensible and appropriate (especially when it's compared to the opposite).
- c. Kept in proper perspective, a desire for financial security can be healthy and normal.
- d. People often think of financial preparation in terms of specific products they should buy to increase their peace of mind (i.e., Life insurance to protect loved ones).
- e. Reviewing broader, long term goals:
 1. Pool resources to guard against circumstances that would devastate any one person (see/review Acts 4:34-35).
 2. Save personally for risks that can't be insured against (an emergency fund helps ensure there are resources to help ride out many of life's ups and downs).
 3. Save for expenses that you don't have to borrow (all borrowing puts us under the burden of repayment, which left unchecked can grow to crushing proportions).
 4. Learn how to give both generously and wisely (it's important to learn to contribute in a way that our gift doesn't do unintended harm to a person/organization).

5. Wise planning allows us to strategize and save for when we choose to or are forced to stop working for a paycheck (planning for and managing retirement is critical so we don't burden others but instead remain productive in our callings).

f. There is no doubt that setting out and achieving these goals help our sense of well-being.

III. Good Security

a. We long for security because we have a basic instinct to survive (physical and psychological security are crucial to all aspects of human health and flourishing).

b. God has built us to want to be good providers and responsible stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

c. Take a more positive example of how feeling secure builds a strong foundation for success (review the story of students, prior to taking an exam, are laughing and having fun).

IV. Losing Perspective

a. An unending quest for financial security can undo us and cause us to lose perspective.

b. An unhealthy drive for financial security can lead to a 'scarcity mentality' making us feel compelled to gain more and keep more for ourselves.

c. A surplus mindset says, I have enough for myself and enough to share.

d. Review the stories of the woman in Asia, man nearing retirement, very wealthy, the successful young entrepreneur afraid of having someone help him manage and grow it (all these individuals are guilty of having a deep insecurity that drives them).

V. The New Money Mindset Assessment Results

a. Your Freedom Continuum score indicates whether you are closer to longing for security or living to freedom.

b. Statements that reveal the presence of a **disproportionate** focus on feeling secure:

1. **"I worry a lot about not having enough"**: Most of us recognize that a 'scarcity' mentality can drive us to accumulate more money than we need but this study suggests that much money can also produce insecurity.

2. **"I just don't have time to help others; I have enough trouble taking care of myself"**: the issue might be more of a mindset than a reflection of their actual money in

hand, even if you are barely surviving, you can still profit by giving yourself away when you have no other tangible resources to give.

3. **"I find it difficult to live in the moment"**: People overly concerned about security spend a lot of time thinking about the future, they live in the future while they could be living for today and trusting God for tomorrow.

4. **"Having money helps me take control of my future"** ;**"With enough money, I could make sure that life goes the way I want it to"** & **" I like to be in control"**: It's so easy to start believing that a little more money will secure our destiny.

c. Attitudes about security or surplus are not linked to how much we have in the bank, instead they are coupled with our relationship to God.

VI. Overcoming Insecurity

a. We live in a culture that exaggerates our need for security and safety.

b. Our own lack of knowledge, combined with our lack of trust in God, multiplied by the pressures of culture, make us easy prey for fear and insecurity.

c. Feeling secure about money comes from planning, evaluating your real-world needs and doing the right practical things. But checking those things off isn't enough.

d. A sense of security deep down inside also comes from growing the right perspective (it's not about how much money we have, it's about embracing a new money mindset).

Chapter 5: Living In Freedom

a. Review the Driving Analogy. (Making significant changes, yet held many restrictions even in freedom).

b. Fear amplifies our sense of insecurity and makes us feel less free.

I. Money Fears

a. Money fears arise when we have an uneasy sense about what lies ahead or when we see an already difficult situation becoming even more serious (also the fear can be real or imagined).

b. At one extreme are folks whose fears are real and justified (living paycheck to paycheck with mountains of debt, folks living on a financial edge similarly need to find ways to lower their risk).

- c. Risk-lowering actions cause discomfort (involve being transparent, seeking better resolutions-even being humble to ask for help).
- d. Real help consists of getting wise input and support to make changes in our own behavior, taking action to build basic financial freedom which pays off in peace of mind, if not in lifestyle.
- e. The other extreme are people whose money fears are more or less unfounded. (Their good habits bring them a sense of calm, but some savers don't know how to define enough.)
- f. They lose perspective and put themselves under constant pressure (rationalizing they're just being prudent but their frugality sucks the joy from their lives, they may grow stingy, reluctant to give, they rarely feel peace.
- g. They work hard to feel free yet remain driven by fear.
- h. Money is not the only resource we may hoard out of fear (we may fall into habits of protecting time and energy, ignoring calls to volunteer, excusing ourselves from opportunities/situations we feel will drain us).
- i. This is rooted in a 'scarcity' mindset (fearing we don't have enough for ourselves, much less enough to share).

II. A Rich Relationship With God

a. Supporting Scriptures

Luke 12:22-23 Luke 12:13-21 Luke 12:33-34 Luke 12:42-44

- b. If we want to break free from our fears, the first thing we should do is return to the simple but profound assurances of Jesus.
- c. Jesus understood clearly that faith and resources go hand in hand (He noticed how worries about our security tempt us to keep things for ourselves).
- d. God is the real source of security, and that man wasn't investing in a rich relationship with his Creator.
- e. Jesus says our security comes from the fact that God loves us.
- f. Jesus provides two practical ways to invest in a rich relationship with God (store up heavenly treasure, use the resources entrusted to them for the benefit of others)
- g. As wise stewards of God's gifts, we make a concrete investment in our relationship with Him when we serve others with everything He has given us.

III. Positive Practices

a. It's not enough to say; "Don't Fear" or "Stop relying on your own efforts to feel safe."

b. We can't develop a sense of security by focusing on the negative.

c. Research suggests that people are more likely to enjoy a sense of freedom regarding time, energy, and money the more they buy into these positive statements:

1. God meets my needs.

2. I don't think about money unless it's running short.

3. I don't often worry about the future. I take each day as it comes.

4. I give to people in need, even if I barely have enough for myself.

5. I pray about the big decisions in my life.

6. Deepening my relationship with God helps me feel peaceful about my future.

d. On the one hand, these attitudes are a gift from God (as a sign of His transforming His children from the inside out).

e. On the other hand, God has revealed specific strategies for deepening these attitudes.

IV. The New Money Mindset Assessment

a. Consider the following as answered in the assessment:

"I pray about the big decisions in my life" & "Deepening my relationship with God helps me feel peaceful about my future"

b. Pause for a moment and think about the most unwise decision you ever made (as you wonder why you didn't make a better choice).

c. All of us have had those moments, days, seasons we look back on and wish we had picked a different path.

d. The two statements called out above can change your approach to your next major decision and every choice after that.

e. These statements fit together naturally and point to a rather obvious strategy- Prayer (focusing on prayer, a concrete way of deepening our relationship with God can bring wisdom and peace as we make decisions).

f. Prayer not only recognizes God's power to supply our needs but gives time to let His wisdom rule.

g. See Matthew 7:7-11 (Note: Jesus teaches several things in this short passage:

1. God is a loving Heavenly Father (reminds of this core reality)
2. God is a provider (all-powerful and that He loves us, yet not in the form of the prosperity gospel preached by some)
3. Jesus encourages us to pray for anything we think we need
(sometimes we will ask amiss but God cares enough to keep providing for us.)

h. By praying to our heavenly Father, we deepen our relationship with Him.

i. When we deepen our relationship with the good God who is ultimately in charge of our lives, we begin to feel more peace.

j. The more God's peace fills us, the more readily we turn to prayer to let God guide our decisions in every part of life.

k. Developing a regular and meaningful life of prayer—yes, that is a lifetime task (The most practical thing you can do as you consider choices, big or small, is simply to stop and pray).

l. In the heat of the decision, you might even need to walk away. (Ask God for wisdom and take a few minutes to listen to the Spirit. If peace doesn't rule your heart, then wait. And if you still lack clarity, ask a friend to join you in praying and listening.

V. Praying For Real Needs

a. Review the story about Brad & Sue in the beginning of this section (*Seeking God's direction*).

b. Prayer lets us speak our requests to God and take time to meditate on His direction.

c. Praying through our money decisions often creates a space for wisdom and insight to enter a process in which emotion and desire might otherwise take the lead.

VI. The God Who Meets Needs

a. The following statements are closely related and best summed up in the last.

b. ***"I don't often worry about the future. I take each day as it comes"; "I don't think about money unless it's running short" & "God meets my needs"***

c. How do you become a person who really counts on God?

- d. Faith that God meets our needs grows best when nurtured by His powerful Word.
- e. The Bible is, if nothing else, a record of how God repeatedly met the needs of His people (see Abraham, Joseph, Israel, Jesus Christ: God in flesh, forgiver of sins, offering eternal life, with a final promise of a new Heaven & Earth).
- f. The God of the Bible meets the needs of His beloved people, although not always on our time schedule.
- g. The theme of God's faithfulness runs all through Scripture, but is especially thick in the Psalms: (see Psalm 57:10; Psalm 77:11-12)
- h. Seeing and recalling God's faithfulness in Scripture trains our hearts and minds to notice more and more of His faithfulness in our lives today.
- i. When we're confident in His faithfulness, it can dispel our fears. (Review the story of Jim's preparing to go on a mission trip, when God's promise of provision became entirely real.)

VII. Generosity Disciplines

- a. The authors don't suggest that God will in every instance take care of our needs like this (nor do they think that it's based on how much faith we have toward getting blessings).
- b. The bottom line is we can trust God to care for our needs, whether for body, soul, or spirit.
- c. It is crucial to remind ourselves of those scenes in our lives when we knew God was faithful.
- d. Healthy, biblical attitudes toward all we possess become embedded in our lives when we consistently practice certain spiritual disciplines like prayer.
- e. But there are also "generosity disciplines" that can help as well (the following is an example of what was done by a Youth Group team).

"A Forty Day Experiment" (practicing five disciplines):

1. Every morning awake at 5:30, spend thirty minutes reading & reflecting on the Bible.
2. Every evening spend thirty minutes in prayer & confession.
3. Each week fast one day from sun-up to sun-down (about 5am-9pm).
4. Each week meet in community to encourage one another.
5. Each day do one completely unselfish, generous act for someone else

f. Everyone involved will of course have their challenges. Surprisingly, the Youth Group found the "generosity discipline" became the most challenging.

g. The act of kindness was supposed to be done in such a way that there would be no benefit by the giver (no favor in return, no recognition, not even a thank you. The deeds needed to be as completely selfless as could be made).

h. The group discovered it was hard to not have the actions taken be of benefit to ourselves. (See Matthew 6:3)

i. The authors suggest making this "generosity discipline" about more than giving, something about having to do something for others shapes us even more than giving cash, although that too, is an important discipline.

j. Even small acts of generosity help us discover that it is more blessed to give than receive and as you become accustomed to these small acts, you can consider doing something more deeply sacrificial (see Acts 20:35).

VIII. Back To Freedom

a. Trusting God for all we need helps release us from the bondage of fear and worry (see 1 John 4:18).

b. Our most vital step in overcoming our fear is to put our trust in the One who created us, loves us, and sacrificed Himself for us, and Who sustains us daily as we invest in a rich relationship with Him.

c. We must be intentional in putting our security in God's Hands, leading to an entire new level of liberation.

d. When we shake off fear and worry we become free to give ourselves to greater things (as long as we worry we won't give ourselves wholeheartedly to others and our always pressing concern remain on us and our problems)

e. Once we trust God for our present and our future, we can let that go and begin living without worry and therefore live in freedom with and for others.

This Week's Biblical Takeaways & Key Points Towards Finances

1. SMART Planning

a. Preparation: efforts must be precise, authentic, direct

(Psalm 127:1)

b. Initiation: invite praise and honor to God (Psalm 20:4-5)

c. Dedication: how devoted, steadfast are you to succeed

(Proverbs 16:3)

2. Vision Planning for Your Finances

a. Your heart follows your treasure, it is crucial to your spiritual life

to study what the scriptures teach about money.

(Matthew 6:21)

b. Four Qualities to Impact Your Finances

1. Freedom (from bondage to greed and debt) Matthew 6:24

2. Integrity (the world winks at cheating and dishonesty)

1 Timothy 6:9-10

3. Faithfulness (the world is marked by irresponsibility)

4. Generosity (the world says hang on to it) 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

c. As we complete and think about our financial snapshots, we can assess our priorities. Do our finances align with our values?

Study Questions for Review

1. How do you distinguish between a want & a need?

2. When have you lacked something you considered necessary for your happiness?

3. How do you define success? How prominent is money in your definition?

4. What does it mean that you are "blessed to be a blessing?"

5. How has your money mindset changed since you began this book?