



INTRODUCTION

A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."
Proverbs 3:5*

We are grateful for the privilege of serving you in developing a financial strategy that can provide a framework for your future. Effective planning can bring more balance to your life, allowing you to focus more of your time, energy and resources on the things to which God has called you.

Experience has taught us that today's financial decisions have implications for our entire life. The longer range our perspective, the better our ability to make decisions. Financial planning can help free you from economic fear and enable you to steward your God-given resources more effectively.

FIVE KEY PRINCIPLES OF FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Bible provides specific principles regarding money management that work, regardless of the current economic climate.

Principle	Biblical References	The Challenge
1. Understand that God owns it all (OWNERSHIP)	<p><i>"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" Psalm 24:1 NIV</i></p> <p><i>"The silver is mine and the gold is mine," declares the Lord Almighty" Haggai 2:8 NIV</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rather than, "How do I protect/use my money?" the question becomes, "How can I best look after/use God's money?" • To rely on God and his provision and not on 'our' wealth or our ability to create wealth.
2. Set long-term written financial goals (PLAN WISELY)	<p><i>"In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps." Proverbs 16:9 NIV</i></p> <p><i>"But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" 1 Corinthians 14:40 NIV</i></p> <p><i>"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty" Proverbs 21:5 NIV</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know God's plan for you? • Have you written goals? • Do you direct your/God's resources towards your goals? • Do you monitor your progress against your goals?
3. Spend less than you earn (BUDGETING)	<p><i>"Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows." Proverbs 13:11 New Living Translation</i></p> <p><i>"Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control" Proverbs 25:28 NIV</i></p> <p><i>"Whoever loves money never has money enough: whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless" Ecclesiastes 5.10 NIV</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing what money is spent on • Do you use a budget? Do you review it and stick to it? • Spend less than you earn

4. Try to live debt free and borrow wisely (LIFESTYLE)	<p><i>"The poor are always ruled over by the rich, so don't borrow and put yourself under their power."</i> Proverbs 22:7 The Message</p> <p><i>"Let no debt remain outstanding"</i> Romans 13:8 NIV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheap credit looks attractive • Being patient and saving rather than borrowing • Knowing when to say 'no'
5. Give generously (GIVING)	<p><i>"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."</i> Deuteronomy 15:10 NIV</p> <p><i>"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."</i> 2 Corinthians 9:15 NIV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving before spending • Giving in a way to honour God • Giving with a passion

This biblical understanding leads to the following definition of *stewardship*:

‘Successful stewardship is the continued achievement of God-given goals using God-given resources.’

THE FINANCIAL PLANNING PROCESS

Through wise planning, you can experience freedom from economic fear, and accomplish your financial goals.

We aim to help you:

- Achieve *peace of mind* concerning your money
- Attain *financial independence*
- Become *financially well organised*
- Reach *efficient solutions* to technical financial planning issues
- *Maximise returns and resources*

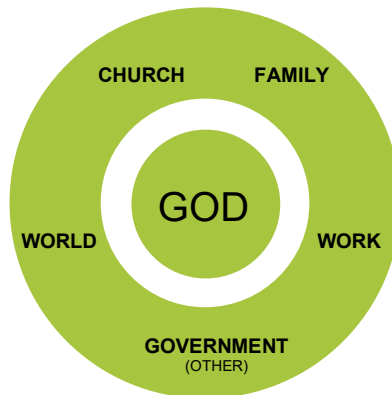
This comprehensive process involves all areas of an individual's, couple's or family's financial situation. It involves establishing short term, medium term and long term goals, designing and implementing strategies to reach these goals and an ongoing review of your progress towards them. The areas we will address in this plan could include, as appropriate:

- **Goal setting**
- **Income and expenditure analysis**
- **Net worth analysis**
- **Debt repayment analysis**
- **Budget planning**
- **Investment analysis and planning**
- **Retirement planning**
- **Insurance analysis and planning**
- **Education analysis and planning**
- **Tax planning**
- **Estate and inheritance tax planning**
- **Tax efficient giving planning**

Financial Planning is a continual process. As you learn more about God's plans for your life, your planning decisions and goals will change. Implementing this planning process sets you free to see and bring to life your higher priorities.

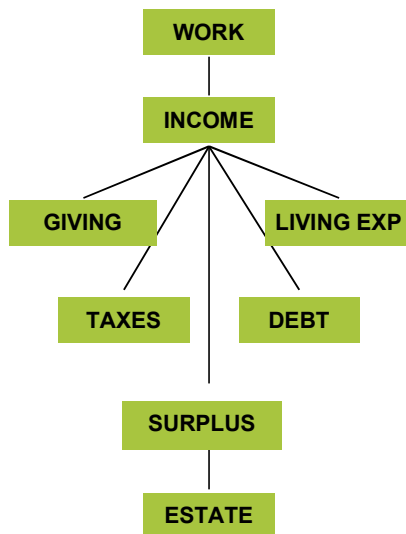
A BALANCED LIFE

Priorities of Life



The challenge is to maintain balance between the various areas of life. Often, we get out of balance in our career / jobs, striving to produce more wealth (financial capital) at the expense of other areas. The priority should always be to put God at the centre and to listen to his plans for our lives; all the other areas should then fall into place, in order of priority / importance.

Financial Planning

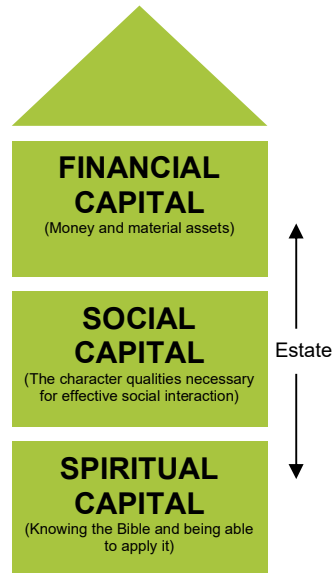


This allows us to step back and assess our God-given goals and priorities, ultimately managing our finances in a manner that relieves financial pressure and brings peace of mind.

There are only five things we can do with our money as shown on the diagram on page 5, with any surplus increasing our choices or the value of our Estate.

We have a responsibility to pay our taxes, but where tax can be legitimately avoided, this would be considered good stewardship. Other than this, all other areas are determined by how much we are earning and how much we are spending (living expenses). By controlling the latter, we are better positioned to avoid debt, save or be generous!

Allocation of God's Resources



By balancing our lives through financial planning, we can “buy” time to focus on the other areas and develop social and spiritual capital with those we influence.

We would encourage you to stop for a minute & invite God into all areas of your finance and planning.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Scriptural Insights on Financial Planning

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” **Proverbs 3:5-6**

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” **Psalms 24:1**

“Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.” **Proverbs 13:11**

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” **Proverbs 16:9**

“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is a servant to the lender.” **Proverbs 22:7**

“Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them? The sleep of the labourer is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of a rich man permits him no sleep.” **Ecclesiastes 5:10-12**

“He gave you manna in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. 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, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.” **Deuteronomy 8: 16-18**

“For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off; the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace. But all the sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off.” **Psalms 37: 28-29, 37-38**

“For all can see that wise men die; the foolish and the senseless alike perish and leave their wealth to others. Their tombs will remain their houses for ever, their dwellings for endless generations, though they had named lands after themselves. Do not be overawed when a man grows rich, when the splendour of his house increases; for he will take nothing with him when he dies, his splendour will not descend with him. Though while he lived, he counted himself blessed – and men praise you when you prosper – he will join the generations of his fathers, who will never see the light of life. A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish.” **Psalms 49: 10-12, 16-20**

“So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” **Luke 16:11-13**

“Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all.” **Proverbs 22:2**

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” **2 Corinthians 4:18**

Scriptural Insights on Financial Planning (continued)

“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” **Philippians 4:11-13**

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” **1 Timothy 6:17-19**