

brother in Christ money. He may be backslidden and God is dealing with that person. You may be getting in God's way if you loan him money.

Brethren, can you be trusted with money? Will your heart be lifted up with pride? Will you forget the Lord your God? Will you love money, the gift, more than the GIVER? And will you use God's money for evil purposes?

If you can be trusted, God will surely keep His promise in **Romans 8:32** "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" So you do your part, and God will keep His promises.

SECOND: God WITHHOLDS financial prosperity from his children **BECAUSE THEY DO NOT HAVE FAITH IN HIM.**

What is faith? The simple definition is: **FAITH IS TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD.** That is, doing just exactly as God's Word says. God has given specific instructions in His Word, the Bible, on how His children should get money from Him. The problem is, most of God's children do not faithfully follow His simple instructions. These instructions are God's secrets to financial prosperity. **Luke 5:4-6** **NOTICE THE COMMAND WITH A PROMISE:** **Luke 5:4** **THEIR OBEDIENCE:** Verse 5 Faith in action.

THE LORD'S PROMISE FULFILLED: Verse 6

We should not only hear the Word of GOD, but we should also do what GOD tells us to do. **James 1:22, Mark 11:22-24, Luke 5:4-10** Yes, money did not mean anything to them now as long as they had the Lord. They had learned their lesson the hard way, but at least they did learn their lesson.

And so, Christians must have faith in God. Why? Because we read in **Hebrews 11:6** "But without faith it is impossible to please him:" **Romans 14:23**

BLESSING THROUGH FAITH - Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38; Pro 3:9-10; Proverbs 11:24-25; 2 Cor 9:6-8; Malachi 3:8-12

QUESTION, DOES NOT GOD HAVE GOOD REASONS FOR WITHHOLDING FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN?

We need to stop blaming the government, the economy, or anything else for the reasons we are short of money. The economy has nothing to do with it. Let's be honest about this problem. The fault really is ours isn't it? WE HAVE NOT OBEYED GOD.

DON'T FORGET OUR NEXT LESSON. THE SUBJECT IS:

"GOD'S SECRETS TO FINANCIAL PROSPERITY"

4

Review: We learned in lesson #1:

1. Most of God's children do not have enough money.
2. We should get money the right way. Work hard and be honest.
3. God is rich because He owns everything.

WHY GOD WITHHOLDS MONEY FROM HIS CHILDREN

#2

God withholds financial prosperity from His children because they do not know or believe these **FIVE FACTS that are TRUTH:**

**Truth #1 YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD IF
YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN.**

The truth is, **Galatians 3:26** "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

The opposite is also true. If you do not have faith in Jesus Christ then you are not a child of God. If you do not yet have this saving faith, please consider the following 5 things:

FIVE THINGS GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW

- (1) You need to be saved. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23 We have all broken the Laws of God.
- (2) You cannot save yourself. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He Saved us." Titus 3:5
- (3) Jesus has provided for your salvation. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
- (4) You must accept Jesus for salvation. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them them that believe on his name." John 1:12
- (5) Now is the time to accept Jesus as your Saviour. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." 2 Cor. 6:2

Now, if you will receive Christ as your only Saviour, simply pray this prayer from your heart and mean it....

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that You died for me and rose again. I now ask You to forgive me for my sins and come into my heart and save me. Thank You, Lord, for saving me. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.

**Truth #2 AS A CHILD OF GOD, BELIEVE THAT GOD
IS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER**

John 1:12 "But as many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them gave 1



he power to become the sons of God..." Also Galatians 4:6

Truth #3 BELIEVE THAT YOUR FATHER IS VERY RICH.

Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." **Haggai 2:8** "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts."

Truth #4 SINCE YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS RICH, BELIEVE

THAT YOU ARE ALSO RICH BEING HIS SON, except that you have not enough money. Remember, you are a child of the KING.

Revelation 2:9 "I know thy...poverty, but thou art rich."

Truth #5 BELIEVE IN YOUR FATHER'S PROMISES THAT HE WILL GIVE YOU HIS RICHES.

Romans 8:32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

1 Timothy 6:17 "...trust...in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy"

Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

WHY do not most children of God have enough money? The answer is: GOD WITHHOLDS FINANCIAL PROSPERITY FROM HIS CHILDREN.

HE WITHHOLDS FOR TWO MAIN REASONS:

FIRST: God withholds financial prosperity from his children **BECAUSE THEY CANNOT BE TRUSTED WITH HIS MONEY.** He mentions **four cases:**

A. PRIDE - Some of God's children, when they prosper become proud. **Deuteronomy 8:14**

When God gives us a large sum of money we do not thank Him for the blessing. We begin to think we got the money because of our hard work or intellect. We then think we are better than others because we have more money, better clothes, a nicer car, and a bigger house. Some even join social clubs because their heart has been lifted up with pride. How deceitful can we be? **Jeremiah 17:9** "The heart is deceitful"

B. FORGETTING GOD - Some of God's children, when they prosper forget the LORD their God. **Deuteronomy 8:14**

Yes, we receive all these good things from the hand of God and neglect to thank Him for the (His) blessings. We are not thankful when we forget the Person Who gave us what we have. We are so ungrateful that we forget to say "Thank you".

A SERIOUS WARNING IS GIVEN: Deuteronomy 8:11-18

The reason we do not thank God is because we have not learned to thank men. It takes humility to say "THANK YOU".

C. LOVING MONEY - Some of God's children, as soon as they prosper quickly transfer their love from God to His money. We read in **1 Timothy 6:10** "For the love of money is the root of all evil..."

The Lord's story of the Prodigal Son, is the best illustration **Luke 15:11-24.**

Doesn't that sound like most of us today? God's generous hand gives us good things daily and we become proud and ungrateful. We even forget Who gave us what we have. We stop reading the Bible and spending time in prayer. We become too busy loving what God has given us and no longer have time to attend church on Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday night. We stop showing our love to Him. We are just like the Prodigal Son when, "he took his journey into a far country, away from home and away from his father."

D. WRONG SPENDING - People spend their money on evil things, selfish and foolish things and worldly pleasures. **James 4:2-3**

The prodigal son, in his love for money left his father and home and went to a far country and there "wasted his substance with riotous living", maybe, wine, women and song, until he was penniless. Christians like him cannot be trusted with money. Their desires are evil and selfish.

So, in all this, God must be saying, "It is better that My children have just enough for their needs, than to have more and prosper and become proud and forget the Lord their God. Then they cease to love Me but love My money instead. Then they use My money for their selfish, evil, foolish pleasures. They have no wisdom. (Wisdom is knowledge used rightly) Maybe someday, when they grow and mature in their Christian lives, they can be trusted with My material riches."

Some times God uses a shortage of money as a means of chastisement in order to get our attention. Be very careful about giving a