

How to Not be Broke Part II

-or-

How to be Way Better than Just “Not Broke!”

February 2, 2014

By C. Benjamin Dill

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it *is* his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this *is* the gift of God.

Good morning, Lighthouse; today I get to continue preaching on one of my favorite subjects.

You will notice that I have expanded the title of Part II to How to be Way Better Than Just “Not Broke!”

Because, that is the kind of life that God desires for His children; all His children; that is what He wants for you.

Last week we saw that we need first to establish proper priorities; it’s not about money, it’s about being what God created you to be.

Secondly we need to prepare for success; cure the laziness, establish a proper work ethic and get a right attitude working on your behalf.

And thirdly, we need to practice the principles; work six and rest one, control your mouth, don't envy, desire above all a good name and more.

Today we are going to go deeper into the details and allow God to show us how to implement His plan.

Before we get into these details this morning, let me point out just one of the wonderful aspects of God's way of doing things.

The things that keep you from being broke; these 'principles that prosper' also create great opportunities to serve and be used of the Lord for His glory.

You will discover that unlike the world generally believes, it is not an either/or; either you can prosper financially –or- you can serve the Lord.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Prosperity and faithfully walking with the Lord go hand in hand.

The challenge of the day is still for you to become that **action student of the Bible** we learned about last week.

So, if you are tired of being broke, what you will learn here today can solve the problem. If you are tired of having your good words of truth about Jesus rejected because of a poor financial reputation, what you can learn here today can solve the problem.

If you are not broke but you would like to go on to a new adventure that is exciting and profitable both for here and for the Kingdom, what you can learn here today will solve that problem as well.

So here we go deeper into How to be Way Better Than Just “Not Broke!”

I. Become aware of the Source.

A. We already know that God is the Source.

1. All good things come from God.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2. It is God that provides for us. We just read it in **Ecclesiastes 5:19...** this *is* the gift of God.

B. But how does that work?

1. Does God feed us like He did when He sent the ravens to feed Elijah? He certainly can and perhaps sometimes does; but that is not usually the case.

2. We know as it says in

Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth,...

3. Look again at our text passage:

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

18 Behold *that* which I have seen: *it is* good and comely *for one* to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for *it is* his portion.

19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this *is* the gift of God.

4. Notice what the Bible says that God actually gives us; is it stuff? Money? Opportunity? A husband or a wife? A job?

5. No, what God gives us is power; power to get wealth, power to eat thereof, power to take our portion; even power to rejoice in our labor; this is the gift of God.

6. Even our salvation works like this:

a. **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

b. **John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

- c. Yes, Jesus came as a baby in Bethlehem as the Word made flesh; but now He has also come to us as the flesh made into the Word, (vs. 1).
 - d. According to these verses, your Bible is a modern day presence of Jesus.
 - e. Thus when you receive the Word, in it you find the gospel which has the power to make you a child of God.
7. It is in God's Word that we find the power to not be broke.

II. Become open to the possibilities.

A. Let me remind you of who you are.

1. You are a child of the living God!

2. You are a joint heir with Christ.

Romans 8:16-17

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;....

B. Need I remind you of who your Father is?

1. 57 times in Scripture God reminds us that He is the Almighty!

2. He can do anything; nothing is beyond His power.

3. That means that nothing that is according to His will for your life is impossible for you!

4. Read it yourself:

Mark 10:24-30

24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, **Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!**

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, **With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**

28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

29 And Jesus answered and said, **Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,**

30 **But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.**

5. **Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. What part of this verse do you not believe?

6. You need to **become a possibility thinker**; forget about what is; think about what can be!

C. *Answer this question: Who knows best what you would be good at and be happy doing; you or God?*

1. So why then do you only look for employment or business opportunity in the same field you have always been in?

2. Why would you say, “But, it’s the only thing I know how to do.”

3. That rut you are in is really just a grave with the ends kicked out.

4. Quit waiting around for God to send you an opportunity.

5. Opportunities are everywhere. As long as there are people who have needs there will be paying work for those willing to fill those needs.

6. What God gives us is the power to see those opportunities.

7. Why would a Philippians 4:13 Christian who can do all things limit him or herself to only one or for that matter, just one, vocational source of income?

8. Jesus didn't save you because of who you are, He saved you because of who you are going to be!
9. If Jesus believes in you, maybe you ought to start believing in yourself as well.

Now go out and:

III. Begin the adventure.

A. There are some key things to consider.

1. If you are young, the Bible has some clear recommendations, for example:

Lamentations 3:27 *It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.*

2. A yoke is a form and symbol of bondage; it keeps the ox or horse right where they are supposed to be; they can't get away from it.

3. The reason this is good is that we all must learn to serve under authority; the sooner in life we do, the better.

4. Only when you become a profitable servant willing to be under authority will God be willing to open doors of great opportunity to you.

B. Go find what God has for you.

1. There is a program in place for this:

Matthew 7:7-11

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findest; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

2. Don't be so foolish to just ask and then wait by the phone; the asking is to be followed up by seeking; in the paper, online, people you know, but mostly just open your eyes.

3. God is almost certainly going to answer your prayer by giving you the power to see an opportunity that is probably already in front of you.

4. Along with the seeking, don't forget to do the knocking.

5. That means being out there in person with a firm handshake, looking them in the eye, believing in yourself, stating with confidence what you can do and do well.

6. When you do this, you can certainly expect the enemy to get involved; thus you must also:

C. Learn to discern what is and is not from God.

1. Except for perhaps the early stages when you are young; what comes from God is something you will love to do.
2. And certainly in all vocations there will likely be something about it that you may not necessarily love; like paperwork, for example.
3. God said a man should '[enjoy the good of all his labor](#)' and that he should '[rejoice in his labor](#).'
4. It will come with substantial rewards equal to your skills and ability to get the job done well.
5. It will NOT keep you out of Church!
6. Your first priority in life is to faithfully worship God; your first command that follows is to bring Him glory in the Church. (Eph. 3:21)
7. A job that keeps you from that can hardly be blamed on God.
8. Don't settle; stay busy at what you are doing but rest not until you find what God has for you.

In Conclusion:

Everything I am teaching you is based either directly or indirectly on Biblical principles and commands.

Everything I am teaching you is also tried and proven in the marketplace by me.

Some have wondered why I still run a business even though our Church has for some time now been able to support her pastor.

There are many reasons:

I meet and reach a lot of people through my business contacts.

It is the Biblical pattern set by the example of many servants of God in scripture.

It follows the Biblical example of multiple sources of income.

I enjoy what I do and I am good at it.

Easy is obviously not one of the reasons.

One of the biggest reasons is that it gives me the experience and the ability to be able to stand here and teach you with authority how to not be broke!

Lighthouse is a Church where you can learn how to not be lost.

Lighthouse is a Church where you can learn and experience how to love and be loved.

And Lighthouse is a Church where you can learn how to not be broke.

What more could anyone want?