When we choose God’s way over our way, we open a way to receive God’s blessing in our lives. It’s about going from strapped and stressed to blessed and blessing.

“God wants to bless me! God want’s to prosper me! God wants to use me!”

We must align ourselves with God’s Word and God’s values to receive God’s blessing. We all have a choice. We can either learn how to manage money God’s way or continue to allow money to manage us. It’s either my way or God’s way.

Rules: As we go through this series we are going to set some ground rules.

1. **RULE #1: Don’t feel GUILTY.**
2. **RULE #2: Don’t get DEFENSIVE.**
3. **Rule #3: Keep an OPEN MIND.**

**Why talk about money?**

* **The Bible has a lot to say about money.** Jesus Himself said more about money than about almost any other subject. The Bible offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 verses on faith, but more than **2,350 verses on money and possessions**. Sixteen of the 38 parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions.
* **Money and Possessions compete with God.**

**RICH YOUNG RULER**

**Matthew 19:16 NLT,** “ **16**Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” **17**“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.” **18**“Which ones?” he inquired. Jesus replied, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, **19**honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’” **20**“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?” **21**Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” **22**When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. **23**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24**Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

**How you handle money is one of the best outward indicators of the spiritual condition of your heart.** Jesus said it the best in **Mathew 6:21 NIV**, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Money is where faith is put to the test.

**The very first thing we need to do is transfer ownership of our possessions and of our finances to God.** There is a principle called the **Ownership principle**. Recognizing that God is the owner of everything, not us.

**1 Chronicles 29:11-12**, “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you, you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all.”

**Two temptations of money.**

1. **We are tempted to SERVE money.** Jesus tells us that we cannot serve both God and money **Matthew 6:24 NIV**, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
2. **We are tempted to LOVE money.** **1 Timothy 6:10 NIV**, “The love of money is the root of all evil.” **Ecclesiastes 5:10 NIV**, “Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income.”

* **Much of life revolves around money**

Money Myths:

**Money Myth #1. God wants your money.** God doesn’t want your money. He already owns everything. **Psalm 24:1 NIV**, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” He is the owner of the heavens and the earth. He wants your heart.

**Money Myth #2. God does not want you to prosper.** **Jeremiah 29:11 NIV**, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to PROSPER you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” God’s plans and desire is to prosper you. The word "prosper" appears in the Bible 90 times and means to have continued success, wealth, and good fortune.

**Money Myth #3. God’s blessings are not material.** Proverbs 10:22 NIV, “The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, without painful toil for it.” Of course God blesses us financially and materialistically.

**Money Myth #4. God’s blessings are only for us.** Simply not true. We are blessed to be a blessing. **Genesis 12:2 NIV,** “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”

**Here's the reality, a lot of us are under the power and control of money and we don't even know it.** If we are going to get unstrapped from the power and control of money and become financially free, we are going to have to learn how to handle money God’s way.

God, Money and Me series goals:

1. Gain a Biblical understanding of money
2. Identify limiting mindsets and beliefs
3. Exercise complete obedience
4. Create expectation of a return

**John 12:3 NIV**, “Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

God wants your HEART.

1. God wants you to PROSPER.
2. God wants you to FINANCIALLY and MATERIALISTICALLY.
3. God wants you to be a BLESSING TO OTHERS.