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Finances #4 - Affair Proofing Your Marriage
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We are living in a time when it seems that the economy of the world is unstable, but we are certain that God's plan and His economy for His people is not that way. His economy is stable, it doesn't change, His resources of which He has an abundance, are here in the earth, but the challenge for the believers is to act upon the word of God and in His plan and purpose to release what is already here to flow into our hands, that our needs would be met.

3 John 2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." KJV

Many scriptures in Deuteronomy and Psalms have been shared in previous teachings regarding those blessings and how we are able to obtain them. God proves His people by blessing them extravagantly. Now we find out where our heart is, are we going to continue trusting God or trusting in what He has blessed us with?

Psa 112:1-3 "Praise ye the Lord. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. 2 His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. 3 *Wealth and riches shall be in his house:* and his righteousness endureth for ever." KJV

Pro 8:21 "That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures." KJV

The blessings come to those who are seeking the Lord. We have an inheritance through the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 8 tells us that we are equal heirs with Him. What was promised to Jesus is also promised to us, that He would meet all our needs according to His riches in glory. The following scriptures tell us what is going to happen, how we will receive and what our part in receiving is. There are conditions to be met in order for the believer to receive; seeking the kingdom first, delighting ourselves in the Lord and listening to the voice of God.

Pro 13:22 "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just." KJV

Ecclesiastes 2:26 "For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God." KJV

Matt 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." KJV

Deut 28:2 "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." KJV

The first 14 verses of the book of Deuteronomy tells of all the blessings that the Lord will bestow, but the remainder of the book gives all the curses that will overtake and come upon them who fail to live as He has commanded them.

God's plan for the believer is that we become the lender and not the borrower. God is for us

financially.

"Affair Proofing Your Marriage"

We are living in a real world today dealing with many temptations and pressures from the outside. One main thing the devil is wanting to do is destroy the marriage or family unit. He attacks the families relentlessly.

God brought the children of Israel out of Egypt family by family; the family was instituted and blessed by God.

When both parties are working they spend more time at work with other people than they do in their own homes, they end up just passing by, unable to spend quality time. The relationship that was bonded together in the beginning, begins to come unglued, most times it is not something that is done on purpose but because of different things being spoken or suggested it will start. Statistics tell that about 58% of the divorces in Oklahoma involve a third party.

Marriage today is looked at differently in the world, it is OK to live together without the benefit of marriage, having affairs seems to be the norm and are not taken seriously. There is an old saying that "absence makes the heart grow fonder for someone else" we must spend time together, there is no way to get around it.

There are 12 steps that usually lead to an affair, the result being divorce unless compromise and forgiveness comes into effect and unless steps are taken to keep it from happening:

- 1) something makes you lean away from your marriage, drifting apart and a wedge comes in
- 2) awareness of another person, wondering what that person is really like?
- 3) innocent meetings w/a person that leads to flirting, he pays a compliment, she laughs at something he says, this is a critical point, either goes to the next level or closes the door
- 4) the meetings become planned and intentional by one, going to the lunch room hoping to see the other person
- 5) two are drawn together, lingering in conversation after others have left, talk becomes more social
- 6) feelings begin to be expressed, having conversations with the opposite sex about personal feelings can be dangerous
- 7) isolated meetings begin to happen, lying about meetings their having
- 8) isolated meetings for pleasure happen, talking about romantic stuff or "God must have brought you into my life for encouragement"
- 9) physical touch becomes involved, embraces become affectionate and playful touching begins
- 10) embraces become passionate, without having intercourse

11) adultery happens, torment begins

12) the affair is made public, the secret is revealed and devastation sets in.

Paul is teaching in the following scriptures how we as the body of Christ are to submit ourselves one to another out of respect to God. He is specifically teaching about the husband and wife relationship, even though we are Christian people and have been hurt and need healing, healing always must start with forgiveness. Forgiveness is worked out with a process of time.

Eph 5:21-33 "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but *nourisheth and **cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you *in particular* so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." KJV

v. 22 - this verse is not one that the majority of people want to hear, because submit has a meaning that is not agreeable to many and is very seldom talked about. Submit is looked at as a type of person who is a tyrant or boss over someone. Women tend to have more problems with this word than others. The word submit can also mean adapt or adaptable. The word "submit" in the Greek is a compound word, meaning to bring ourselves under or arrange in order, it is a military word meaning to rank proper alignment,

In marriage two people make up a single unit or body, yet in that one body there are two personalities, these two if they are going to be united must have a headship and that is a man according to scripture. In scripture it is never related to the wife as being inferior to man, but a wife to have her proper relationship to her husband and to place in proper order for her husband submission must be involved. A wife's submission to her husband is seen by God as an actual part of her obedience to Jesus. Headship because of personalities can be jointly shared. We are brothers and sisters in the Lord and are to submit one to another.

Husbands cannot force his wife to become submissive, it would be a wrong attitude on his part by trying to do this, it cannot be done, but as she begins to realize what submission involves, it becomes a service to Jesus for her. When this is done it shows that there is unity, power, and trust in the relationship and oneness in the relationship and there is respect. Respect and honor are important things that a husband needs from his wife, don't be putting him down especially in front of other people, don't be disputing what he is saying, he will have a hard time having trust and respect for you. There must be a headship in a marriage relationship and there can only be one, there will not be any peace or unity in the home until this happens.

v. 23 - Christ is always lifting the church up, helping the church to walk in victory, does the church always respond to that? They most times want to have their own way and don't want to

do it any other way. Sometimes the attitude of selfishness will creep into a marriage and the husband must learn how to minister not only to the wife but to the children that may be there and give proper headship to them spiritually.

*nourish means to do something to keep it alive, help to grow, water the plants or the marriage relationship

**cherish means affectionate, kind, not harsh even when being disrespected, we are all a work in progress.

v. 33 - it is hard to love yourself if you have a poor self image,

Eph 5:33 "However, each man among you [without exception] is to love his wife as his very own self [with behavior worthy of respect and esteem, always seeking the best for her with an attitude of lovingkindness], and the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear]." AMP

Wives must respect their husbands regardless of whether he deserves it or not. 1st Peter chapter 3 tells of how a woman's actions toward her husband will allow him to be won because of those actions. Husbands need their own cheering section, they are only little boys in big bodies.

1 Pet 3:1-6 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; 2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. 5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: 6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement." KJV

Wives if you don't honor your husband there will be others waiting in line to do so, husbands if you don't compliment your wife there will be others waiting to do so.

Col 3:18-19 "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." KJV

There are five love languages which need to be recognized in everyone. They are *touch, quality time, receiving of gifts, giving of gifts* and *words of affirmation*. We need to know our spouses love language. Telling our spouse that we love them without acknowledging their love language will not work unless we show them. Learn how to show them that you really love them by your actions and begin to speak their language. Example: words of affirmation never spoken, complimenting them instead of putting them down all the time, it will be hard for them to believe that you love them.

Marriage problems are usually experienced by all, there were people mentioned in the Old Testament that had marriage problems but were able to work them out.

Statistics say about 70% of people who have a divorce lose a large amount of their financial resources after an affair and find out that the cost was a lot higher than they imagined. Sin always costs more than we thought it would, sin is not your friend.

Heb 3:13 "But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called "Today" [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication]." AMP

A man or woman not getting their needs met, will cause the door to be opened but it can be closed. The steps have been given earlier mentioning all the things that can or will happen if the door is not closed. These steps don't always happen immediately but over a period of time, if the marriage relationship is not what it should be, it makes it easier for an affair to take over leading to all the heartship that follows. There are things that can be done to keep this from happening, but we must learn how to keep foundations of an affair from being laid.

Heb 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." KJV

God created the physical side of marriage and it is to be enjoyed. We read about marriage and the relationship between a man and woman in Proverbs and the Song of Solomon. Read the Song of Solomon from the Message bible. The true blessings of marriage are at home.

Pro 5:15-21 "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. 16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. 17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. 18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. 19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. 20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings." KJV

Sin is deceptive and will always take us further than we mean to go and will keep us there longer. David is an example of what sin will do and because of the influence that he had on others without realizing it, caused such turmoil in his life and those around him, but forgiveness came for him with repentance. We also have this opportunity to change things in our lives; we will receive forgiveness but first must have repentance. God doesn't remember but people do, causing them to look at you differently unless they forgive. God gives second chances.