

# DECISION 08

## AVOIDING FINANCIAL COLLAPSE

They trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches... This is the path of those who have foolish confidence... Psalm 49:6,13 NIV, ESV

The best way to survive tuff financial times is to...

**DISCUSSION:** Do you feel like the economy has been tough on you personally? Why?

### 1. REVIVE MY TRUST IN GOD

When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. Psalm 56:3 NASB

★ Expect God to meet my needs

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 NASB

**DISCUSSION:** When you read a verse like that, do you believe the truth of it or do you feel like you still have to go "make it happen"?

What is a need?

What is a want?

**DISCUSSION:** What are some "wants" in your life that you have been considering "needs"? How do we determine which is which?

Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. Matthew 6:8 The Message

### 2. ALLOW GOD TO SET MY FINANCIAL PRIORITIES

Check books and receipts reveal our most tightly held values. Whether or not we talk openly about what is most important to us, how we use money gives us away. Paul J Meyer

**DISCUSSION:** How do you feel about your budget being called a moral document? Does that scare you? If you knew that your finances were the only thing you would be judged on, what would you change today?

Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil. Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. Proverbs 3:5-7, 9-10 NLT

**DISCUSSION:** Do you really trust that God has your back? Has He done anything to prove otherwise? How has He helped you in the past?

God's priorities:

★ My Family

If a widow has family members to take care of her, let them learn that religion begins at their own doorstep and that they should pay back with gratitude some of what they have received. This pleases God immensely. 1 Timothy 5:4 The Message

**DISCUSSION:** How are you doing at providing for you family? Do you feel like you are teaching them biblical principles regarding money as you do so or are you just getting them whatever they want to make them happy? Have they ever had to go without basic needs?

★ My Church

Contribute to the needs of the saints... Romans 12:13 ESV

**DISCUSSION:** If your family has not gone without basic needs, what are you currently doing to contribute to the church? What are some of the obstacles/excuses that are preventing you from being more faithful in this area? Even if you tithe, are you being completely obedient to what you know God wants you to give?

★ My Community

And so it turned out that not a person among them was needy. Those who owned fields or houses sold them and brought the price of the sale to the apostles and made an offering of it. The apostles then distributed it according to each person's need. Acts 4:34 The Message

**DISCUSSION:** Who are the people around you or organizations you believe in that you could contribute to in addition to your tithe?

**PRAYER PROJECT:** As always, get alone with God and listen to HIM about how to handle your finances and not your own intuition. Please share with your group about your experience.