

RELEASING YOUR FINANCIAL MIRACLES

How do you lose a financial miracle in your life?

As you read through the following six principles, you will see how God is able to provide and how He will make a way.

I do not believe that you will see financial miracles unless you employ the points that I will share with you from the Word of God.

The first way to lose a financial miracle is through:

WISE MANAGEMENT UNDER GOD'S DIRECTION.

Let us consider Joseph's life. Joseph knew his life was in God's hands and God's favor was upon him as He raised him up. At one point, Joseph was called in to interpret Pharaoh's dream. The meaning of the dream was that there were going to be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. The Lord revealed what would happen so that people could prepare.

God reveals His plans to His people. Those who are seeking God for wisdom, according to James 1, will be given wisdom and God will not hold it back. If you are looking for wisdom in the financial realm, know that these miracles do not "just happen." Miracles in the financial realm have to be developed according to God's plan and purpose.

Here was Joseph's suggestion to Pharaoh:

"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. And let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance." (Genesis 41:33-34)

In other words, during those seven years of abundance, they were to take one fifth of what was coming in, set it aside and store it for what was ahead. That was good, wise management of their resources. Do not take everything that you have and immediately spend it. Save something so you can sow again. This is very important.

If a farmer spends all that comes from his harvest and he does not replant, what will happen the next planting time? He will not have any seed to plant a new crop.

We need to be wise managers and stewards when God directs and when He provides.

"They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine. The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. So Pharaoh asked them, 'Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the Spirit of God?'" (Genesis 41:35-38)

Notice that God was exalted in all the land through the leadership. Why did they acknowledge this? Because Pharaoh knew that Joseph heard from God. I believe that we, as God's people, if we are going to see financial miracles in our lives, need to hear from God. We need to pray specifically.

Pray specifically to the Lord God of Hosts, Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who will supply an offering... Ask Him how He will do it. I am referring to management of plenty. (They had seven years of plenty coming in.) What we do with the plenty when it comes will make a decided difference when the famine time arrives.

Do not think you will never have a famine time in your life, because you will. It is during the famine time that God proves whether we trust in Him or we trust in what we have.

You do not see any stinginess in the plan God gave Joseph. What you see is good management. Today we make sure ten percent belongs to God, ten percent is to be put into savings and from there, we disburse whatever it is that we are going to do. But pray; do not just spend money on things.

If you page through different catalogs, you can find one hundred things you want. You will start thinking, "I have to have each one". If we would ask the Lord and acknowledge Him to direct our path, He would show us what we need and when we need it and He would tell us what we do not need.

This is wise management under God's direction. In Genesis, chapter 47, see how Joseph operated during that time. You get an idea how somebody led by the Spirit of the Lord is able to manage and take care of supplies.

"Joseph said to the people, 'Now that I have bought you and your land today for Pharaoh, here is seed for you so you can plant the ground'." (Genesis 47:23)

You need to take the seed and plant it in the ground. You cannot expect to see a financial miracle in your life from the Lord unless you plant the seed.

"'But when the crop comes in, give a fifth of it to Pharaoh. The other four-fifths you may keep as seed for the fields and as food for yourselves and your households and your children.'"

"'You have saved our lives,' they said. 'May we find favor in the eyes of our Lord; we will be in bondage to Pharaoh.'" (Genesis 47:24-25)

Things turned around; but good management is what made it happen.

"So Joseph established it as a law concerning land in Egypt - still in force today - that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. It was only the land of the priests that did not become Pharaoh's." (Genesis 47:26)

Joseph's plan was God's plan to save the world at that time. You can see that God's favor always caused Joseph to rise to the top no matter what state he was in. There had been times of famine in his life too. For example, he was sold into slavery, he was falsely accused and he

was put into prison. But God always caused him to succeed so that His plan could be fulfilled and He could save the world.

The second way to loose a financial miracle in your life is to:

REMOVE FEAR AND DOUBT AND SOW A CROP.

Consider Isaac's life. He took on some of his father's traits: He was afraid for his life when he came into the new land. When you get into a state of fear and doubt concerning your welfare and how you will live, it

makes you unable to move ahead. You will withdraw and become stingy. You will not be generous because you are afraid for your life, your future, your family and your provision. (What you will eat, drink and wear, etc.)

In Matthew 6 Jesus said not to be concerned about those things. "*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*" (Matthew 6:33) Why? Because God will provide. He will make a way.

Get rid of the fear and doubt. If you need to ask God's forgiveness, so be it. Say, "Lord, forgive me for being afraid for my life. Forgive me for being afraid for myself."

The king told Isaac, "If anybody touches you, I will touch them." So he was not afraid for his life or his family anymore.

"*Isaac planted crops in that land...*" (Genesis 26:12) I want you to note the significance of this. There was a famine at the time Isaac planted his crops. No one grows good crops in time of famine! But God's people do because God is the one who makes the crops grow. God is the one who can supply, even when the world is going through shortages. He has no shortages. He who trusts God is not concerned about shortages either.

God wants His people to trust and seek Him since He can cause increase to come in any way He wants, however He wants to do it. He will give a plan. Then we need to be wise managers (point #1) and remove the fear and doubt concerning what we will have for the future (point #2). "*Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold.*" (Genesis 26:12)

In the year of famine, Isaac removed the fear and doubt. He went out and sowed his seed. In that same year he reaped a hundred fold on his crop... "*Because the Lord blessed him.*" (Genesis 26:12)

As God's people, we should expect the blessing of the Lord when we do what He says to do.

Again, the second way to loose financial miracles is to get rid of the fear and doubt. Then you have to plant the crop. You will never see a harvest if you do not plant anything. If you do not give anything into the work of God, you cannot expect to see a crop come forth that will be blessed of the Lord.

You may see a crop come forth, but there will be little thieves that come to steal it. We want the crop to be blessed of the Lord, where the thief cannot take from it. What is blessed of the Lord, you are able to also enjoy. (Ecclesiastes 5:19)

Look closely at this statement from Genesis 26:13-14. "*The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him.*"

People always come against those with God's favor upon them because they are jealous. That should not matter to you. Just love people and go on with life. God's blessing will continue as you continue to do what He says.

"Then Abimelech said to Isaac, 'Move away from us, you have become too powerful for us'." (Genesis 26:16)

I just love that statement. I became so excited when I first uncovered it. I said, "Lord, that is what I want people to say about me."

They were saying, "Your God is too much." I believe that the world will stand up and take note when God's people are blessed according to His Word. One thing the world stands up and takes note of is somebody getting blessed. They will want to know the God who is causing blessing to happen in your life.

Review: Steps to loose God's financial miracles in your life:

- 1) Wise management under God's direction.
- 2) Remove fear and doubt; sow a crop.

The third way to loose financial miracles is:

DILIGENCE AND HARD WORK

Do not expect God to give you something for nothing. It does not work that way. We see a good example of this in Jacob.

Jacob worked with and for Laban in order to marry Laban's daughters.

"Jacob said to him, 'You know how I have worked for you and how your livestock has fared under my care. The little you had before I came has increased greatly, and the Lord has blessed you wherever I have been. But now, when may I do something for my own household?'" (Genesis 30:29-30)

In other words, "I have worked for you and look how God has blessed you as a result of my diligence and care. God has blessed you through me." How would you like to make that kind of statement to an employer?

Joseph was such a man as we noted earlier. Everywhere he went, he was recognized as having God's blessing and hand upon him and he blessed every household where he was. Jacob was the same way.

He approached Laban with, "You know how I have been diligent and industrious; you know how I have faithfully cared and done what I was entrusted to do."

In the New Testament it says that God will entrust you with a little and as you are faithful with it, He will give more. (Matthew 25:21) As you are faithful with what you have, then God will give increase. Do not expect a financial miracle in your life until you are faithful with what you have. (Luke 16:10)

“Jacob said to his wives, ‘I see that your father’s attitude toward me is not what it was before, but the God of my father has been with me.” (Genesis 31:5) If you are going to see a financial miracle in your life, you have to know the God of your fathers is with you.

“You know that I have worked for your father with all my strength” [The third principle of diligence and hard work]. (Genesis 31:6) You want to be able to say, “I have put everything I have into it. I have done my best to the glory of God.” (Colossians 3:23)

“Jacob continued, ...Yet your father has cheated me by changing my wages ten times.” (Genesis 31:6-7) This man needed a financial miracle in his life. Every time he did something to prosper, Laban would come along

to change it and take it away from him. Have you ever been in a situation like that? Everything that came in went right back out, yet you knew you were doing what God said. This story is a beautiful example of a financial miracle.

Note that although Laban had changed Jacob’s wages ten times, Jacob was still faithful to God and to Laban. Here was a man who would not go away without the blessing of God as well as the blessings that God wanted to give him.

“However, God has not allowed him to harm me. If he said, ‘The speckled ones will be your wages,’ then all the flocks gave birth to speckled young; and if he said, ‘The streaked ones will be your wages,’ then all the flocks bore streaked young. So God has taken away your father’s livestock and given them to me.” (Genesis 31:8-9)

You can see the financial miracle God was working. As Jacob remained faithful to God and had a proper attitude towards Laban (which is very important), God kept working for Jacob.

“In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted. The angel of God said to me in the dream, ‘Jacob.’ I answered, ‘Here I am.’ And he said, ‘Look up and see that all the male goats mating with the flock are streaked, speckled or spotted, for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and where you made a vow to me. Now leave this land at once and go back to your native land’.” (Genesis 31:10-13)

The wealth of the wicked is stored up for the righteous. (Proverbs 13:22; Job 27:16-17; Ecclesiastes 2:26) Even when the wicked cheat, God will bless His people.

Review:

1. Wise management under God’s direction.
2. Remove fear and doubt; sow a crop
3. Diligence and hard work.

The fourth way to loose financial miracles is:

HONOR GOD WITH THE INCREASE.

Let us take a look at Abram in Genesis 14. After he had won a military victory, Melchizedek the King of Salem came to him. (Jesus was called to be a priest after the order of Melchizedek.)

“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.’ Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.” (Genesis 14:18-20)

Every time we experience a financial miracle, or any kind of a miracle or blessing, we should give thanks to the Lord. We give the tithe and offering to honor and give thanks to God for all the blessings He has given us. When we give, we say to God, “I trust and thank You, Lord!”

The Lord told me one time, “Thankful people give to My work. Thankful people honor Me with their giving.” They are thankful to God for His generosity.

The tithe is ten percent of the gross income, right off the top (Malachi 3:8-12; Genesis 14:18-20; Proverbs 3:9-10). First things first. Note here, it does not say Abram held back for taxes or anything else. He gave first to God. *“Render to Caesar what belongs to Caesar; render to God what belongs to God,”* Jesus said. (Luke 20:25)

In this country God has thoroughly blessed us. As you honor God, God will then honor you through ‘Caesar (the government)’. Do not be ashamed of taking a tax deduction for yourself when you give to the work of the Lord. God has provided that through our government leaders.

Look closely at what Abram did out of thanksgiving to God. He gave God a tenth of everything.

“The king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.’ And Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’” (Genesis 14:21-23)

God, not man, makes us rich. (Deuteronomy 8:17; Ecclesiastes 5:19; 2nd Corinthians 9:8-11) He gives people the ability to acquire wealth. Never think it is your might or wisdom, good dealings, fast thinking, or luck. God gives the wisdom and ability to acquire wealth to people who trust and obey Him.

However, we have to honor God with what He gives us. He will not give financial miracles and blessings to people who will not honor Him. Have you ever been in a place where you seemed frustrated all the time? You would almost get a breakthrough and then it seemed to go right out the door. It happens because there is a thief working. Yet God has given us a provision.

“Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me.” (Malachi 3:8)

In other words, how can anyone consider robbing God? But He goes on to say, *“But you rob me.”* So there are people today who are robbing God.

“But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse - the whole nation of you - because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Prove (test) me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit, says the Lord Almighty. Then all nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land, says the Lord Almighty.” (Malachi 3:8-12)

I caution you today, if you are not giving tithes, 1) you are disobeying God; 2) you are robbing God; 3) you are not allowing a financial miracle to happen in your life. Do not expect a financial miracle from God if you are not giving tithes and offerings.

You may have had this happen in your life: You did not honor God with your financial giving or giving Him thanks and the next thing you knew something came up and a little bit of money went there. Then something else happened or broke down and there went a little bit more.

Jesus says, *“The thief is come to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.”* (John 10:10)

He is talking about all the devils who try to steal our finances, who try to make things break down. God says, “I will stand against that.” You can stand up and say, “In the name of Jesus, devil, I am a tither and you cannot make my things break down anymore. I am going to get the full use and wear out of everything God has provided for me.” (Of course, we do plan to also maintain what God has given. Do not expect the car to continue to run if you do not change the oil.)

It is very important to see that everything you have is from the Lord. In other words, you do not own it; it belongs to God. You are stewards or caretakers of God’s provision. Let a devil try to steal from God!

When you tithe and give offerings, you are honoring God and saying, “God, this is all Yours.” It is a thank offering for the privilege of caring for it, using it and enjoying it. Do you realize that God wants us to enjoy what He has given? (1st Timothy 6:17-20)

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

Note the first fruits of all your crops are not the “net” amount but the gross. This is a faith kind of working. *“Then your barns will be filled to overflowing...” “Give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down shaken together, running over...”* (Luke 6:38)

In this process we are talking about faith. We have already removed the fear and doubt, so what are we left with? - faith and confidence in God. *“Has He not said it, will He not do it? Has He not promised, and will He not fulfill?”* (Numbers 23:19)

Honor God with the increase. Otherwise, do not expect a financial miracle in your life.

Let us review:

1. Wise management under God's direction.
2. Remove fear and doubt; sow a crop.
3. Diligence and hard work.
4. Honor God with the increase.

The fifth step to loose God's financial miracle in your life is:

HAVE A HUMBLE, REPENTANT HEART AND BE CONTENT WITH WHAT YOU HAVE.

“Then Job replied to the Lord, ‘I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, “Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?” Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know’ ” (Job 42:1-3)

There are people today who talk about things they do not understand. They need to take a good look at the way God says it and do something with it. Do not talk out of ignorance about what God will or will not do when you have not read the Bible. Still, people have read the Bible without even understanding what it says.

They might be thinking, Poor Job, I am just like poor Job. Let me tell you, I want to be like Job – but not the Job they are talking about. I want to be like the Job the Bible describes in Chapter 42. See what happened: *“You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.’ My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:4-6)*

Many people blame God for what is happening in their lives. They do not understand that God's plan for them is for good and not for evil, plans to give them a future, a hope and to prosper them. (Jeremiah 29:11)

If you are in that place and you want to loose a financial miracle, the fifth way is to humble yourself before God and repent. This means to ask God's forgiveness, stop blaming Him and others and quit speaking negative things against the promises of God. Be content and thankful for the state you are in. (1st Timothy 6:6-12; Philippians 4:9-10) Give thanks in all things (1st Thessalonians 5:18) because God is greater than the circumstance and He will work a financial miracle on your behalf.

Job needed a financial miracle in his life because he lost everything he had. When God had him pray for his friends (vs. 10), look at what happened: *“The Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.” (Job 42:10)*

Poor Job! I would just love to be like Job. How about you? It says that God healed him and gave him twice as much as he had before. He was one of the wealthiest men of his day because of the blessing of God on his life; and then God gave him twice as much.

“All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought upon him, and each gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.” (Job 42:11) How would you like all your friends to come over and give you silver and gold?

“The Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters...nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job’s daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers. After this Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died old and full of years.” (Job 42:12-13, 15-17)

Job did not spend his whole life in that poor state. He spent possibly six months. Have you been in that kind of position? God delivered him out of it. He gave him a hundred and forty more years. (Also note Psalm 34:17-19; 2nd Timothy 4:18; 1st Corinthians 10:13)

If you look closely at the first chapters of Job you will see that it was not the Lord who brought all that trouble upon Job. It was Satan and Job himself. *“That which I feared the most is that which came upon me.”* (Job 3:25)

Job had opened the door for the devil to come in and the devil came in. However, God stayed his hand and said, *“You can take anything that is his, but you cannot take his life.”*

Having life was the blessing of God. If you do not have a life, you cannot be blessed as far as this earth is concerned. You would be blessed in the new one with Jesus. But how can God work a financial miracle in your life if you are dead? He cannot.

What was God’s intention with Job? God wanted to bless him. He wanted to make him an example for the world to see how God is able to bless and prosper someone who is walking in a humble, obedient, repentant heart with contentment in his life. (Also Malachi 3:12)

“Godliness with contentment is of great gain.” (1st Timothy 6:6) You came into the world with nothing, you leave with nothing; do not be a lover of money, or you will put yourself in a snare.

In other words, do not seek God’s financial miracle for yourself. Seek it for the advancement of the kingdom of God. I have never seen God turn down an offering request when people were saying, “Lord, I want an offering to give to You.” God will provide because He wants His kingdom work advanced to His glory and His people to be cared for.

1st Timothy 6:17-19 tells us what we are supposed to do with riches when we get them. Namely, we are to be generous, distribute it and not put trust in uncertain riches. We have to honor and thank God for His provision and seek to be the blessing on earth that God has intended.

Let us review:

- 1) Wise management under God’s direction.
- 2) Removal of fear and doubt.
- 3) Diligence and hard work.
- 4) Honor God with the increase.

5) Humble, repentant hearts, with contentment. (Your trust is in God, not in your things.)

If you want to see a financial miracle in your life, then do step 6:

SEEK GOD'S WISDOM.

Take a look at Solomon as a young man. His father David was going on to be with the Lord and God came to Solomon. *"The Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, 'Ask for whatever you want me to give you.'"* (1st Kings 3:5)

Now think about it. He was just a young man at the time. God came to him and said, *"Ask from Me whatever you would have Me to give you."* Would you like God to come and ask you that?

In Jesus Christ, God has done exactly that. *"Ask whatever you will, and it will be done for you."* (John 14:13) Why not expect financial miracles? Look what happened to Solomon.

"Solomon answered, 'You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day. Now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.'" (1st Kings 3:6-7)

Solomon had a desire for efficiency in management in order to deal with what God had entrusted to him. In the New Testament, Jesus said that if you do not know how to handle money wisely, you will never handle God's spiritual truths. (Luke 16:11)

"Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." (1st Kings 3:8-9)

We want to go before God with this same attitude, (I learned many of my prayers right out of the Bible. I found out which prayers get blessed. Those are the prayers I use.) God blessed Solomon's prayer and I have been asking it since I was a little boy.

"Lord, give your servant a discerning heart, to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." I always add with this prayer, "the grace (ability) then, to do what is right and stay away from what is wrong." Solomon did not ask that in his prayer and later fell into sin. It is one thing to know what is right and wrong and it is another thing to do what is right and stay away from what is wrong.

"The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this." (1st Kings 3:10)

Why was the Lord pleased? Because Solomon did not have his own interests at heart. He had the interests of God and His people at heart. You do not want financial miracles for your own interests. You want financial miracles for God's interest. God will give money to people He knows He can trust with it.

"So God said to him, 'Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have you asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, I will do what you have

asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for.” (1st Kings 3:10-13)

This is exciting. The sixth way to loose financial miracles is to seek God’s wisdom. If you seek God’s wisdom, then what does God say He will do? It says He will give you something that you did not ask for. It will be nothing bad, let me tell you. What is it? *“Both riches and honor.” (1st Kings 3:13)*

God says He will give riches and fame even though you did not ask for those things. You desired to seek wisdom from Him rather than those things for yourself. Then, He will give you honor and riches. Get rid of a poverty mentality.

“So that in your lifetime, you will have no equal among the kings. And if you walk in my ways, and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” (1st Kings 3:13-14)

Riches and honor on the one hand, long life on the other. What does the whole world look after? Riches and honor and long life. God is the only one who can give it with a blessing so you are able to enjoy it. He wants to do this for you.

I believe strongly and it is a Word from the Lord too, that if God has supplied you with something, manage it well and do not live off of what has been supplied. The time to work even harder is during the time of abundance. Squirrels have an abundance of nuts in the yard but continue to store up all they can, because they know winter is coming and the ground will soon be bare. They work hard.

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

God loves to cause His people to be recognized when they give glory to Him. God will raise them up. (Promotion comes from the Lord).

“Her [wisdom’s] ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace her. Those who lay hold of her will be blessed.” (Proverbs 3:17-18)

In review – six steps to loose God’s financial miracles:

- 1) Wise management under God’s direction.
- 2) Remove fear and doubt; sow a crop.
- 3) Diligence and hard work.
- 4) Honor God with the increase – the tithes and offerings.
- 5) Have a humble, repentant heart; be content with what you have.
- 6) Seek God’s wisdom.