

sonal debt situation over the next 5 to 10 years.

- 5. Provide immediately for an emergency fund.
- 6 Practice long-range saving and investing habits.

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-12 and Luke 14:28. Paul advises Timothy to keep his life in proper perspective. His encouragement reminds us to pursue the right things, and to live a life of integrity. We can easily get trapped by life's emergencies, and we tend to snatch up what we want *now*, without considering the future. Planning helps us maintain perspective, and helps us live out God's purpose in our lives.

- What is the current amount of your savings? (Include personal savings accounts, money market accounts, CDs, mutual funds, pension funds, 401k plans, etc.)

- How might savings help you to fulfill your purpose and goals in the future?

- How can you change your savings habits today and move toward security and fulfillment in the future?

simplicity, generosity and joy

Tools You Can Use



Financial Planning Worksheet

This worksheet, based on six key financial principles, is designed to help you think through your current situation, and to begin identifying changes you can make over the next year.

The aim is for all of us to experience true simplicity, generosity, and joy!

1. Put God first in your living and giving

Read II Corinthians 9:6-7. Our approach to giving is important. When we thoughtfully and prayerfully decide what we want to do with our time and our money, we feel better about it, even to the point of cheerfulness! Our living and our giving become less of an obligation and more filled with joy.

- How much time do you currently devote to Bible study and prayer each week?

- What is the best time and place for you to practice these holy habits?

- List two changes you could make in your weekly routine in order to move into a deeper study and prayer life.

- What percentage of your income currently goes to charitable giving?

- Are there changes you'd like to make in this area?
(Examples: Track your giving more closely; be more aware of how charitable organizations spend your money; consolidate your giving.)

- What is one thing you'll discuss about this area of your life with your children, your spouse, a friend or loved one?

2. Prepare a spending plan and track all expenses monthly.

Read Proverbs 27:23-24. The wisdom in the Proverbs reminds us that our riches do not endure forever. We are encouraged to give

careful attention to what is entrusted to us.

- What 'grade' would you give yourself in the area of spending? (A+? C-?)

- What are the things you're doing pretty well? What are the ways your spending is off track?

- What three changes could you make immediately in order to have a positive impact on your spending overall?

3. Simplify your lifestyle, live below your means.

4. Pay off all credit card debt and use cash not credit cards.

Read Matthew 6:19-33 and Proverbs 22:7. As we go about our daily lives, it's easy to see with 'bad' eyes. Power and possessions seem to be linked to the promise of happiness and peace, and we are urged to pursue them. Many of us lose clarity on what we can afford. In our culture, it may be normal to borrow, but the proverb reminds us that when we do, we put ourselves under someone else's control.

- What is your total debt? (Include credit cards, mortgage, 2nd mortgage, home equity loans, car loans, student loans, etc.)

- Write a description of how you'd like to change your per-