



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Bad Debts, Bad Stress

Sis. Techie Rodriguez, Elder-Founder
July 22, 2020

Are we drowning in debts? Debts are unpaid borrowed funds. The message in Prov. 22:7 that says, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender", is a warning to us to manage our finances properly. God wants us to be lenders, not borrowers. In order to avoid bad debts and prevent stress, let us rely on Him as His sufficiency will bring us true freedom (Gal 5:1).

What are the typical manifestations of stress?

Excessive stress causes many problems: illness, overeating, alcoholism, abnormal sleep patterns, loss of interest in daily activities, irritability, relationship problems, and poor performance.

Reflecting on the story of Elisha and the Widow (2Kings 4:1-7) gives us 10-steps to eliminate debt stress & receive God's provision:

1. **Let us know where to go when we don't know what to do.** The widow went to Elisha for help when she didn't know what to do. Let us ask the Lord for guidance and not rely on personal strength to be truly free from bad debts.
2. **Let us not seek an earthly savior.** Christians seem to look at church leaders as 'celebrities' of God's miracle. Elders or prophets are only channels of God.
3. **Let us find out what's "in the house'.** Stress leads us to be fixated on what we lack, rather than on what we have. Let us look at our resources - our talents/skills, extra or old stuff, and utilize them to improve our finances.
4. **Let us not be blinded by negativism, but pass on to the positive.** Crisis always brings a negative perspective, that even existing blessings seem to diminish in value. Trust that all things are possible with God!
5. **Faith requires action.** James 2:17 says, "Faith without works is dead." When the widow acted

on Elisha's advice to get empty vessels from the neighbors, the miracle of abundance started.

6. **Let us not put limitations on God's ability to provide.** When Elisha asked the widow for more vessels, she didn't hesitate. God's graces will be unlimited to a faith that has more.
7. **Shut the doors of doubt.** Doubts expect a no answer (Js. 1:6-7). The closing of the doors by the widow stopped the doubts of the neighbors. Let us not pay attention to the skeptics. Focus on the light of God (Mk 6).
8. **Pour until there is no more.** Like the widow who kept on pouring on the empty vessels, let us put all our efforts into action, and let God do the wonders and the miracle of multiplication.
9. **Let us go to our neighbor.** Let us seek the support of a believing community, to be filled with God's Holy Spirit (Eph. 5). God is calling his children for a life filled with abundance.
10. **There will always be enough when we obey.** Elisha's comforting words to the widow in the last verse, "...you and your sons can live on the rest" will also be true for anyone who obeys. Obedience to God means to rely on His riches (Phil. 4:19); every work of one's hands will be given blessings (2Cor. 9:6-12). In addition, obedience is also giving tithes to the LORD and receiving blessings that will pour down without measure (Mal. 3:10).

Conclusion: To live a debt-free life is to place God in control of our household. We must admit our emptiness and let God truly work on us and save us from our slavery of debt. Let us trust that He will supply all our needs according to His richness (Dt 28:12).

Reflection:

What do you plan to change in order to be free from debt? What's "in the house" that can help you become a lender, instead of a borrower?

Transcriber/Writer: Remegio Sagarino

Editor: Sis Jo Advincula

Final Edited/Approved by: Sis Vera I. Tuplano

For more teachings, visit our website:

www.lordsflock.org/teaching/readingmaterials