

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL

#ISTRUGGLEWITHMANAGINGMONEY

Pastor Derwin Gray Interviews Sarah Baker – July 24, 2016

1. Read Matthew 6:19-24. Ask Jesus to capture your heart.
2. Sarah asked, "How do you know if "you are managing money" or "money is managing you"?"
 - How did this question impact you and why?

Following are several signs that you are managing God's money:

1. Spending decisions are planned and prayerful.
 - Discuss this statement based on Sarah's description—using a spending plan.
2. You prioritize your use of money- giving, savings, debt, taxes, THEN living.
 - This may be a new concept for you. Discuss how this will impact your life and how living by faith plays a role in this strategy.
3. You don't constantly compare what you have to your neighbors/friends/family.
 - How has comparison worked out for you thus far in your life?

Following are several signs that money is managing you:

1. Your first priority is living, not giving.
2. Quick, reactive spending.
3. You feel like you never have funds to give or save.
4. You prioritize your use of money this way: living, taxes, growing debt, little to no savings or giving to Jesus.
 - Discuss this list. Do you find yourself living in this category? Ask the Lord to help you to make the necessary changes to stop living by this strategy.

One of the 5 characteristics of a transformer is Generosity. How does active participation in and understanding of generosity help in our struggle with money?

1. Giving leads to contentment. (Read Acts 20:35; Philippians 4:11-13 NIV)
 - How have you see this to be true in your life?
2. Giving is a great antidote to greed. (Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NLT)
 - How does God feel about greed? And what does He do to transform us?
3. Giving is a ministry that expresses your thankfulness to God and meets the needs of others. (Read 2 Corinthians 8:9; 2:9-12 NLT)
 - Discuss these passages and what they have to say about giving.

Soul-tattoo: Trust God and manage God's money His way as an act of worship. (Read Philippians 4:19)

Note: Transform U: Financial Faithfulness workshop 9/20-11/1 (see website for details).