

# God's FINANCIAL FAVOR *By Les Potts*



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**W**henever we speak about finances, people respond from experience. What does one do when times are tough? How do we walk in financial favor? We do so by being obedient to the principles God has outlined for us in Scripture, which is reliable in good times and bad.

**1. Give.** Give of everything you have (Luke 6:38, MSG).

**2. Be generous.** This word carries a more magnanimous spirit than the word "give." "Generous" is more broad-minded, big-hearted, and liberal. It's a principle that makes your world bigger. You don't learn this spirit in the season of abundance – but in lean times. It gives you a more liberal heart, allowing overflow in any season (Proverbs 11:24, MSG).

**3. Ask.** Have you asked God? Have you asked people? Have you asked largely enough? Have you planned in advance for God to bless, and are you learning to operate toward the blessing? (Ephesians 3:20, MSG).

## How do we move the church forward financially in difficult times?

The church thrives on its leadership. Your church may be going through a difficult financial period, but God always has enough. And He wants you to have enough for the ministry He called you to do. So let's pursue some key leadership issues.

**A.** Senior pastors, lead by example. You must have your family finances under control, practice tithing and giving, control your debt, demonstrate generosity, and be able to take risks.

**B.** Make connections with key people in the congregation. God puts kings in the church whom He gifts to make money. Point people must connect with them and help them understand how to use their gifting to assist in the work of ministry.

**C.** Lose the fear/guilt of asking for money. Who else is better qualified to teach and instruct but the one God called to lead? You are doing the greatest work on the planet.

**D.** Teach about stewardship at least once a year. Church attendees have a right to know what you need weekly in your offering, where the money goes, what your plans are and how to help.

**E.** Concentrate on doing one thing with excellence in your community. That mission will become a major source of receiving for the whole church. Even your own congregation will make sure you keep doing it. People want to invest in something that makes a difference.

**F.** Invite community leaders to key events at your church, and then be sure to recognize them properly. You might be surprised that what you are doing connects with them, motivating them to contribute.

**G.** State your financial goals clearly and publicly – not just with major projects. Be creative. Keep excellent records. Be accountable with every project. Report updates and final results and follow through on deadlines.

**H.** Repeat yourself frequently. It lends validity to what you do, and about the seventh time, people finally hear it.

**I.** Use personal testimonies. Let someone who experienced a miracle with their giving testify and take the offering.

**J.** Pray – pray – pray! Go with what beats in God's heart.

**K.** Get your leadership on the same page. Don't let anyone serve in leadership who doesn't faithfully give to the church.

In his book, *Courageous Leadership*, Bill Hybels says, "The point leader stands accountable for raising and allocating funds for the entire organization. God's resources are unlimited. Some person in your church is not the ultimate resource supplier. People are the conduits of God's supply, but they are not ultimately responsible for it. God alone controls the flow of the financial river we need. Leaders also need to understand that God is not just able to help, he is actually eager to help. God is always looking around for new conduits through which to send resources our way." He adds, "Under the right circumstances people love to give .... If the right people are presented with the right kingdom opportunity in the right way at the right time, the result will be a joyful and generous outpouring of support."<sup>1</sup>

These are great and trying days. We are equipped to face them because of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Let's think bigger, plan greater, and take more risks for God. He is looking throughout the earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are loyal toward Him.



<sup>1</sup>Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*, Zondervan, 2002.