

BREAKING THE STRONGHOLD OF DEBT

Dr. Tor Terry Shaguy

Breaking The Stronghold of Debt
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ISBN: 978-1533062918

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Interior design by Pages & Audio

www.pagesandaudio.com

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Printed by Createspace. An Amazon Company

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THANKS

Our Jehovah Jireh who has put in place such a perfect plan that with obedience, all of His children will defeat debt.

Our Provider, Shepherd and Saviour Jesus Christ, for granting us favour with all we have ever been indebted to; for giving us the insights to get us out of debt and the privilege to share this knowledge with Your esteemed body (The Church).

DEDICATION

*Brother Adeniran Olusemi Adeyemi of
Nigeria Breweries Plc.*

T

*o all who have forgiven us one debt or
another or who were patient with us
until we were able to settle our debts and
indeed all who at various times trusted us
enough to be indebted to them.*

*To humanity worldwide who have been
burdened with debt in whatever form.*

*To Tola Akanbi, a faithful brother and
friend who avoid debt like the plague. He
was there to make this book happen.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Holy Ghost remains my primary Teacher and Helper and I am eternally grateful to Him.

When young David needed to take his life in his hands while he waited for God's purpose for his life to be established, he put his family in the care of a friendly and fatherly King -1Samuel 22:34.

Rev. Dr. O.O.Olawoye, General Overseer of Faith Bible Church Akobo in Ibadan, Nigeria, was my fatherly King. My entire family came under his leadership and he accepted the responsibility with such generosity. He doubled as our Pastor and physical Father on the scene, interrupting even his night rest several times to attend to both our spiritual and material emergencies. We appreciate you, Daddy and Mummy GO Professor Janice Olawoye.

We appreciate all pastors and brethren of Faith Bible Church Akobo Ibadan, most especially, Pastor & Mrs Bunmi Akinbami, Pastor & Mrs J. Okunuga, Pastor & Mrs Are Arowolo, Pastor & Mrs Samuel Ashaolu, Joe Gbenga Okunuga, Dolapo Keyede, Bro. S. S. Bello, Segun & Folake Adeyemi, Kenny Osifeso, Barr. Ola Alonge, Mr & Mrs

Richmond Kanu, Marcus Agboola, Abioye Akinniyi, Pa & Mummy Awe, Mrs Fakoya, AWO & Mrs Josiah Moses, Men's President with his wife-Mr & Mrs Alfred Bamidele, The Laity Council Chairman, Elder Afolaju and many others who contributed directly to REGAM

GLOBAL MISSIONS' take-off .

Mrs Yemisi Omokewa has become our Mummy and Grandma to the Children. 'Grandma of USA' has been such a blessing.

Professor & Mrs S. K. Onwuka gave this book the financial lift to get into print. May your family (which in fact is also our family) be published globally in glory, to the third and fourth generations. Amen.

The team at TAYTOP and Pastor Chris Femi Nmor of Abifem Graphics handled the type-setting and fine-tuning. I appreciate you all.

Finally, my dear wife, friend, partner and proofreader Pastor Debbie Bose Shaguy and all the great destinies, Iveren Favour, Sewuese Praise, Tor David and Sina Mimi, I love you all.

When debt creeps up on you it comes with a large grin on its face...But what starts out as a broad smile soon becomes a snarl.



*But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! For it was borrowed.
2Kings 6:5. (Emphasis added)*

Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the Prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the Lord: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2Kings4:1. (Emphasis added)

Debt is a viciously subtle friendly foe. When debt creeps up on you, it comes with a large grin on its face. It assures you that it is the only friend you have and the only solution out of your present

predicament. As a matter of fact, it persuades you either to entirely forget God's promises of provision or subtler still; debt tells you it is God's provision for the moment.

But most of debt's handshake never stops at the wrist. It goes beyond the elbow. Before you know it, debt has assumed a bear hug and is looking to suffocate you. What started out as a broad smile has now become a snarl. This bride you had given up all of God's gracious promises to court has now become a serpent.

Debt is a spiritual force and its main ministry is to hold in bondage.

The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. Proverbs 22: 7.

The Bible says the borrower is servant to the lender. Not surprising, Apostle Paul warned the Church in Rome against indebtedness (Romans 13: 8).

This strong man comes with a band of attendants, namely: stagnation, anxiety, distraction from vision, timidity or loss of self-esteem, sleeplessness, etc.

Stagnation: As long as you are working to pay off debts you will almost certainly not advance above your present financial status. Money which otherwise would have been used as seed to bring you a harvest tomorrow, is already being frozen by debt.

Anxiety: It is very difficult for a man in debt not to be anxious. You are anxious about what will happen if the next due payment fails. You are anxious about how

the creditor will react to you when you meet at Mr. Biggs or at 'Cash & Carry' or at McDonalds or how he will react at your new shoes bearing in mind you failed to send in the installment for this month. Your heart does a somersault at the sound of your phone. You are even anxious that he will be crossed you didn't wave to him in the traffic. Anxiety? Yes, plenty of it. Even for funny reasons.

Distraction from vision: As long as you are holed up working to pay off debts, you will not pursue the things that complement your vision. You will not take the steps or go to the places that could have furthered the pursuit of your vision. You will watch others execute your dreams. You will tell everyone who cares to listen that you actually thought up that possibility or had such a vision long ago. The painful thing is that whereas people won't believe, you will actually be telling the truth. You will dream very great dreams or have great plans which may remain in blue print. You will keep putting off the pursuit of your vision. Sounds familiar, does it?

Timidity: Have you noticed that those indebted to you go out of their way to greet you? No, I did not say you go out of your way to be polite to your creditors. Irrespective of age or class difference, the creditor becomes 'Sir' 'Madam'.

When the creditor is around, the debtor becomes sheepish like a school kid whose Mummy has come to report to his Class teacher that he is still wetting the bed. You know, you are suddenly a 'good' or 'quiet' boy. You

are afraid that if you breathe too hard or too fast, (let alone make any noise) you may provoke some embarrassment from your teacher. You are so determined not to get out of line. In fact, you are so determined to please, you end up becoming timid.

Sleepless nights: Debt not only takes away your dignity. It also keeps you awake at night. This restlessness could lead to loss of appetite and loss of weight. Eventually, it could culminate in some terminal diseases such as High Blood Pressure, hypertension, heart attack, etc. Debt is death. Study has shown that a substantial percentage of cases of suicide among celebrities is traceable to debt.

Broken homes: Debt rips through an otherwise promising family like a hot knife through butter. It ministers tension in an otherwise peaceful home. Before long, couples become irritable and are at each other's throat. In the end, divorce results and where there are kids, they are the worse for it. In some even more fatal situations, debt makes widows of women and orphans of kids.

Debt looks innocuous when it arrives but becomes cancerous on departure. It wants to leave a large hole behind.

Slavery: Debt enslaves. No wonder, the little Lady in 2Kings 4 cried to Elisha when faced with the reality that her sons would be taken over as slaves by the creditor. Do you see how hard debt can bargain? This creditor respected the late Prophet enough to lend to him. However, once the minister died, the creditor would

gladly and heartlessly price two young men to be just about the worth of his debt. I don't know how much and I suppose you don't either, the amount that would be worth two human souls.

Can you now understand the anguish in 2Kings 6:5 when the student-Prophet lamented: "Alas, for it was borrowed" when that axe head fell into the water? God had to work a miracle to keep the Bible College from being invaded by the natives to demand the head of the culprit.

Loss of self-esteem: The debtor stands great risk of losing his self-esteem as he must not be too assertive in the presence of the lender. Even at the national level, Lender nations came up with the coinage third world countries when referring to nations whose economies are still growing. No one has been bold enough to correct this derogation. Why? Because leaders of the nations hurt by this derogatory address are debtor countries and each year, they go back cap in hand seeking either for more money to borrow or pleading for rescheduled repayments. Where do they have the time or the moral strength to demand a more dignified address? How can you argue with your creditor in the market place? Debt has indeed forced a loss of self-esteem both on individuals and nations alike.

Spectator in your own event: You know if the lender is sitting in your living room, no matter how important the current TV programme is to you and your household, if he decides to watch anything else, that's

what your family will watch as long as he is there.

As a matter of fact, if your children or any other member of your family wants to raise an objection, you may banish them from watching TV for the rest of the week!

This is the exact scenario between lenders and borrowers. Whether as individuals, firms or nations, once your creditor decides to call the shots you become a spectator in your own game. Chief Executives have had to fold their hands behind their backs and tag meekly along while strangers have taken over the running of their firms. They have taken out their frustration upon staff members who have objected to the strange policies introduced by even stranger managers. CEOs have been forced to relieve their most productive personnel to please their creditors.

How about nations? Heads of governments have had to implement the recommendations (which in actual fact are commandments) of creditor bodies or nations. They have become spectators in their own administrations. But to put up a face, they have told all their nationals that such policies were their governments and were indeed the best in the interest of all. What they have failed to do was to confess to their nationals that the World Bank or the G7 or the Paris Club or some other creditors, had taken over the national economy and that adopting these measures was the only way to secure urgently needed additional loans to keep the economy alive.

Those who have smelt a rat and raised eye-brows have

been discredited in every conceivable way, have lost their jobs in government, have had their sources of livelihood frustrated or worse still, have been branded saboteurs or even accused of planning a coup and have been put out of circulation.

Every home, firm or nation is greatly endangered when the head becomes a spectator in his own event. Debt sees to this.

Liquidation: Many people have suffered liquidation as a direct consequence of debt. Firms have borrowed funds that should have been used to shore up their operations. Some members of the same management team have seen the extra funds as an opportunity either to become extravagant or even embezzle outright. In the end, those funds that should have widened the scope of the firm have ironically led to its closure.

There are indeed many evils of the monster called debt. Debt comes wearing a sweet smelling perfume but stinks on the way out. Debt is death!

Debt is disobedience. Mike Murdock says debt is the evidence of covetousness. I agree. Yes, Sir! Debt turns payday into sorrow-day because the entire wage has been spent in advance. Debt keeps the man from financial stability so he can fulfill neither his obligations nor destiny. Debt tears ministries apart. It makes liars out of good men.

In many cases you will be surprised that debt suddenly acquires the tendencies of a living organism and begins to grow by itself. The implication is that each

time you bring an installment of what is owed, you will be amazed that rather than reduce the total indebtedness, your obligations continue to either increase or at best remain static after several installments. Mind you, this is not even talking about financial instruments where a marginal interest is factored into the initial arrangement.

During the first 12 years of formal education for our kids, many other vital things competed fiercely for our resources. The result was that in a number of occasions, we found favour with the school authorities and paid in installments. The problem however was that in some of the cases, after several installments, total indebtedness had not reduced. Thankfully however, Pastor Debbie my dear wife who had an eye for such details was always able to come up with relevant receipts for reconciliation. The Lord help us if such receipts were not available.

Predictably, my dear wife was not always privy to some of my less obvious indiscretions like buying recharge cards on credit. On such occasions, I was not so smart. I would sometimes pay over 200% of the value eventually. All the while, I would know I was being swindled and would put up a feeble protest. Meanwhile, they would sweetly remind me they had done me a favour by advancing the credit facility in the first place and it was only honourable for me to clear my indebtedness with little fuss. They always won.

Debt It is a terrible inheritance to leave one's family. You have toyed with this serpent for too long, saint of the Living God. Rise up and crush it. God's plan is that

you should lend to nations. You are not to borrow.

The Lord shall open unto thee His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy Land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand; and thou shalt lend unto many nations and thou shalt not borrow. Deut28:12

From this moment, I decree a holy anger within you against the stronghold of debt, in Jesus Name. Amen.

PRAYERS:

1. Lord, please help me to understand and treat debt as the true enemy it is. Give me holy hatred for debt and help me overcome this spirit in my life in the Name of Jesus.
2. I repossess every aspect of my destiny that debt has negotiated and restricted all these years, in Jesus Name.
3. Lord, please I must not leave debt as an inheritance for my family.



THE WICKED borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. Ps 37:21

Various causes bring about debt. However, most of them are indeed, the evidence of financial folly. Thankfully, most debts can be prevented. An itemization below would be helpful.

1. Inherited Debts.

We have seen from the account of the widow in 2kings 4 that some debts are inherited. In the case of this family, an otherwise faithful prophet of the most High God was nonetheless a poor manager of financial resources.

It is the plan of God that we leave an inheritance to our children's children. I am sure this inheritance does

not include debt. Parents have to be especially careful in managing resources at their disposal. By the way, you must agree that it is unwise to assume that because one is God's servant, the creditors will be too intimidated to come, after one's decease.

But an even more pathetic scenario is where the man actually left no debts behind but as soon as he died, heartless family members have dispossessed his family of all valuables and assets.

In Midwestern Nigeria for instance, no married man dies of natural causes. 'It is usually the wife who kills her husband'. Even if an enemy bullet fell him in faraway Rwanda while on peace keeping mission or he got knifed in a brawl at the bar and dies on the spot, it is the wife that killed him. Consequently, family members will descend on the widow and her kids and kick them out of their home if it is their personal house or at least clear it of all valuables, if it is rented.

In other situations, unscrupulous business associates have robbed widows of their dues because the deceased had failed to carry his wife along in his financial transactions.

In both cases, the hardship that follows many times is as bad as debt.

2. Financial Irresponsibility.

It is pertinent to note that no matter how small or large your regular income is, God has made provision first for seed and then bread, in it.

For as the rain... watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater: Isaiah 55:10.

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; 2Corith 9:10.

These Scriptures say that what God gives is first, seed to be sown and then bread to be eaten. When men fail to understand this truth and eat everything that comes into their hand, they are manifesting financial irresponsibility and stabbing their own financial destinies in the leg.

In practical terms, whoever spends up to 90% of his income on liabilities and luxuries is programming for debt sooner or later. Liabilities by the way are all those beautiful things acquired either because of their aesthetic appeal or because they aid entertainment or because they boost our social image but they do not add anything to our finances. Besides, any attempt to resell them, we automatically lose money on them. They have a depreciating tendency and do not contribute either directly or indirectly to our finances. They may be throwing of parties, acquisition of expensive cars, electronics, the pursuit of fashion, etc.

The worst manifestation of financial irresponsibility is when we acquire these liabilities and luxuries on credit and have to work long-term to pay for them. This

evidently means that our taste is bigger than our means. This is covetousness.

3. Curse of Disobedience

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.

Deut28:15, 43-44.

Where the curse of disobedience is in force, the victim will perpetually find himself in the red, always needing to borrow. This is notwithstanding the size of his pay cheque.

As it were, every financial breakthrough or elevation comes with responsibilities twice its size.

When goods increase they are increased that eat them... Ecclesiastes 5 : 11

Therefore, the debt issue is not resolved simply by making more money. It is a spirit and when disobedience invokes that spirit the victim will always find himself in the red. Worse than just being in the red however is that he will always find the appropriate place to borrow more.

4. Presence of the Devourer.

The devourer is a destroying spirit charged with the responsibility of destroying the prosperity, resources, time, investment, health and even the fruit of the body of people who have elected to defraud God. God of course is the supplier of our lives, health, talents, knowledge & wisdom, jobs, favour and every conceivable good thing that adds up to our achievements and success. James confirms in Chapter One the Seventeenth verse that every good and perfect gift comes from the Heavenly Father.

For all this unmerited favour, He charges nothing. However, He has demanded that His children return to Him a tenth of all He blesses them with. This puts Him in covenant to protect the property and resources of His people against the rampaging activities of the devourer.

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me... Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house... And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. (Mal 3:8-11. Emphasis mine)

Let me explain that no Bishop or Apostle or Prophet

or Pastor can rebuke the devourer for your sake. Only God can. This you secure with the tithe.

Nevertheless many of God's precious children either because of lack of knowledge or blatant affront on the God who owns even their soul, refuse to pay the tithe to Him. What many do not know however is that everyone living, pays this tithe. If you pay it with gratitude and as part of your worship to God, you have taken an insurance against the devourer and have secured the Heavenly Fathers' divine help in your finances among other areas.

Conversely, those who will rather play wiser than God have automatically made the devourer their senior financial partner and he will disburse what they earn or even invest without recourse to them.

Since through their rejection of the tithe immunity they have appointed him their financial manager, he will do the following:-

- Counsel them to embark on financial investments where they will lose their resources.
- He will entice them to spend their money recklessly. Plenty of avenues like illness of family members, legal tussles, undelivered orders or purchase of useless property will drain their resources.
- He will arrange for them to be defrauded or stolen from. Ultimately, he will help them run their resources down and promptly help them borrow other funds that shall be spent more or less in the same way. Finally, the noose will be pulled tight against their financial neck leaving them gasping

for breath.

5. The Easy way out Syndrome.

When majority of Christians face a financial crises they easily forget all of the Father's promises to supply. They are in haste to get easy solution.

The consequence is that rather than make the necessary sacrifice in sowing a seed towards the need, waiting on the Lord and praying, it is more tempting to take what looks like the easy way out. Solve the problem now, face, the consequences later. This is precisely what the adversary exploits. He dangles debt like carrots.

This decision to opt for debt rather than God in itself is sin because it is devoid of faith. It reveals a lack of confidence or faith in either God's ability or willingness to provide and this is sin as whatever is not of faith is sin.

... for whatever is not of faith is sin.

Romans 14 : 23

Another reason borrowing is such a first choice is because of sheer laziness. Some people are too lazy to either pray or even work with their hands. While God is waiting to bless all the work of their hands, they are hiding behind debts to survive.

6. Unbalanced Growth Between Responsibilities and Resources.

Man is a mobile creature. He is always on the move whether positively or negatively. In age, knowledge, achievements, status, etc., man is mobile. He is either

moving forward or moving backward. In age, the movement is of course, one way: forward. In other areas he needs personal discipline to sustain his progress. Otherwise, he will retrogress whether he knows it or not.

As man goes forward in his age, responsibilities will likewise increase. When he is married his responsibilities for even basic survival have multiplied. When the children begin to come these responsibilities keep climbing. A bigger accommodation becomes inevitable, etc. Few years of marriage, the exigencies of formal education for the children will introduce another growth in responsibilities. If he is an African, most probably he will face another responsibility of fending for his aged parents. What is more, when people relocate, they may discover new competition for available resources.

If this inevitable growth in responsibility is not matched by a commensurate growth in his resources, he may soon find a friendly foe in debts. He may need to spend his income many months in advance.

7. Pride:

Most reasons for getting into debt are bad enough but if you care for my opinion, this particular one stinks. Some people get into debt simply because of pride. They have attained a certain social status and even when their resources have evidently begun to give way, they have been too concerned about keeping their image, to readjust to the reality of their dwindling finances.

Some have been as ridiculous as failing to be sincere

with even their spouses. They have kept up this artificial identity until in the end, unable to brave the fact and reposition themselves, they have cowardly taken their own lives.

This pride has set others up and they have been manipulated by peer pressure. They have to drive the class of car their colleagues are driving. They have to spend more on their wedding than their age-mate did three months ago. The burial of their grandmother has to be broadcast on CNN because their classmate's grandfather's burial made the national network news earlier in the year. They have to relocate to that choice part of the city some of their colleagues live. It does not matter that whereas their colleagues live in their personal houses or those bequeathed by deceased parents, it would cost them 6 months of their salary on rent each year. They are not mindful of the fact that some of those colleagues are no longer supporting any younger ones in the University while themselves are sponsoring two younger ones. This is besides the three of their own kids who are also in secondary/high school.

On top of these all, they don't know where and how their colleagues make the extra cash. Pride has taken them for a ride.

8. Wrong Speculation:

Business usually is about speculation. You consider the risk then align this with the expected profit or gain. Once you feel comfortable with the risk level and the

odds, so to speak, you invest.

Unfortunately, there is no barometer for determining the accurate odds in any business. Therefore investors must take their chances. Usually an experienced business man must count the cost and decide what loss level will not knock him completely out. However the following reasons could culminate in wrong speculation.

- If an inexperienced investor does not avail himself of proven expert counsel.
- If a prospective investor is so greedy that he is blinded by the size of the expected profit and he throws caution to the wind, he could be setting himself up to be duped.
- If the prospective investor does not get personally involved in the investment but is transacting through proxies and relies solely on the opinion or assurance of others, wait for him down stream. He is not likely to cross over.
- If the business is of such great reward but so secret and urgent that you are left no time to consult your spouse, spiritual leaders or business advisers, you need no further vision. It is doomed to fail because there was no business in the first place.
- If you are a novice in a particular line of business but quickly recall all your resources and plunge into it because the Richards are making so much money in it and in your ignorance, neglect the imperativeness of time, you may be on a wild

goose chase even in a lucrative industry. For instance, if you plan to raise chicken to be sold at Christmas and you acquire your day-old broilers in May, your speculation is wrong.

9. Borrowing Without Carefully Considering How You Intend to Trade with the Funds:

Some people have secured loans from banks or relevant lending houses because they were able to meet the collateral requirements. Others have secured such facilities because of their personal influence with the leadership/ management of such lending houses. They had no definite project in mind. They assumed that once the funds were available, they would find something profitable to do with it.

Anyway it does not work that way and that is where God is different from the systems of the world. With God, vision precedes provision. Yes, He may feed you because He feeds the sparrow and the snail and the mosquito, etc. But you can be sure God has no record of bad debts. Why? Because He only sends provision to the man with the vision.

Do you see the problem? Many saints are roaming around without a vision but they claim they are looking or waiting for finance. The truth is that if you stop many of them and ask how they will spend a quarter million, they will religiously reply that they will pay the tithe and lodge the rest in the bank while they take the time to pray.

Now why should God bother you if all you want is

to put the funds in a bank? The money is already in some bank anyway.

Therefore those who have no clear vision but believe that once they have the funds, they will find something profitable to do, are a sorry lot. The Bible says:

Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings: they fly away as an eagle towards heaven. Proverbs 23 : 5

Consequently, those who have no clear project for the funds in their possession will wake up to discover that the money has flown away. May be a little luxurious automobile here and an expensive holiday at Yankari Game Reserve in Nigeria, there. Before you know it, the creditors are all over you trying to get at least the interest.

Besides, there are those who deliberately conceal the real motive for taking a loan. They are dishonest right from the beginning. Because of this dishonesty, the relevant officials of the lending firms that should have counseled with them are fooled. The advice they may eventually receive is perfunctory. It has no bearing upon their original intention. If eventually he runs for election or supports a candidate who loses, both himself and the lending house have a problem.

There was the story of a young and promising farmer who had sufficient influence in government to secure loans. He successfully took a loan in the guise of developing his farm. As soon as the money got into his hands, even his own staff could hardly see him near the

farm, let alone investing any further in it.

For such a huge amount, it will be many years before the banks start calling. May be it may also be many years before the drama begins to unfold.

Most of such funds are used in lubricating illicit love affairs. But debt is content to pass through any route.

10. Natural Disasters or Force majeure:

There are also certain causes of debt that man may not always be in a direct position to do anything to avert. These are natural disasters. They are also called force majeure which means an act of God. They may include fire outbreak, earth quakes, floods, outbreak of war, death of a vital party, etc.

When someone's investments have been consumed by a fire or swept away by floods or have been overthrown by the outbreak of a war, there may be very little he can personally do to stem the tide of loss. This loss in turn may plunge him into debt.

11. Neglecting the help of the Holy Ghost in financial matters:

Repeatedly, God leaves us in no doubt that he is interested in helping us even in our business ventures. Whereas the World prospects through worldly wisdom which would usually accommodate a high risk level, the Church is supposed to depend upon divine leading and help, such that every business we venture into comes out successful. Hear God:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with my eyes. Be ye not as the horse or the mule,

which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle...Psalms 32:8-9.

...I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. Isaiah 48:17.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things...John 14:26.

Look at the awesome privilege at our disposal. The Almighty and All wise God willingly offers to instruct and teach us all things including how to do profitable business. The question of wrong speculation would not even arise if we stuck to depending upon divine guidance in all our financial matters. We neglect divine counsel at our peril.

12. Liability from Suretship.

He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretship is sure. Proverbs 11:15.

Many good people get easily manipulated into standing surety for fellows whose probity they cannot confidently vouch for. At the end of the day, such fellows either breach the agreement or in some cases even flee.

The gullible good surety then becomes liable.

13. Ignorance of Legal Implications of Sole Ownership and Limited Liability.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:.. Hosea 4:6

Due largely to ignorance and perhaps coupled with smallness of vision, many people in their determination to keep absolute control of their business operations have failed to separate themselves from their businesses. In growing economies like most African nations where most small scale business is trading, it is both logical and cheaper to retain sole ownership of operations. Of course sole ownership in itself is no problem. The problem arises however when the sole owner is so ignorant as to fail to make clear distinction between himself and the enterprise. In Nigeria for instance, it is a thing of pride to name your business after yourself and your children. Again that should not be such a big deal. Unfortunately, due to ignorance, most of such operations are both registered and operated as sole ownership. The implication is that should the business gets caught up in litigation and damages are awarded against it, all the personal assets of the owner/ owners may also be confiscated. Such liquidation is only possible because of ignorance of legal technicalities of the business community.

14. Over Spiritualizing Financial/Material Matters:

If you are too spiritual to use basic market-place insurance policies for your investments, you may be programming for avoidable debt.

Before we proceed to how we can get out of debt, let me quickly mention that there are certain things considered borrowable. These include:

- A good business idea.
- Good financial or business habits. This can be learnt from those who are setting the pace in their finances whether as individuals, families, ministries or businessmen.
- A divinely inspired business capital for a clearly defined project. Such funds which in financial parlance are called Other People's Money (OPM) must be borrowed in the name of your business outfit and the relevant papers must so reflect. Never borrow business money in your name. This way, were anything to go wrong, your family will not necessarily end up under the bridge. Furthermore, the project for which capital is being sourced must not only have the propensity to get you out of debt, it must also keep you out of it. Nevertheless, you need to both understand and accommodate that unforeseen possibility of an eventuality. Remember that even the best "foolproof" feasibility studies always contain a certain percentage of the uncertain. Accordingly,

your only 100% guarantee that a loan is both desirable and safe is the approval of God. Always ask Him for approval even for a business loan. Yes, you feel divinely inspired? Then you shouldn't have any problems getting the necessary divine confirmation. Confirm and again I say, confirm!

You may even be pleasantly surprised that He can help you raise the needed resources without subjecting yourself to debts.

PRAYERS:

- Lord, please forgive me all my financial errors and irresponsibility in Jesus Name.
- I disassociate myself from the hereditary spirit of debt in Jesus Name.
- Holy Spirit, please guide me in all my subsequent financial transactions.
- Heavenly Father, give me the wisdom to administer all my resources.
- Protect me from all financial and debt traps, in Jesus Name.
- I declare that I am content with such things that God helps me to acquire legitimately. I shall not seek to compete with anyone. Neither shall I seek to impress anyone with my affluence or possessions.

THINK THROUGH

The worst manifestation of financial irresponsibility is when you acquire liabilities and luxuries on credit and have to work long-term to pay for them...

...neither is the debt issue resolved simply by making more money.