Believing God for Full Funding to Advance the Gospel



"To be helped on my way by you when I have first enjoyed your company for a while" --Romans 15:24

# FINANCIAL READINESS SURVEY

## Score yourself on each question

		AGREE		[	DISAGR	EE
1. I believe God is calling me to full-time Christian ministry.	5	4	3	2	1	0
2. The assignment that God has called me to is clear.	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>3.</b> God has given me a calling verse or a promise that is deeply ingrained in me.	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. My spouse fully supports my intention to be in full-time ministry (if married).	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. My parents, siblings and extended family fully support my intention to be in full-time ministry.	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>6.</b> I can confidently articulate my calling story and ministry burden that the Lord has laid on my heart.	5	4	3	2	1	0
7. I can identify 200 friends or acquaintances who probably would be willing to hear my calling story.	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>8.</b> I am delighted by the opportunity to invite people to partner with me financially.	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>9.</b> I believe my ministry assignment is just as worthy of funding as a local church pastor.	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>10.</b> I believe I can be fully funding primarily from the contacts that the Lord is giving me here in my country.	5	4	3	2	1	0
TOTALS	_		_	_		_
ANALYZE:			GRA	ND TO	TAL	
On which questions did you score 0-1? Comments:						
On which questions did you score 2-3? Comments:						

• Compare your scores with your spouse or close friend.

# **OBSTACLES to FULL FUNDING**

Check the obstacles to full funding with which you strongly identify



□ I have few or not enough contacts to invite for support

□ I am fearful of fundraising... specifically:

Rejection or misunderstanding by friends and family

☐ That it won't work

That I'll be classed with money-hungry types

That I'll be poor--forever

□ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I don't have time for fundraising

I don't have any contacts

☐ I'm not sure how to go about fundraising

☐ I don't feel worthy of full-time support

☐ I've not had a fabulously successful ministry in the past

☐ My family is not in favor of me doing this

☐ I'm concerned about alienating my church

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUMMARY**: My two most significant obstacles to full funding are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_

# WHAT DOES the BIBLE SAY?

All of us have opinions about money and fundraising. Plus, our families and cultures have opinions about money and fundraising. As you prepare to enter a new chapter of life to be supported by the Gospel, how will you respond to these common opinions? What Scripture will help you develop convictions about these questions?

Fundraising is similar to begging. I don't see how you can humble yourself to beg for a living.

Why don't you get a real job? You're just leeching off the people.

If you're in Christian work, you're doomed to a life of poverty. You'll never have enough.

You need to be on staff with a church. You can't raise money outside the church. Giving should go to the local church.

You should follow the model of the Apostle Paul and be a tent-maker rather than receiving support. Pay your own way.

You should follow the George Mueller model by "telling only God." Just pray the money in.

*Relax! God's will done in God's way will never lack God's supply. Where He guides, He provides. Just do the ministry, and the money will flow in!* 

Here are other issues of conscience I wrestle with:

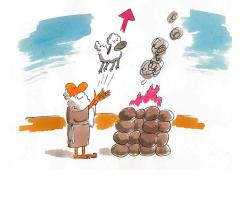
Study these passages to discover what the Bible says about fundraising. Plan to invest at least 20 hours for this study.

# PART 1: GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL

## 1. Numbers 18:21-24

- A. Who provided for the Levites?
- B. Why is it important to understand that God is the Source?
- C. Your insights from this passage: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Cross references: Numbers 8:14-19:

Luke 10:32: \_\_\_\_\_





## 2. 1 Chronicles 29:1-20

- A. Who is the Source according to David? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Insights on fundraising from this passage: (Note: Who gave first?)
- C. If God is the Source, what is our role as fundraisers?

## D. Other insights: \_\_\_\_\_

# PART 1: GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL

### 3. 2 CORINTHIANS 9:5-15

- A. Your insights from this passage about giving and about God:
- B. List the benefits of giving--who receives what?

GOD	RECEIVER	GIVER

C. What are givers to do with the benefits they receive?

#### CHEERFUL:

D. Describe a *"grudging"* gift (vs. 5). What are indicators of "grudging" giving?

Propitious, signifies that readiness of mind, that joyousness, which is prompt to do anything; hence, cheerful, hilarious.

--Strong and Vine

- E. Write a three-sentence "my conviction" statement about New Testament giving:
- F. Evaluate your own giving attitudes in light of this passage. I could be a more biblical giver if I ---

•\_\_\_\_\_•\_\_\_

## PART 1: GOD IS THE SOURCE OF ALL

G. Select a giving passage from the Bible to teach a growing Christian about giving. Use this QPEA outline:

Question: How much should a person give to the Lord?

Principle: Identify a giving guideline you see in this passage.

**Examples**: What examples can you find from the Bible and from your "life" that illustrate this passage?

<u>Application</u>: What is God saying to me/you about putting this passage into better practice?

## PART 2: HOW GOD'S PEOPLE WERE FUNDED

T	2: HOW GOD'S PEOPLE WERE FUNDED	THE Zarephath States MT. HERMON
	1 Kings 17:1-16         Your insights:	(Mediterranean Sea)
B.	Imagine yourself as Elijah waiting by the brook for the raven. It's be water in the brook is flowing more slowly. You're hungry. The sun is appears, coming to you carrying meat. What are you	
	Seeing?	
	Smelling?	
	Hearing?	
	Tasting?	
	Feeling?	
C.	What would it be like to provided for by Ravens (a carrion-eating so for a week? A month?	cavenger)       In a thousand instances an apostolic preacher, who goes to the wilderness to seek the lost sheep, will be exposed to hunger and cold, and other inconveniences; he must
D.	Which would take more faith: waiting for ravens or going to a non-widow?	therefore resign himself to God, depending on His providence for the necessaries

- E. Note the widow's disclaimer. How would you have responded to her?
- F. How did Elijah know which widow to approach?

ies , le crime, as it insinuates a bad opinion of the Master who has employed him. Every missionary should make himself master of this subject. Adam Clarke, Commentary

G. How would a Jewish prophet feel about approaching a non-Jewish widow for food? What would be a similar exercise of faith in your culture?

### 5. Matthew 10:5-15

A.	To whom were the 12 to go?
	To do what?
	How were they to be funded?
B.	Why did Jesus forbid them to take provisions? And why could they not move around from house to house? ( <i>verse 11</i> )
C.	Cross reference: Luke 10:1-12
D.	In both Matthew 10 and Luke 10, Jesus repeats the principle: "The laborer is worth of his wages." Write out that principle in your own words so it communicates to you and your people.
E.	Compare Luke 22:35-38 with Matthew 10:5-15. Is Jesus contradicting Himself? Luke 22 Matthew 10
	Take provisions?
	Jesus popularity?
	Target audience?
	Faith required?
	Other
	Your insights

## 6. Luke 8:1-3

A.	Your insights:
B.	Cross references: Mark 15:40-41; Matthew 27:55-56; Acts 1:14
C.	Estimate how many women supported Jesus Were they "one-off" donors?
D.	Who benefited from the women's giving?
E.	Was Jesus poor? Well off? (Matthew 4:12-13; John 19:23-24; John 12:6; 13:29; Mark 2:1; 2 Corinthians 8:9)
F.	If Jesus was poor, how poor? If well to do, how well to do?

G. Why didn't Jesus miraculously feed Himself and His disciples like He did on other occasions with the multitudes? If anyone **didn't** need support it was Jesus! Why did He depend on the generosity of others?

## 7. Acts 18:1-5

- A. Your insights: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. A missionary once said, "I'm done with fundraising! I'm going to raise money the way Paul did -- by tent making!" What do you think of her comment? Biblical?

C. Cross references: 1 Corinthians 9:14-23; 2 Corinthians 11:9; 1 Timothy 5:18

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
E.	What should guide "full-time workers" in decide should they <b>not</b> be funded from donors? (Hints	ding when or whether they should raise support? When : 1 Corinthians 9:23)
F.	When should "full-time workers" <b>not</b> be funde	d from donor income?
3. 3 Jo A.	Your insights:	
A.	Your insights:	
A.	Your insights: For whom did John appeal?	
A.	Your insights: For whom did John appeal? a. Is it easier/better for someone to raise y	your support for you so you don't have to "toot your
A.	Your insights: For whom did John appeal? a. Is it easier/better for someone to raise y own horn"?	your support for you so you don't have to "toot your
A.	Your insights: For whom did John appeal? a. Is it easier/better for someone to raise y own horn"? b. What are the advantages and disadvanta	your support for you so you don't have to "toot your ages of "third-party fundraising"?

### 9. Romans 15:20-24

A.	Your	insights:	
•	1041	mongineo.	

В.	Do you see a	four-point	outline for a	a fundraising	presentation	in this passages	Discover it:
----	--------------	------------	---------------	---------------	--------------	------------------	--------------

Verse 20: Paul's \_\_\_\_\_\_
 Verse 21: Paul's \_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Verse 24: Paul's \_\_\_\_\_

4. Verse 20: Paul's \_\_\_\_\_

"Wandering preachers and missionaries of pagan deities were common in the Roman world."

Expositors Bible Commentary Page 373

C. Note verse 24: What is the role of <u>relationship</u> with your prospective giving partners? Must you have a relationship before you ask?

D. The phrase "assist me on my journey" uses the Greek word, propempo. What does it mean?

Е. \_\_\_\_\_

F.

Other verses using *propempo*:

3 John 6
Titus 3:13
1 Corinthians 16:6
Acts 15:3
Acts 20:38

## 10. Nehemiah 1-2

- A. Meditate thoroughly on this passage to see what insights God will give you on funding.
- B. Your insights:
   ARTAXERXES the son of Xerxes, commonly called Longimanus, who reigned from 465 to 424 BC was the third son of Xerxes and was raised to the throne by Artabanus, the murderer of Xerxes. Artaxerxes put his older brother Darius to death; and a little later, Artabanus. (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

**Cupbearers of** the Median, and consequently the Persian, monarchs performed their duty of presenting the wine to their royal master. Having washed the cup in the king's presence, and poured into their left hand a little of the wine, which they drank of in his presence, they then handed the cup to him, not grasped, but lightly held with the tip of the thumb and fingers. (Jamieson, Fausset,

- D. What does Nehemiah ask for? Can you find four things?
  - •
  - •

  - •
  - •
- E. What word, beginning with the letter "J," does Nehemiah not mention? Why not? What phrase does he use instead?

What guidelines can you find for fundraising from Nehemiah that apply today?

## 11. Philippians 4:10-20

- A. Your insights:
- B. Can you find a "recipe" for fundraising in verse 10?

C \_\_\_\_\_ + O \_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_

By supporting the imprisoned apostle, the Philippians demonstrated that they shared in his troubles. By supporting evangelists, missionaries or any workers in the vineyard of the Lord, we are sharing in their ministry, even though we may not be physically present. Good wishes are not enough. As individuals and as churches we should give tangible support to the work of the Lord. Repeated sacrificial giving of the type modeled by the Philippians should be the norm for an active and serving church. Such a gift will be a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

--Africa Bible Commentary on Philippians 4:18, page 1448

- C. How does Paul respond to his donors?
- E. Verse 13 is familiar. What new insights do you have now that you are looking at the context?
- F. How can a missionary raise the <u>concern</u> of potential giving partners for his or her ministry? What are the most effective ways to give an <u>opportunity</u> to give?

G. List the benefits of the donor and the benefits to the receiver from this passage:

#### **BENEFIT TO DONOR**

#### **BENEFIT TO RECEIVER**

#### 12. 1 Corinthians 9

- A. This has been called the "Rights Chapter." What "right" is Paul primarily defending?
- B. How does he develop his argument? Can you discover five points?

"Paul has a right to \_\_\_\_\_\_ because of these five reasons:"

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.\_\_\_\_\_
- 5.
- C. Why did Paul need to write Chapter 9? Why is understanding your right important today?
- D. Finish this sentence with your conviction: The deciding factor from 1 Corinthians 9 on whether a missionary should receive funding from donors is \_\_\_\_\_\_

#### 13. 1 Corinthians 9

 A. Your insights:
 with double honour, he may be saying that they serve a double honorarium (meaning a double salary) or double the respect given to others. The quotations from Deuteronomy 25:4 and Matthew 10:10 suggest that he may be thinking in terms of financial support. But whichever interpretation is correct, elders merit both honour and honorariums! They should be regarded as salaried workers.

 ---Africa Bible Commentary on 1 Timothy 5:18. Page 1445

B. Look up the term "double honour" in the original language. Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Do you agree with the quote from the Africa Bible Commentary above? Disagree? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

When he says that they deserve to be treated

	Is Paul's teaching on of "double honour" being applied in your culture today?
4. Ga	latians 6:6
A.	Your insights:
B.	Write out Galatians 6:6 in your own words such that a nonreligious person would clearly understand it.

C. Does this passage suggest we give money and material things to those who teach us? Or is it giving spiritual things? What about verses 7-9?

## PART 3: GOD IS THE CALLER

Most missionaries who succeed in funding are convinced they are called by God to serve Him in specific ways. But "Calling" in the Bible is a mysterious phenomenon.

## Clarify your own call from God

If a prospective donor were to ask you the following questions, how would you answer them?

- "Why have you joined the staff of your mission agency?"
- "Couldn't you do mission work as a part of your career?"
- "Why don't you work in a church or mission agency that would pay your salary?"
- "What do you actually do each day?"

Before you fill in the calling chart on the next page, consider what God has <u>not</u> called you to do.

- •
- •
- •

# PART 3: GOD IS THE CALLER

Complete the following chart summarizing the "calling" of eight of God's servants: (*Note: This study does not deal with a general or "salvation" call, but rather with an individual's call to ministry.*)

PEOPLE	MISSION	LENGTH OF Mission	HOW WAS Call given?	k one) / PRIVATE	CAREER Change?	LOCATION Change?	RESPONSE
Moses Exodus 3:1-15 Exodus 4:1-8							
<b>Elijah</b> 1 Kings 19:9-18							
<b>Isaiah</b> Isaiah 6:1-10							
<b>Jeremiah</b> Jeremiah 1:4-10							
<b>Jonah</b> Jonah 1:1-3; 3:1-5							
<b>Mary</b> Luke 1:26-35							
<b>Barnabas</b> Acts 13:1-5							
<b>Peter</b> John 21:15-23							
You							

## PART 3: GOD IS THE CALLER

A.	Your	insights	from	the	calling	chart:	

B. What common or repeated traits did you notice? What differences in how people were called?

**COMMON TRAITS** 

DIFFERENCES

- C. Do you think a person's calling is for the rest of his or her life?
- D. Is the calling to vocational ministry (so-called "full time") more important than the calling to work a conventional job?
- E. Identify some wrong reasons to go into "full-time" ministry?
- F. What is the official calling or mission of the agency you are part of? Write it out here:
  - Does this calling statement motivate you? How?
  - How does your agency's official calling relate to your personal calling to ministry?
- G. Describe the vision you have for your life as a believer--not your ministry calling, but your life calling?

# PART 3: GOD IS THE CALLER

H. State the specific vision that God has given you for current ministry in 25 words or less. (For example: "I am believing God to introduce students to Christ and disciple them to become laborers at the University of \_\_\_\_\_.")

WORD COUNT

**PERSONAL APPLICATION:** How will a clear calling from God impact your fundraising?

#### SUMMARY

Out of these Bible studies and thinking I've done on fundraising, here is what the Lord seems to be saying to me:

1.	
3.	
0.	

## **BEST VERSES**

On funding:	On money/stewardship:
On trusting God:	On my calling:
On persistence:	On the goodness of God:

## PART 4: GOD EXPECTS BOLD COURAGE

One of the biggest obstacles to fundraising around the world is fear. It is important to identify exactly what aspects of the fundraising process cause your fears.

What do you believe about fear? Is it a sin?

Analyze the following statements--true or false:

	TRUE FALSE
• A Christian who walks closely with Christ will have no fears.	
• Fear is something Christians grow out of as they mature.	
• Fear is contagious.	
• Fear can be eliminated by working on it.	
• The closer we are to Christ, the less fear will nag us.	
• To overcome fear, stay so busy you don't have time to worry.	

Enjoy meditating on the following passages:

## 1. Joshua 1:1-9

A. Your insights: \_\_\_\_\_



B. What was Joshua's responsibility?

God's responsibility?

## PART 4: GOD EXPECTS BOLD COURAGE

- C. List specific fears Joshua might have had:
- D. Where did Joshua's courage come from?
- E. Have you specifically identified your fears?
  - In funding?
  - In ministry?
  - In relationships?
  - In life?

"I remember the day I admitted my dears. I was sitting at our kitchen table in Iowa City during our second year on staff. One by one, I wrote them down. It was humbling, embarrassing and freeing!" --Scott Morton

- F. What parallels do you see between the challenges Joshua faced and what you face in fundraising?
- G. What lessons from Joshua can you apply in your fundraising adventure?

#### 2. Matthew 14:22-23

A. Your observations from this passage: \_\_\_\_\_

B. What motivated Peter to want to walk out to Jesus?

- C. What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?
- D. What insights about money and fundraising do you see in the cartoon above?



# PART 4: GOD EXPECTS BOLD COURAGE

## 3. Fill in the Chart:

PASSAGE	COMMENTS ABOUT FEAR/FAITH/COURAGE
Deuteronomy 20:8	
Psalm 34:4	
Isaiah 41:10-14	
Haggai 2:4-5	
Matthew 25:25-26	
2 Corinthians 7:5	
Other:	

4. Summary: Here is what I believe about fear, faith and courage based on what I see in the Scriptures

Fear is	
Courage results from	
Faith is	
5. My best verse on courage:	_

Why I like it:

## UNIVERSAL ISSUES OF CONSCIENCE

Other:

1. Missionaries sometimes feel guilty or like they have not worked for the money. Is it truly biblical to be supported by others to do the work of God?

	Numbers 18:21-24										
	Numbers 8:14										
	Luke 8:1-3										
	1 Corinthians 9:1-18										
	Philippians 4:10-20										
	Other:										
	0.1										
	Other:										
2.	"I enjoy support for oth their own ministry?	thers									
2.	"I enjoy support for oth their own ministry? Romans 15:20-24		s but no	ot for my	yself." Is i	t biblical :	for missio		nake fina	ancial apj	
2.	"I enjoy support for oth their own ministry?		s but no	ot for my	yself." Is i	t biblical :	for missic	onaries to a	nake fina	ancial apj	peals for
2.	"I enjoy support for oth their own ministry? Romans 15:20-24		s but no	ot for my	yself." Is i	t biblical :	for missio	onaries to 1	nake fina	ancial apj	peals for
2.	"I enjoy support for oth their own ministry? Romans 15:20-24 2 Corinthians 1:16		s but no	ot for my	yself." Is i	t biblical	for missio	onaries to a	nake fina	ancial apj	peals for
2.	"I enjoy support for oth their own ministry? Romans 15:20-24 2 Corinthians 1:16 1 Corinthians 16:5-6		s but no	ot for my	yself." Is i	t biblical	for missio	onaries to 1	nake fina	ancial apj	peals for

3. Is it OK to raise financial support from strangers--or from people you do not know well? Should support come primarily from those to whom you've ministered?

Galatians 6:6	
Romans 15:20-24	
3 John 5-8	
2 Corinthians 12:13	
Matthew 10:5-15	
Romans 15:27	
Other:	
Other:	

4. What about making financial appeals to nonbelievers? How about to family members?

Acts 10:2-4	
3 John 5-7	
Nehemiah 2:1-8	
Other:	
Other:	

5. What about financial appeals to those who are not as well off as you? Or who are already giving heavily?

2 Corinthians 9:7	
Philippians 4:17	
Deuteronomy 16:17	
Luke 21:1-4	
Other:	
Other:	

## ACCOUNTABILITY

- 6. Should missionaries be required to raise their full support before starting an assignment?
- 7. Do you agree with the statement. "God's will done in God's way never lacks God's supply"?

## TENT MAKING

8. Under what circumstances (if any) should a missionary develop funding through "tent-making"? How does "calling" relate to this issue?

Acts 18:1-5
Nehemiah 13:10
Acts 20:33-35
1 Thessalonians 2:9
2 Thessalonians 3:6-12
Other

9.	How does a	missionary's	outside	job or	business	affect his	or her	donors?
----	------------	--------------	---------	--------	----------	------------	--------	---------

10.		ds be developed as customers for a missionary's personal business venture? What ? Are there any types of businesses a missionary ought to avoid?					
11.	Do you agree with the statement, "Fundraising is just as valid as evangelism"? How about this one: "People are more important than money?"						
	Luke 16:10-12						
	1 Timothy 5:8						
	Other:						
	Other:						
12.	Should missionaries d get started?	ip into personal saving or personal investments to fund themselvesespecially to					
13.	Should personal loans the pros and cons?	from friends or family be accepted for major purchases such as a home? What are					
	Proverbs 11:15						
	Proverbs 22:7						
	Proverbs 24:27						
	Other:						