

SIX KEY FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Put God first in your living and giving.

II Corinthians 9:6-7: Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

2. Plan and track all expenses monthly.

Proverbs 27:23-24: Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds, for riches don't last forever, and the crown might not be passed to the next generation.

3. Simplify your lifestyle, live below your means.

Matthew 6:19-21: Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

4. Provide immediately for an emergency fund.

1 Timothy 6:9-10: But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

5. **Pay off all credit card debt and use cash not credit cards.** *Proverbs 22:7:* Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.

6. Practice long-range saving and investing habits.

Luke 14:28: "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?"