

Week 3

“Do This and You Will be Happy”
John 8:36 | Matthew 6:25-34
Reflection Guide

SPIRITUAL FRUIT INVENTORY:

Love: Look at your last credit card and bank statement. If someone examined those statements closely and knew nothing else about you, what would they identify as the things you love the most?

Joy: Do you find your joy in the Lord or do you look to shopping and new things to make you happy? If you turn to shopping, what are some new habits you can form to replace that need to self-medicate with shopping when you feel bored, lonely, sad, or anxious? How will you implement those new habits?

Peace: Consider adding this new practice before you spend money, especially bigger purchases (set a dollar threshold): Before spending, ask God whether you are supposed to buy that item now, wait, or go without it altogether. Pay attention to where you feel God's peace and where you feel unease about purchases.

Patience: Are you patient to wait on the Lord to provide, or do you feel the need to buy things immediately? Consider a 24-hour rule on bigger purchases--when you see something you want, wait until the next day to actually buy it. Try to avoid impulse purchases.

Kindness: Not all products are created equally. As you are able, choose products that pay the laborer a fair wage or reduce negative impacts on the environment. Be kind in your spending. What is one spending practice you could change to advocate for kindness with your purchasing power?

Goodness: What are some good things you want to spend your money on? What kinds of purchases line up with your faith and the things and people you value most? What is one intentional good gift you could purchase for someone this month that would bless that person?

SCAN ME!



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SPIRITUAL FRUIT INVENTORY (CONTINUED):

Faithfulness: Are you faithful to God, yourself, and your family with the way you choose to use money? Are you spending it in ways that advance the Kingdom and provide for your needs and those of your family, or are you wasting it on selfish wants and things that do not matter? What is one area in which you need to make a change?

Gentleness: A "Rule of Life" is a concept that came out of the 4th century monastic movement and is an intentional, conscious plan to keep God at the center of everything we do... The starting point and foundation of any Rule is a desire to be with God and to love him. What would it be like to have a financial Rule of Life that gently guides your priorities in life and in your finances? Take some time to write down a Rule of Life for your finances, include practices and priorities for your earning, saving, spending, and giving.

Self-control: Is your spending out of control? What is the area of your spending in which you are most likely to squander money? Pick one strategy to help you practice self control in your spending.

Picardo, Callie & Rosario. *Money Talks: A Biblical Take on Earning, Saving, Spending, and Giving* (p.113,118-119). Market Square Books.

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER: WEEK 3

God, release the resurrection power of your Holy Spirit to break into my life so that I may surrender my finances, my life, and my heart to you. I confess I have bought many things I should not have purchased. Please forgive me.

Show me your way of living that allows my spending to honor you and other people. Grant me the boldness to follow Jesus who set the ultimate example of the unselfish life. Help me to not squander money, but to spend as Jesus might have spent, intentionally spending to advance your kingdom and share your love with the world around me. Amen.