

## A testimony of God's Healing in Marriage

Dear Brethren and Sisters, Greetings in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thabitha and I had the privilege to graduate from **'Navigating your finances God's Way'** – a small group study founded by Howard Dayton in October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019. This study spanned for 9 weeks and was a transformational experience for both of us. This course emphasized on Biblical perspective of wealth contrary to what we hear in this world every day. I would like to share this testimony of how Jesus used this course to heal our marriage and changed our view of wealth building in a God-centric way.

My Dad often used to say, "If you don't take care of your money your money won't take care of you", so like most kids from middle-class Indian families, I tried to be frugal with the pocket money that my parents gave me every month. After I started my first job and became financially independent, being frugal was out and to-splurge was in. Financial discipline was out of the door.

Deep with-in my heart I knew that I had to correct my ways regarding finances. After few years in our marriage and after being blessed with two kids, I realized how careless I have been with my finances all through my adult life. No much savings to fall back on.

Like most other married couples, Thabitha and I had very different opinions on ways to save and build wealth for our kid's future. We tried doing budgeting on smart apps, used envelopes system of budgeting and many other ways but we failed, miserably. Sitting down and agreeing on a budget and sticking to it seems like most difficulty thing to do. Tempers flared, not-so-nice words spoken (mostly by me I should confess) and every time this happened our marriage cracked and suffered. This anger stemmed from deep insecurity and hunger to control what is not ours.

After nine years into our marriage and coming to terms that finance will always be sour spot in our marriage ...we both prayed and gave-up. But God makes things beautiful in His own times...When registration for 'Navigating your finances God's Way' was announced, we both registered without each other's knowledge. A sign that God had a healing in waiting for our marriage.



The course started with a break-through that everything belongs to God and we are to be good stewards. Week after week through the homework exercises, group discussions and most importantly through heart-piercing verses Jesus spoke to us in a still small voice. We started to align on vital aspects of marriage, finance and lot more things that we previously never agreed. There was peace that pass all understanding when we let both let go of control and trust Jesus in areas where we are weakest. Through those nine weeks God healed us emotionally , spiritually and more importantly financially.

I would like to share top 5 things I will remember from the courses (for the rest ... have to refer to the textbook 😊)

1. **Our attitude toward money:** The Master tells us to “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”. We must not allow physical possessions to become so important that pursuing them dominates our lives. Wealth can become intoxicating and enslaving. *“Do not wear yourself out to get rich; be wise enough to desist”* (Proverbs 23:4)
2. **Wealth comes through diligence:** The surest way to financial security is through hard work. *“He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, but he who follows frivolity [chases fantasies] is devoid of understanding”* (Proverbs 12:11).
3. **Properly manage what you have:** Once you earn money, you must properly manage your income. Otherwise it will soon be gone with little to show for it. *“Be diligent to know the state of your flocks and attend to your herds; for riches are not forever...”* (Proverbs 27:23-24).
4. **Exercise financial self-discipline:** It’s important to control our wants. “Death and destruction are never satisfied, and neither are the eyes of man” (Proverbs 27:20, NIV). There will always be something to want. Once one desire is fulfilled, the eyes will turn to something else. *“The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long...”* (Proverbs 21:25-26).
5. **GOD is our true security:** There is no real lasting security in wealth. *“He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish...”* (Proverbs 11:28). So many unforeseen events can wipe out material wealth overnight. The only real lasting security is a right relationship with our Maker. *“Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death”* (Proverbs 11:4).

I would encourage everyone to take the course and experience how our Father inspired writers to include hundreds of verses in the Bible about how to handle money and possessions. Managing finance God’s way is an adventure you don’t want to miss.

**Anil Robertson**