

## Fear, Inc.

### *Overcoming the Fear of Lack*

*"The Lord will open to you His good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow."*

**Deuteronomy 28:12**

### I. Introduction

**"65% of Americans lose sleep over worrying about money issues."---NBC News Poll**

**"48% of well-off Baby Boomers who have more than 1 million dollars saved for retirement, fear not having enough for later in life."---U.S. News & World Report Poll**

**80% of people worth 20 million dollars or more worry about being the target of a lawsuit and putting their wealth at risk."---Prince & Associates**

*"Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable." --- Harry Emerson Fosdick*

### II. Things to Remember In the Battle of Fearing Lack

**1. God has exactly \_\_\_\_\_.**

***"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."*** Philippians 4:19 (NLT)

***"Fear is born of Satan, and if we would only take time to think a moment we would see that everything Satan says is founded upon a falsehood."---A.B. Simpson***

**2. We must decide each day to \_\_\_\_\_.**

***"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the unbelievers run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***  
***Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*** Matthew 6:31-34

**3. We must decide each day to \_\_\_\_\_.**

***"Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: "Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you THERE."***  
***So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook. Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. Then the word of the LORD came to him: "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there.***

**I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.** So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread--only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son that we may eat it--and die." Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. **BUT FIRST make a small cake of bread for me** from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.'" She went away and did as Elijah had told her. **So there was food every day** for Elijah and for the woman and her family. For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD..." I Kings 17:2-16

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And **God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.** As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,** and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

II Corinthians 9:6-11

4. Be certain to do what you can do because \_\_\_\_\_.

"The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves." Elisha replied to her, "How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?" "Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "except a little oil." Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side." II Kings 4:1-4

5. No matter your circumstances, always \_\_\_\_\_.

"So she shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. **When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.** She went and told the man of God, and he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. **You and your sons can live on what is left.**" II Kings 4:5-7

#### REMEMBER...

- ✓ THE OIL STOPPED FLOWING ONLY WHEN SHE STOPPED GATHERING JARS.
- ✓ OUR EXPECTANCY OFTEN DETERMINES THE LEVEL OF BLESSING THAT WE LIVE IN.
- ✓ THERE WILL RARELY BE A TIME WHEN DOING THE RIGHT THING IN AND BY FAITH WILL CORRESPOND TO WHAT OUR NATURAL MIND WOULD ORDINARILY BE PRONE TO DO (SEE Pro.3:5, 6; I Cor.2:11-16)

## **ANSWER KEY:**

- 1. WHAT YOU NEED**
- 2. LIVE FULLY FOR THE LORD**
- 3. FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LEADINGS**
- 4. WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE A PART TO PLAY**
- 5. EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD**