

Elimination

An army is only as good as its weakest link, and identifying the weak links in your war plan includes a come to Jesus reality check. You have to get real with yourself and face making tough choices that will increase the chances for success by eliminating the bad characters or plans that keep you always on the defense rather than the offense.

In order to get the upper hand on your finances, you need to eliminate the following:

- Poor spending habits and the urge to buy.
- Greed, materialism, and jealousy that may have enticed you down the wrong path.
- False teaching or poor training that led to bad choices.
- Toxic relationships, including family members and close friends, who come to you regularly for money.
- Negative thinking and "can't do" statements and confessions.
- Procrastination and putting off what needs to be done.
- Anything and everything that hinders your freedom.

List the bad choices or habits are you going to eliminate, starting TODAY!

What one item do you own that you feel you can't live without? _____

Would you freak out or become panicked if you lost it or it was taken away? _____

If you answered yes, then that very thing may be controlling you and need to be eliminated or at least given boundaries. But, if it creates that much anxiety, then you may need to let it go for your betterment.



In the columns below, write the lessons you learned about money that were either good or bad:

Good	Bad

How are you going to eliminate the bad? _____

Two of the greatest polluters in your life are toxic relationships and false teaching. There are a number of so called teachers and preachers prostituting God's word for personal gain. Of such people you should avoid. Often referred to as the "prosperity gospel," these people manipulate and take advantage of the downtrodden in order to fund their own personal accounts, and although God is the judge, wisdom dictates we should have no part in this, and such teaching should be eliminated because there is no truth in it.

False teaching isn't limited to fraudulent teachers. Often it is also tied to lack of knowledge and learned behavior as far back as childhood. You don't know what you don't know, and often I hear people, who are struggling financially say, "I learned from my parents..." That is true. I know from personal experience that my parents were not great money managers. They couldn't teach me how to be a great money manager because they, themselves, did not have proper training or knowledge. Nor did they have access at their fingertips the way we do now. The poor training and lack of knowledge is often passed down from generation to generation because nobody knows better.

But, you, are changing the course! You are becoming proactive by learning how to stop the cycle of failed behavior and learning how to do it right so you can teach the next generation! Kudos!

Let's talk about toxic relationships.



Relationships are always a challenge. There are family members and friends who are either supportive or destructive. Toxic relationships will require tough love and distance or separation. Granted, no one wants to give up on those they love, nor do they want to fully sacrifice a relationship with someone like a spouse or parent. But the reality is if they poison your mind with constant negativity, complaining, jealousy, or come to you only when they need a hand-out or help, then your relationship with them is a one-way street, and they are telling you which direction they want you to go to help serve them and meet their needs only.

Severing relationships is extremely hard, but sometimes necessary for your own health and well-being. You don't need any more negative ninnies giving you their opinions, particularly when they lack credibility on the subject.

Setting very strict boundaries will help you, and if that person doesn't respect you enough to stay on their side of the fence, then you have to respectfully distance or fully remove yourself from the relationship. Will it cause pain? Absolutely! Will it be hard? Without a doubt!

But is short-term pain worth a long-term gain? Yes! Would you allow your child to continue being bullied and you do nothing about it? Of course, not! Why then do you allow yourself to be bullied and manipulated and do nothing about it? It is the biggest form of self-abuse, and you will never be free until you sever those relationships.

Sometimes the very person poisoning the well has good intentions and overall he/she is not a bad person. They most likely have control issues, insecurities, and fear. If you, at first, set healthy boundaries and they abide by those boundaries, then your relationship has a chance.

But, more often than not insecure people don't like boundaries and seldom have their own. They thrive on power to cover up their weaknesses and subconsciously manipulate others because it gives them a sense of control and empowerment. They can't fix their own lives, so they try to fix yours.

Make a list of toxic relationships you need to either establish stronger boundaries with or sever the relationship altogether:

You may be your own worst enemy! We often feel compelled to beat ourselves up when we fail, or admit we are not good enough, not wealthy enough, not smart enough, or not fit enough, etc. in order to give ourselves permission not to succeed.

This self-sabotage has to be eliminated! You have enough people telling you these things. Heck, even the media reminds us how inadequate we are every time we turn on the channel.



It's time to start confessing out loud, words of wisdom, encouragement, LIFE! The bible says the power of life and death are in the tongue. Stop spewing venom and start living! Here is an exercise I want you to do:

Confessions: No Longer Will I _____.

Based on the list of past choices you just completed, begin to make daily confessions, starting with NO LONGER WILL I _____.

Example: No longer will I use credit to buy the things I want or need.

No longer will I _____.

No longer will I _____.

No longer will I _____.

No longer will I _____.

No longer will I _____.

No longer will I _____.

Check out my reference sheet, "Who I Am in Christ," for positive confessions you can make.

Last step – start eliminating! Clean house! Issue a divorce decree from all those things that prevent or block you from charging onward and upward in your financial war plan!

