

Ron Armstrong • January 26 & 27, 2019

## Face Value: Principles for Spending and Saving

**Luke 14:28** “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? **29** For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, **30** saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

**31** “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? **32** If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

**Song of Solomon 2:15** Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

### A. Let's redraw our organizing equation and its five boxes.

### B. Principles for my spending box.

1. I need a WRITTEN plan.
  - a. A plan gives me a sense of direction, control, and hope. It's not the cause of anxiety; it's the CURE.
  - b. Even people with plenty need a plan. A Christ-follower is not the owner of stuff; he or she is the STEWARDSHIP of stuff. A steward has a plan.

2. My tithe is item #1 and savings is item #2 on my plan.
  - a. If I don't do the big stuff first, I won't do them at ALL.
  - b. If you are new to the process, then start with 10-10-80.
3. Make good stuff AUTOMATIC and bad stuff inconvenient.
  - a. Financial CONSISTENCY is the key to wealth building, and automation is the key to consistency.
  - b. Most bank accounts are now like a house infested with TERMITES. Every bite is too small to notice, until it falls.
  - c. Decoupling costs are about 12%-18%. Decoupling happens by SEPARATING the paying from the receiving.
4. Trying to look rich will make you poor. Is it a need, want, or IMAGE purchase?
5. Go ahead and spend like a rich person.
  - a. Rich people earn and THEN spend.
  - b. Rich people earn more than they spend.
  - c. They care more about value. We are all irrational, but they try harder to be rational.
6. Right now is the easiest time to start. Later always costs more.

### C. Three quick savings principles:

1. Save for emergencies. (But people who have a spending plan have fewer emergencies.)
2. Saving is not investing. Investing is what I do with savings. It's a different skill you can learn.
3. Save for the future AND for enjoyment goals.
  - a. Never touch “future” savings until the future COMES.
  - b. When you save for an enjoyment goal, spend it JOYFULLY.