**HEART TO HEART**/A word of hope and encouragement by Mennie Morrison

**DECEMBER 2022**

**“GET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER” (PART V)**

Greetings to you and **Merry Christmas** from our house to yours. I trust that your Thanksgiving was full of **gratitude** and that your Christmas will be full of **joy**.

This month of December will be part V and the conclusion of our teaching series entitled “**Get Your House In Order**.” Our teaching this month of December is not exactly a Christmas message, but a very timely one. We have been on an amazing journey looking at ways that the Holy Spirit may be speaking to us in **Getting Our Houses In Order**.

Let me briefly recap what we covered in parts 1-3. The first way to get your **house in order** is to be born again, and we shared how you can become a Christian, a Christ follower. We looked at the importance of seeking the Lord (being a seeker and lover of God). We looked at prayer and the Word of God being vital in getting our **house in order**. Part 3 we looked at and covered the fruit of the spirit in relation to our character and how our walk should be one that demonstrates the character of God.

Then in part 4, we looked at some practical ways that the Lord may be speaking to us in **Getting Our House In Order** in regard toour physical bodies and the well-being of our soul (mind, will and emotions). Maybe the Lord is asking us to take better care of our bodies (His temple) so that we can live long and strong to fulfil our calling in His Kingdom. We covered quite a few scriptures in this area. I encourage you that if you have not read parts1-4, please request a hard or electronic copy. I will be happy to send these, and trust that these teachings will be a blessing and encouragement to you.

The last area that we will cover before we close out this power packed 5 part teaching will be in the area of Finances and Stewardship, which is a major area and one that so many in the Body of Christ Struggle with. However, the Word of God has encouragement and a solution.

First, let’s look at what the Bible has to say about stewardship and being a steward. But before we turn to the Word of God let’s define the word “stewardship”;

(1) The position and duties of a [steward](https://www.dictionary.com/browse/steward), a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc.

(2) The responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving,

How many of you know that, as born again children of God, we should strive to be good stewards of all that God entrust into our hands. Stewardship and being a steward is more than just about finances. I personally believe that we should be stewarding everything in our lives that we are responsible for. Examples are our bodies, children, marriage, jobs, education, time and more. So perhaps God is dealing with us to take an examination of our lives in the area of stewardship to see how we are doing.

The parable in **Luke 12:42-48** is about stewardship. It demonstrates the steward being responsible for handling the affairs of another and doing that well. There are rewards for being a good steward, and no rewards for not being a good and faithful steward. From this parable in the book of **Luke**, there was severe punishment for the unfaithful steward/servant. Let’s not be on that end of stewardship, but let’s be one that stewards well with the help of the Holy Spirit. In your devotional time, you can read this parable.

This next scripture is encouraging us to be a faithful steward as a Minister of the Gospel.

1 **Corinthians 4:1-2 (NET)** *One should think about us this way—as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.****2****Now what is sought in stewards is that one be found faithful*.

Here is another scripture with regard to being a good steward in ministry. **1 Peter 4:10 (AMP)** **10***Just as each one of you has received a special gift [a spiritual talent, an ability graciously given by God], employ it in serving one another as [is appropriate for] good stewards of God’s multi-faceted grace [faithfully using the diverse, varied gifts and abilities granted to Christians by God’s unmerited favor].* This is such a powerful scripture. Let us be faithful and steward well the gifts and callings that God has called us to do. Serving Him well by serving His people.

When we work for God in His Kingdom or whatever capacity that He has called us to, we must do it unto Him and not unto men. Let’s read this in **Colossians 3:23 (KJV)** *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*

Now, let’s look at scriptures in regard to **Getting Our Houses in Order** when it comes to Finances. This subject is very important in the life of a believer, as it often reveals our heart and desires. During my studies, I found varying information about how many times money/finances are mentioned in the Bible. One article said, that the word “money” is found 147 times in the Old and New Testament; another place I read, said around 120 and then the last number I saw, was over 800 tines. No matter what the accurate number is, I believe that it is an important subject for believers to understand.

I am not going to get into an exhaustive teaching in this area, but I want us to simply look at several scriptures regarding money and finances as we are in the last part of our teaching on **Getting Your House In Order** and this could very well be one of the areas that the Lord is speaking to us about.

First and foremost, as a blood brought child of God; a believer in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, honoring God with your monies should be a lifestyle. Let’s look at several scriptures that confirm that. We are going to look at (2) Old Testament scriptures admonishing us to honor God first. Even though, they are under the old covenant, I truly believe that we as New Testament believers will not go wrong with following these principles.

**Malachi 3:10 (NET)** ***10****“****Br****ing the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out blessing for you until there is no room for it all.*

**Proverbs 3:9 (KJV)** ***9****Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.*

The Kingdom of God is a Kingdom that operates in sowing and reaping. **Luke 6:38(GNT)** *Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands—all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.”*

**Proverbs 11:25 (AMP)** *The generous man [is a source of blessing and] shall be prosperous and enriched,
And he who waters will himself be watered [reaping the generosity he has sown].*

The New Testament doesn’t really specify a percentage of what you should give out of your income, but does encourage us to give and to do that willingly and cheerfully.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (KJV**) ***6****But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.* ***7****Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.* ***8****And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.*

So if the Lord is speaking to you in this area of your finances, understand that how you give will be how you will receive. Purpose in your own heart on your giving based on what you have, and don’t let anyone intimidate you to give. Don’t give in that manner, of necessity or grudgingly but cheerfully. When you give like this, the promise for you is that grace will abound to you and that you will have all sufficiency in all things, so that you will continue to be a blessing by abounding in every good work.

Wow, I love this scripture in **2 Corinthians chapter 9** because me and my husband’s heart is To Be **Blessed To Be A Blessing.** We have learned the principles of sowing and reaping, and because of that, we are living this abundant life in God in every area of our life. How, you may ask, because we chose to obey God to the best of our ability. Do we miss it, of course, we do, but our heart is to always honor the Father and **Get and Keep our House in Order**.

I know that this is a lengthy teaching, 5 parts, but it is so much to expound on, and I have not even touched the surface of what the Holy Spirit may be saying to us. However, I hope that these areas that we have covered will be something for us to look at as we examine the call to **Get Our House In Order**.

In closing, we will look at the area of managing our finances and saving. We have briefly looked at stewarding, which is another word for managing, but it was in the area of someone’s affairs. Money, finances and wealth should not be our god, but we should be stewards over it as we are over everything else that God blesses us with.

**Ecclesiastes 5:10 (TLB)** ***10****He who loves money shall never have enough. The foolishness of thinking that wealth brings happiness!*

**1 Timothy 6:10 (NET)** *For the love of money is the root of all evils. Some people in reaching for it have strayed from the faith and stabbed themselves with many pains*.

So we can see from these (2) scriptures and numerous others that we should not love money, but use it as the tool it was intended. The Lord wants you to have all the resources you need in life and for you to be blessed in every area, but your heart has to be right before Him so that you will know how to steward it well. Let’s see what **Luke 12:34 (KJV)** has to say: *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also*. So let’s purpose in our hearts not to allow our money, finances, wealth to be our treasure, but let our treasure be to know God, and make Him know.

The Lord wants us to have all we need and even in abundance, but doesn’t want those things to have us. There is a difference.  **3 John 1:2** **(KJV)** says: **2***Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* I love the way the KJV has written this verse. God wants to prosper us in every area of our lives, and He will, if we will just do things His way; **Getting Our Houses in Order**.

Several more scriptures with regard to money, saving and finances, and we will close this last part of this powerful teaching. **Proverbs 13:11 (NLT)** **11***Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows over time.*  The Lord blesses our hard work and legitimate labor because he wants us to be able to leave an inheritance for our children’s children, as the scripture below indicates.

**Proverbs 13:22 (AMP)** *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for [the hands of] the righteous*.

The Lord is calling us to be wise in all we do, especially in the area of our finances. We should not be spending all of our money/resources. Why, so that we can prepare for our future. Now, that’s true wisdom. **Proverbs 21:20 (AMP)** *There is precious treasure and oil in the house of the wise [who prepare for the future], But a short-sighted and foolish man swallows it up and wastes it.*

It is so important that we as believers are not in debt because we are literally being servants to the one that lends. Let’s see this in **Proverbs 22:7 (NET**) *The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

A couple more scriptures in the New Testament, then we will close. If we do have debt, we should work diligently to pay it off as soon as possible. **Romans 13:8 (AMPC*)*** *Keep out of debt and owe no man anything, except to love one another.*

The last scripture will be **1 Corinthians 16:2 (AMPC)** but before we read verse 2, let’s see what Paul says in verse 1; *Now concerning the money contributed for [the relief of] the saints (God’s people): you are to do the same as I directed the churches of Galatia to do*. So we see Paul encouraging the church in regard to their money and putting some aside for the work of the ministry. Now, **verse 2**: *On the first [day] of each week, let each one of you [personally] put aside something and save it up as he has prospered [in proportion to what he is given], so that no collections will need to be taken after I come*.

Even though Paul was encouraging the believers there in Corinth to put money aside to save for the work of the Lord’s ministry, we can use this same principle of saving for many other things. Some examples are our children’s future, as we saw in Proverbs. Perhaps our golden years of retiring or repurposing in our lives. What about vacation, and we can go on and on.

It is so much in God’s Word with regard to money, good and wise stewardship, saving, being a giver, that we can’t cover all the scriptures. However, I hope that the ones that are included in this teaching will give you a little encourage to examine your life to see perhaps if the Lord is speaking to you in any of these ways in **Getting Your House In Order**.

As we’ve journeyed over the last 4 months of looking at ways that the Lord may be speaking to us in **Getting our House In Order**, I pray that we have been encouraged and motivated to examine our lives and hearts and make the necessary adjustments if there are any to be made. I can personally say that I am taking all of these to heart and asking Holy Spirit to help me in all of these areas. As we quickly approach a brand-new year of 2023, let’s make sure we are **Getting Our House In Order** in whatever way that may be. Again, Dr. Morrison and I wish you a very Blessed and **Merry Christmas** and the **Happiest** of the **New Year** as you continue to allow God to **Bless You To Be A Blessing!**