

InShape *for 2008*

Give - Save - Spend

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, (9) "Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. See, I have commanded a widow there to provide for you." (10) So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, indeed a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, "Please bring me a little water in a cup, that I may drink." (11) And as she was going to get it, he called to her and said, "Please bring me a morsel of bread in your hand."

(12) So she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die."

(13) And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son."

(14) For thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.'"

(15) So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for many days. (16) The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Elijah. (1 Kings 17:8-16)

Principles for Getting Your Finances in Shape

I. Recognize that God is in Control (v. 8-10)

- God is there in our crisis situation
- You never know how God will come through

II. Practicality, Problems, & Faith (v. 12)

- Don't let circumstances govern your decisions, or fears to overrule your faith
- Allow others to speak Truth into your life
- Act in Faith and you will see God's hand in your situation

III. Steps of Faith and Walls of Doubt (v. 13)

- Trust God **first**, with what you have (v.12)
- You can't stop your fears, but you can start your walk of Faith
- Proverbs 3:5-6

IV. Give and "it" will be given back to you (v. 14)

- You must be willing to act in faith in the same arena of need (v.12)
- How we bless and "give" to others is important (v. 15)
- It is more blessed to give than to receive (v. 16)

V. Save for the future (v. 15-16)

- Make sure your financial priorities are in the right order:

1. Give = 10%

2. Save = 10%

3. Spend = Needs 50% & Wants = 30%

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understand, in all your ways acknowledge Him; and He shall direct your paths (Proverbs 3:5-6).