



# CELL GUIDE 2015

Theme	Jubilee – Year of Deliverance and Freedom
Topic	Achieving Financial Freedom (Part 1)
Speaker	SP Daniel Foo
Date	11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2015

## Message Summary

### Overcoming lack, achieving financial freedom

There's a common saying that goes "money makes the world go round". While we, as believers, strive to place God (instead of money) at the centre of our lives, it remains true that man is bound by certain laws and principles of this world – in this case, the laws of finance and economics.

This week, SP reviews the causes of financial lack in the world and amongst believers and gives us handles to free ourselves, helping us move from spiritual slavery to sonship.

### Reasons for lack in the world and amongst believers: why

To start, SP explains how the fallenness of man gives rise to lack in the world. In our sinful nature, we tend to love ourselves, money and pleasure over God (1 Tim 3:1-4). This manifests into problems like unequal wealth distribution, wastage, corrupt governments and economic systems etc.

He goes on to warn us that as Christians, the issues of money is often where the rubber meets the road, and that it can stumble and sink even pastors.

SP teaches us how these factors below cause financial lack in the world and amongst believers:

**1. Ignorance of the Word of God regarding His Laws of Provision**

It is written that those who reject knowledge, be it God's word or the principles which govern our land, will be destroyed (Hos 4:6).

**2. Failure to tithe**

Disobedience reaps disaster whilst abiding in the Lord brings forth blessings. SP reminds us that all good things, including our financial prosperity, flows from God. As stewards of these good things, it is our duty to "bring the whole tithe into the storehouse" (Mal 3:8-9).

**3. Laziness – a lack of diligence or discipline**

A person who slacks cannot expect to be rich (Prov 10:4) whilst a person who refuses correction may set himself up for financial ruin (Prov 13:18).

**4. Greed and covetousness**

SP warns us against compromising with evil or giving in to our selfish desires. He uses the example of Lot, who, full-knowing the wickedness of Sodom, still chose to pitch his tents there because of the rich resources it held. When Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, Lot eventually had to flee from his home, losing his wife in the process (Gen 13:5-13; Gen 19:1-29).



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## 5. **Having a Spirit of Poverty**

People entrapped by the spirit of Poverty continually live in fear and are doubtful of God's provision. This ungodly belief can begin with the thought that prosperity comes from one's own effort or that money ensures one's happiness or security. No amount of money will ever break the fear and the feeling of insecurity.

## 6. **Having an Orphan Spirit**

Because we have been adopted as sons, we need not live in fear (Rom 8:15). But not all have claimed this promise for themselves. Those who fail to do so choose to be independent from God, and the focus of their strivings is turned toward achievement and man's approval.

### From slavery to sonship: how

To begin to overcome the fear of lack and lack itself, we are to acknowledge that God is the source of all provision. In Him, we are sufficient (Phil 4:19).

From accepting this truth to living it out in our lives, we must honour the Lord with our tithing (Prov 3:9-10) and improve on the work of our hands, perfecting the skills He has entrusted to each of us (1 Thes 4:11-12). SP teaches us to guard greed and covetousness in our hearts, and to place our trust in the Lord, who is our confidence and our reward, instead of in the uncertain riches of the world (1 Tim 6:17).

Surely, the love of money will lead to our destruction, replacing God's place in our hearts. It will choke the seed of God's Word in our lives and it will wear us down, both emotionally and mentally.

Thus, to achieve freedom from spiritual slavery and truly be God's adopted sons, we must strive to be rooted and established in the Father's love, believing that in His own way and time, He will provide for us in our area of need.



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## Questions

Why has man's sinful nature resulted in lack in the world?

Christian teachings of handling money disagree with the world's wisdom of how money should be pursued and treasured (e.g. choosing to tithe instead of saving for a rainy day). Share an example when this conflict happened in your life.

We have learnt why we experience lack in the world. However, like the widow of Zarephath, God is looking for and responds to faith in His people. Knowing this, what are some ways you would manage your money differently?