

God entrusted you to be a good manager of the money He provides. If you are in debt, you must strive to get out of debt in order to have more money to use in the manner that God intends. This week, Pastor Andy continued the series "The Maker and His Manager" with his message "Breaking the Bondage of Debt," which is Part 3 of the 4-part series. For this sermon, Pastor Andy played a video clip from the financial adviser Dave Ramsey who used Biblical principles to break the bondage of debt and rebuild his finances.

Ramsey began by saying that our society has bought into the notion that being in debt is a fact of modern life. However, stating something repeatedly does not make it a truth. To illustrate that point, Ramsey said that regardless of where people may point when asked where north is, its actual location remains constant. The Bible says, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender" Proverbs 22:7. A paradigm shift is required to understand that being in debt is not a Biblical principal and is something to be avoided.

You can break the bondage by doing just what a gazelle does when hunted, which is to run! The Bible says, "Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, and like a bird from the hand of the fowler" Proverbs 6:5. When a gazelle runs, it runs with intensity! It will not stop running until it is completely clear of the threat. Practically speaking, you can apply that approach by using "snowball debt reduction." Start by paying off your smallest debt first in order to create the greatest momentum in your debt snowball. Myth says to pay off the debt with the highest interest rate, but you need some quick wins in order to build momentum. Ramsey mentioned one lady he knew who posted all her debts on her refrigerator, and whenever she walked by, she would look at the list and proclaim, "You're going down!" When you see your smaller debts get knocked out, you will become motivated to win in debt reduction.

There are five steps that you can employ to get out of debt:

1. You must save money. As fast as you can, save \$1000 so that if you have an emergent situation, you will have some funds to draw from without borrowing from creditors.
2. Quit borrowing more money! Cut up your credit cards! In fact, you can even make it a family project as you and your children cut up the plastic cards. It will be a lesson that they will look back upon as a deciding moment in your family's financial health.
3. Prayer really works. God will hear and answer your prayer. He gave you the money and wants it to be used for His glory.
4. Sell something. If you have something you are not using, sell it. Also, if you are paying on something too expensive to afford, such as a car with payments too high for your income, sell it.
5. Take a part time job. Hard work really pays off and will earn money to be used to pay debt.

How much could you save, invest, blow, and give if you had no payments? Ramsey said that after he finally was free from debt, he walked into a mall and realized that he could buy anything in there, but also realized that he wanted none of it! He was no longer a slave to the lender and had discovered financial freedom. If you are in debt, you can begin today to change your idea of debt and begin to get out of debt. Are you ready to break the bondage of debt?