



Escaping Financial Crisis February 6-7, 2021

5 Global Stress Factors

- A viral infirmity
- A social instability
- A financial insecurity
- A racial inequality
- A political incivility

The 1st century Christian was facing many of the same issues as the 21st century Christian.

I might be in crisis mode if I:

- Think more about my immediate needs than my long-term plan.
- Feel better after making a splurge purchase.
- Get distracted by thoughts about my money.
- Breathe a sigh of relief every time I get paid.
- Depend on my emergency plan like it's my normal plan.

James 5:1-3 (NLT)

Look here, you rich people: Weep and groan with anguish because of all the terrible troubles ahead of you. Your wealth is rotting away, and your fine clothes are moth-eaten rags. Your gold and silver are corroded. The very wealth you were counting on will eat away your flesh like fire. This corroded treasure you have hoarded will testify against you on the day of judgment.

Wisdom looks to the future, especially in times of crisis.

God's principles to pull me out of crisis:

1 God opposes greed, not wealth.

1 Timothy 6:10 (CEV)

The love of money causes all kinds of trouble. Some people want money so much that they have given up their faith and caused themselves a lot of pain.

2 God gives us money as a path, not a destination.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-12 (CEV)

If you love money and wealth, you will never be satisfied with what you have. This doesn't make sense either. The more you have, the more everyone expects from you. Your money won't do you any good—others will just spend it for you. If you have to work hard for a living, you can rest well at night, even if you don't have much to eat. But if you are rich, you can't even sleep.

3 God gives us money to save and give, not to stockpile.

Luke 12:15-21 (CEV)

Then he said to the crowd, "Don't be greedy! Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe." So Jesus told them this story: A rich man's farm produced a big crop, and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything." Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. Then I'll say to myself, 'You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'" But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?" "This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God."

Stockpile Quiz:

- I need more money so I can be secure.
- I need more money so I can keep up with others.
- I'm afraid to use my money because I might not be able to get more.

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

The Core Solution to my Crisis: I am secure in God's promises.

Why put these principles into practice?

1 To practice self-discipline

Proverbs 21:20 (LB)

The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.

2 To be able to give to others

Ephesians 4:28 (CEV)

If you are a thief, quit stealing. Be honest and work hard, so you will have something to give to people in need.

3 To make my life outlast me

Proverbs 11:7 (NCV)

When the wicked die, hope dies with them; their hope in riches will come to nothing.

1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB)

Tell [those with money] to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.

Memory Verse for February, 2021**Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)**

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