

Weekly Financial Prayer Guide

Even if we don't have a huge project in front of us, as Nehemiah did, we have a longing to walk in financial success, wisdom, and freedom.

They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

Nehemiah 1:3-4 (NIV)

Desiring financial breakthrough, however, is often a far-cry from reality. When Monday morning rolls around, the kids are still asking for new clothes, the car needs to be fixed, and the bills need to be paid. Imagine that your current financial situation is like a wall that is being built. Remember that, in Nehemiah's situation, he placed guards behind the most vulnerable places in order to ward off the attacks of the enemy. Do you see any weak, vulnerable areas in your "financial wall" that are prone to attack? How can you make sure that you are moving forward in your financial vision, protected from everyday hindrances? We believe that you need a "Nehemiah mentality" that combines specific prayer with the everyday details of your life.

The financial prayer guide below is intended to help you pray over 14 specific areas of your finances (derived from key chapters in this book). While some prayer guides are intended to be prayed in full each day, we would suggest a more simple approach for this one, offering up a prayer for your finances in the morning and in the evening. It is our hope that, through adopting a Nehemiah mentality, you can move forward in the financial vision that God has for you!

SUNDAY

Giving

Lord, I thank you for giving the ultimate Gift to me, your Son (John 3:16). Please help me today to be conscious of giving opportunities (II Cor. 8:12-15, Col. 4:3-5), obedient in my tithing (Mal. 3:10), and compassionate for those who are in need (Prov. 19:17).

Wise Decisions

Lord, you are so faithful to give wisdom to me when I ask you for it (James 1:5)!

In my decision-making this week, I ask you for the courage to step out (Josh. 1:9), the discernment to weigh the costs involved (II Cor. 9:7, Lk. 14:28), and the commitment to finish what I have started (Col. 4:17, II Cor. 8:11).

MONDAY

Seeking the Kingdom

Lord, today I acknowledge your command to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Help me to avoid the lust for greed and money (I Tim. 6:6-11), to be content with what I have (Heb. 13:5), and to live for eternal things (Phil. 3:19-20).

Sowing

Lord, thank you that you have called me to sow cheerfully and generously, expecting a harvest in time (II Cor. 9:6-15). Help me not to grow weary in well-doing (Gal. 6:9), sowing to please the Spirit (Gal. 6:8) with my words (Eph. 4:29), with my time (I Chron. 12:32), and with my money (II Cor. 9:6-15).

TUESDAY

Stewardship

Lord, I am amazed that you have entrusted me with talents and resources that you want me to multiply (Matt. 25:14-30)! I ask you today for help in being diligent with my time (Ps. 90:12), faithful with my responsibilities (Col. 3:23), and both wise and gracious in my communication with others (Col. 4:6, Prov. 22:11).

Self-discipline

Lord, I need your help to be self-disciplined so that, like an athlete in training, I can win the prize (I Cor. 9:24-27)! Help me to know the short-term and long-term financial goals I need to work on (Col. 1:9-10, Phil. 3:13-14). Please grant me the grace to both resist distractions (Prov. 4:25-26, Ecc. 10:16-17) and take time for creative rest (Ps. 23:2-3).

WEDNESDAY

Persevering

I thank you, Jesus, that when troubles come my way, it is an opportunity for joy (James 1:2)! In any financial challenges I am facing, I ask you for help to discern the root of the

problems (I Tim. 6:10) while praising you in the midst of them (Job 1:21-22, Ps. 27:5-6). Though life is busy, help me to invest in focused prayers (Phil. 4:6) that will give birth to peace (Phil. 4:7), new direction (Acts 13:2-3), and eventual solutions (II Chron. 20:13-24).

Vision

I give you praise, Lord, that you've called me to reach forward unto those things that are before me (Phil. 3:13-14). Grant me great wisdom to lay hold of renewed financial vision for my life (Col. 1:9-10, Neh. 1:4, 2:4-8), resisting the procrastination (Prov. 6:6- 11) and distractions (Gal. 5:7-9) that would stand in my way.

THURSDAY

Planning

Lord, thank you that, by the hand of your Spirit, I am able to make wise plans in how to invest my money, time, and resources (Matt. 25:14-30, I Chron 29:3-5 Zech. 4:6). Help me to be wise in my budgeting and to close the doors on unnecessary spending (Prov. 21:20). Enable me to set aside the time to seek out good counsel (Prov. 15:22), making plans that are wise, just, and ordered of You

(Prov. 12:5, Jms. 4:15-16).

Savings

Thanks, Lord, for the simple example of the ants who know how to wisely store up for the future (Prov. 6:8). Help me not to spend everything I make (Prov. 21:20), but to wisely discern the amount I need to set aside for future needs, emergencies, commitments, and long-range goals (II. Cor. 8:10-11, Prov. 6:8, 31:21, 27).

FRIDAY

Debt-free

Lord, your ways are higher (Is. 55:8-9)! I ask you to renew my mind with your divine perspective about debt, credit, and borrowing (Prov. 11:15, 22:7, Rom. 13:6-8). Help me to be intentional about paying off my debts (Rom. 13:6-8), and let me be faithful in the little things of life so that you can entrust me with more (Lk. 16:10-12, 19:18-19).

Wise Lifestyle

Thank you, Lord that you have called me to be a person who is careful and wise (Eph. 5:15). In the way that I live, help me to be resourceful and yet generous (Prov. 21:20, Prov. 11:25), led by your Spirit in both the little choices I make and in my major decisions (Lk. 16:10-12, Jms. 4:15). Let me be known as a person who is full of the Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3).

SATURDAY

Watchman

Lord, you have called me to diligently guard the vulnerable areas of my life that are prone to attack (Prov. 4:20-27, Neh. 4:13, I Pet. 3:11). Help me to avoid get rich schemes (I Tim. 6:9), unwise investments (Lk 14:28-30), hasty purchases (Prov. 14:8), and any deceptions of others (Prov. 9:13-18) that would cause me to stumble and fall. Make me a diligent watchman (Neh. 4:13, Ezek. 22:30) who knows the enemy's schemes in advance (II Cor. 2:11, II Kgs. 6:10), guarding and protecting that which you've entrusted to me.

Investing

Lord, thank you that you've called me to live a life of multiplication and not mere addition (Matt. 13:23, 25:14-30). As I look to you for vision for the future, help me to consider my options for investing (Prov. 21:5, 31:16-24), discerning the proper times (Ps. 90:12, I Chron. 12:32, Ecc. 8:5-6) and sowing with wisdom (Lk 19:13-26).