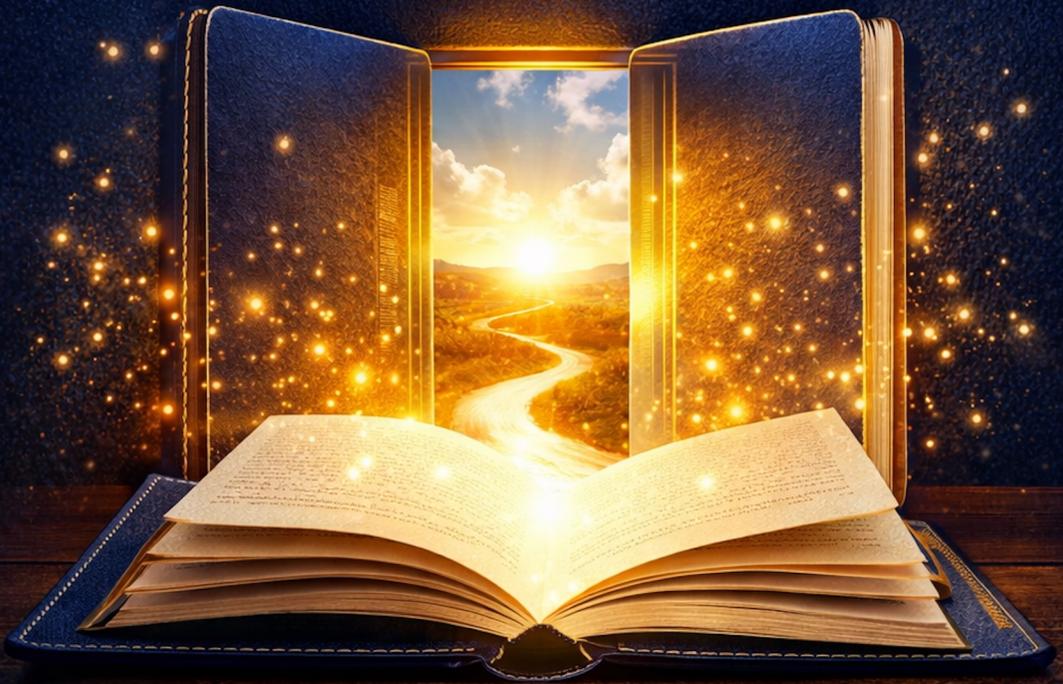




# YOUR PASSPORT TO A BETTER LIFE



*Unlocking Faith, Freedom, and Financial Possibility*



**Pastor Larry Macon Jr., M.A., J.D.**

*Freedom & Life Conference – Mt. Zion Oakwood Village*

# STEP 1



## Know Your Real Numbers

(Day 1-2)

Before you can improve your finances, you must understand them.



**Total Monthly Income**  
(after taxes)



**All Fixed Bills**

- Mortgage/Rent
- Car Payment
- Insurance
- Utilities
- Phone



**Minimum Debt Payments**



**Average Grocery & Gas Spending**



## Example Budget Snapshot

<b>Income</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
• <b>Fixed Bills</b>	<b>\$2,200</b>
• <b>Debt Payments</b>	<b>\$400</b>
• <b>Groceries &amp; Gas</b>	<b>\$800</b>
<b>Money Remaining *</b>	<b>\$600</b>



## STEP 2



### Use a Simple Budget Formula

Start with this beginner structure:

#### Needs

- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Utilities
- ✓ Groceries
- ✓ Insurance

#### Wants

- ✓ Dining out
- ✓ Entertainment
- ✓ Subscriptions

#### ✓ Savings / Debt

- ✓ Emergency fund
- ✓ Retirement
- ✓ Extra debt payments





## STEP 3



# Automate Savings FIRST

Set up an **automatic** transfer on payday:



Payday → Savings → Spending



Housing



Bills



Spending



**First Goal: \$1,000 Emergency Fund**



**Next Goal: 3-6 Months of Living Expenses**

Savings should be treated like a bill *you owe yourself.*



# STEP 4

## Cut ONE Category at a Time

Don't try to change everything at once —

*Start Small & Stay Consistent!*



### MONTH 1 — FOCUS —



Cancel 2–3 Unused Subscriptions



Reduce Dining Out by 50%



Switch to Generic Grocery Brands



### MONTH 2 — FOCUS —



Lower Electric Bill  
(Lights off, unplug devices)



Shop Insurance Rates



Reduce Impulse Buying  
(Use 24-Hour Rule!)

Small Improvements = **BIG RESULTS**

*Over Time!*



Save More



Pay Off Faster



Build Freedom



Small cuts compound over time — stay consistent and watch your money *grow!*



## STEP 5



# Grocery Strategy

Food spending is one of the easiest places to save money.

### Best Practices:

- ✓ Plan meals before shopping
- ✓ Shop once per week
- ✓ Use store brands

### Example:

Grocery Budget:  
**\$600/month**



Every **small step** brings you closer to **financial freedom**.



## STEP 6 Control Impulse Spending

Before buying:

- ✓ Wait 24 hours
- ✓ Ask: “Do I need this or just want it?”
- ✓ If it’s over \$100 → wait 3 days



## STEP 7 Track Weekly (15 Minutes on Sunday)

Every Sunday:

- ✓ Check bank account
- ✓ Compare spending to budget
- ✓ Adjust for the week

This prevents surprises.



## STEP 8 Give Every Dollar an Assignment

If you have \$300 left over, don’t let it “disappear.”

Split it:

- ✓ \$150 savings
- ✓ \$100 extra debt payment
- ✓ \$50 fun money



Every **small step** brings you closer to **financial freedom**.

# Simple Example Budgets



## \$100k Income (\$8,300/month)

## \$50k Income (\$4,150/month)

Category	Amount
✓ Housing	\$2,500
✓ Utilities	\$600
✓ Groceries	\$1,000
✓ Transportation	\$700
✓ Insurance	\$500
✓ Debt	\$1,000
✓ Savings	\$1,000
✓ Fun/Personal	\$1,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,300</b>

Category	Amount
✓ Housing	\$1,400
✓ Utilities	\$300
✓ Groceries	\$600
✓ Transportation	\$400
✓ Insurance	\$200
✓ Debt	\$400
✓ Savings	\$400
✓ Fun/Personal	\$250
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,150</b>



**Total: \$8,300**



**Total: \$4,150**



## STEP 9

### Use Cash or Separate Accounts for Weak Areas

If eating out is a problem:

- ✔ Put \$200 in a separate account or use cash
- ✔ When it's gone, you're done for the month



## STEP 10 Review Every 90 Days

Every 3 months:

- ✔ Increase savings %
- ✔ Increase debt payments

This prevents surprises.



Every **small step** brings closer to **financial freedom**.



# 10 Steps to Build Your Savings Without Stress



## 1 The "24-Hour Rule"

Before making a non-essential purchase over a certain amount (like \$30), wait 24 hours. Most "must-have" items lose their shine once the initial hit of dopamine wears off.



## 2 Automate the Transfer

Treat your savings like a bill. Set up an automatic transfer from your checking to your savings account on payday. If you never see the money in your spending balance, you won't miss it.



## 3 Audit Your Subscriptions

Use a tracking app or scan your bank statement to cancel anything you haven't used in the last 30 days.



## 4 Master the "Generic" Switch

From groceries to over-the-counter meds, store brands often use the exact same ingredients as name brands for 30% to 50% less.



## 5 Round Up Your Purchases

If you spend \$4.25 on coffee, it rounds the transaction to \$5.00 and puts the \$0.75 into savings. It's digital pocket change that adds up fast.



## 6 Eat In, Save Big

The markup on restaurant food is massive. You don't have to be a chef—even simple meal prepping for three lunches a week can save you over \$100 a month.



Small, consistent steps lead to big savings over time.



# SAVINGS STRATEGY

## 6 Month Savings Challenge

Week 1 — \$15

Week 2 — \$20

Week 3 — \$25

Week 4 — \$30

Week 5 — \$40

Week 6 — \$35

Week 7 — \$45

Week 8 — \$50

Week 9 — \$25

Week 10 — \$55

Week 11 — \$30

Week 12 — \$60

Week 13 — \$40

Week 14 — \$65

Week 15 — \$35

Week 16 — \$70

Week 17 — \$45

Week 18 — \$50

Week 19 — \$55

Week 20 — \$40

Week 21 — \$50

Week 22 — \$50

Week 23 — \$70

Week 24 — \$45

Week 25 — \$60

Week 25 — \$35



**Total Saved: \$1,000**





# 3 Ways to Create a Financial Legacy

Building Wealth That Outlives You

1

## Build Assets – Not Just Income

Focus on owning things that grow.

Examples of Wealth-Building Assets



Real Estate  
Real Estate



Investments  
(Stocks, index funds,  
retirement accounts)



Business ownership  
Business plans

Legacy Principle: Over time, assets generate generational wealth.

2

## Protect Your Family with a Plan

Secure your wealth and decide where it goes.

Essential Legacy Tools



A Will



Life Insurance



Estate Planning Documents



Estate Planning Documents



Named Beneficiaries

Legacy Principle

Legacy Principle: If you don't decide, the system will decide for you.

## Legacy Truth

Wealth is not just what you leave to your family.

It is what you leave in them. ✓ 

✓ Ownership ✓ Planning ✓ Financial education



# Teach Financial Wisdom to the Next Generation

Passing on knowledge ensures lasting wealth



✓ How to **budget**



✓ How to **save**

✓ How to **invest**



✓ How to **steward  
money with  
purpose**

## Legacy Principle

Generational wisdom protects generational wealth.



# Why Every Family Needs a **Will & Trust**

Protecting Your Family and Preserving Your Legacy



## What a Will Does

A **will** is a legal document that explains how your assets should be distributed after your death.

- ✓ Decide who receives your assets
- ✓ Name guardians for minor children
- ✓ Appoint someone you trust to manage your estate
- ✓ Provide clear instructions for your family



Without a **will**, **state law** decides who gets your property.

**That process is called probate, and it can take months or years.**



## What a Trust Does

A **trust** is a legal structure that holds and manages assets for your beneficiaries.

- ✓ Avoid probate court
- ✓ Protect privacy for your family
- ✓ Control how and when money is distributed
- ✓ Protect assets for children or future generations



Trusts are especially useful for families:

- Real estate
- Businesses
- Investments
- Multiple heirs

## Legacy Principle

A true financial legacy is not just what you earn.  
It is what you protect, structure, and pass on with wisdom.



## The Power of Investing in Your Church & Community

Financial wisdom is not only about what we keep.  
It is also about what we build together.

When individuals invest in their church and community, they are not just giving money — they are strengthening the systems that support their families and their future.

Strong communities do not happen by accident.  
They are built through shared investment and shared responsibility.



### 1 Investing Strengthens Your Own Life

When people support their church and community institutions, they create environments that benefit their own families.

Community investment helps provide:

- ✓ Youth programs
- ✓ Educational opportunities
- ✓ Mentorship and leadership
- ✓ Safe gathering spaces
- ✓ Youth development
- ✓ Counseling and support
- ✓ Education and financial literacy
- ✓ Crisis response during difficult times

The stronger the community becomes, the stronger the opportunities become for everyone inside it.

### 🔑 Community Principle

Healthy communities are built when people move from:

**Consumption → Contribution**

When individuals invest their time, resources, and support into their community and church, they help create systems that benefit everyone.