



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON
19th August – 7th October 2023

PRAYING FOR THE BUSINESS AND ECONOMY SECTOR

Isaiah 60: 5,6:

*Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

*A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*

PRAYER GUIDE

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WEEKLY FOCUS 2023

Week 1:	20 th August – 26 th August	Family and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 2:	27 th August – 2 nd September	Church and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 3:	3 rd September – 9 th September	Government and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 4:	10 th September – 16 th September	Education and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 5:	17 th September – 23 rd September	Media Business and the Economy Sphere
Week 6:	24 th September – 30 th September	Celebration/Arts and the Business/Economy Sphere
Week 7:	1 st October – 7 th October	Global Business/Economy

THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE 2023/24 PRAYER SEASON ARE:

1. To seek divine enablement for the Body of Christ to rise to its place in the Business/Economy Sphere.
2. To pray for the economies of Uganda and Africa to rise to their divine destinies.
3. To pray for the restructuring of the global economy to a more righteous and just one.
4. To seek divine enablement for the individual, family, and organizational fulfillment of divine destinies in our generation and the ones to come.

WEEK ONE: FAMILY AND THE BUSINESS/ECONOMY SPHERE

19th – 25th August 2023

PERSONAL AND CORPORATE PREPARATION

1 Corinthians 11:31

³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Main Prayer Focus of the Week:

1. Examining our lives in attitude and practice regarding money and wealth.
2. Confessing and repenting of personal sins regarding our attitudes and practice regarding money and wealth.
3. Making personal, family, and corporate commitments to do things God's way.
4. Praying for the rise of strong family businesses.

Luke 16:13

¹³"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Proverbs 3:9,10

*⁹Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase;
¹⁰So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.*

As we begin the season of prayer for the business/economy sphere, it is vital that we spend time examining our lives and attitudes regarding money and wealth. As we do this and repent of our sins in this regard, the legal ground for the voice of the "accuser of the brethren" (Revelation 12:10) before the throne of God will be removed. Without doing so, our prayers will be made of little or no effect. Therefore, the first days of this year's national fasting and prayer season will be spent on a self-audit about attitudes and practice towards money and wealth.

The lifeblood of an economy is money. The circulation of money in a modern economy can be compared with the circulation of blood in the human body¹. Money does for the economy what circulating blood does for a human body. And, if money was to be withdrawn from the circular flows, the production and employment system would come to a standstill in a modern economy². Money keeps every element of the economy in working order.

The word *mammon* comes from the Greek word *mammonas* meaning money, wealth, and material possessions." Jesus warned that mammon has an appeal to man that competes with the place that God should occupy. Indeed, the love of money is akin to idolatry. In the New Testament, covetousness is also defined as idolatry.

¹ <http://www.yuvaneeds.com/forum/econ/macroeconomics/how-can-you-say-that-money-is-the-lifeblood-of-a-modern-economy.html>

² *ibid*

Matthew 6:24

²⁴“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Ultimately, *mammon* describes an idol of materialism. Jesus' words here show a powerful contrast between the worship of the material world and the worship of God. Worship of mammon can show up in many ways:

- Envy of others' wealth
- Anxiety over unmet needs
- Disobedience of God's directives about the use of money or wealth
- Fail to trust God's love and faithfulness.

These conditions indicate that our thinking is out of balance concerning material wealth³ which in turn indicates that we are out of balance in our relationship to God.

Ephesians 5:5

*⁵For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, **nor covetous man, who is an idolater**, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

Colossians 3:5

*⁵Therefore put to death your members, which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and **covetousness, which is idolatry**. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in.*

Jesus depicted Mammon as a spiritual entity that demands love, service, and loyalty. He used the ancient Aramaic word Mammon to describe a spiritual entity that was and still is being worshiped under many different spiritual guises in every culture and civilization. Mammon is outrightly opposed to God.

God hates all sin, but it is evident in the scriptures that He deals with some sins more severely than others. The Bible indicates that God hates idolatry with greater passion. God perceives idolatry as spiritual adultery or prostitution.

The first of the two commandments on which all the Law and the Prophets hang states:

Matthew 22:37-38

³⁷Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

No other objects or person is worthy of that worship or service, only the LORD God of Israel – YHWH.

The apostle Paul writes of the godly perspective toward mammon:

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-mammon.html>

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Lust of any kind is insatiable, no matter how much time or effort is poured into the pursuit of the object of lust. King Solomon who enjoyed money and wealth to a level where few ever reach, writes of the futility of chasing after mammon:

Ecclesiastes 5:10.

“Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless.”

Jesus rebuked those who refused to hear His admonition to choose God over mammon:

Luke 16:14–15

“The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, ‘You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.’”

The parable of the rich young fool in Luke 12:13-21 is the story of a man who lives to increase his wealth yet in the end he loses his soul because he “is not rich toward God” (vs 21). In the parable of the sower, Jesus warns of the deceitfulness of mammon and its ability to “choke the Word, making it unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19).

God is not against meeting the needs of His children and even blessing them with abundance. He is however against a condition where money and wealth become the pursuit of one’s life. The Proverbs speak much about this.

Proverbs 8:18

“With me [Wisdom] are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.”

Proverbs 10:22

*The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.*

In Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us not worry about our physical needs, about houses or clothes or food:

Matthew 6:19-34

³¹“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³²For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

SELF AUDIT ON MONEY, WEALTH & WORK

1. What is my attitude to money and riches?
2. Is my love for the Lord more than the love for money, wealth, and comfort?
3. Am I envious of anybody's wealth?
4. Am I anxious about food and clothing (Matthew 6:19-24)?
5. Am I anxious over unmet needs?
6. Am I obedient and faithful in paying my tithes?
7. Do I give over and above the tithe?
8. Do I give with a generous and joyful heart?
9. Do I exercise restraint in my expenditure?
10. Have I cultivated a saving culture or am I primarily a consumer?
11. What is my response to those in genuine need who come to me for help?
12. Am I putting all the resources God has given me to use?
13. Am I guilty of laziness or sloth?
14. Do I make good use of the time God has given me?
15. Am I paying my local and corporate taxes?
16. Am I trusting God's love and faithfulness?
17. Am I paying back money that I have borrowed? (Psalm 37:21)
18. Have I returned possessions that I have borrowed?
19. Am I stealing from anyone?
20. Am I paying wages and salaries of my employees?
21. Am I content at heart or is my heart hankering for more?

1 Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

22. Is there pride in my heart because of my possessions?
23. I am trusting in my wealth as I face current and contemplate future challenges?
24. Am I enjoying the riches God has blest me with in godly ways?
25. Am I doing good with the riches/resources that God has blest me with?
26. Am I doing good works?
27. Am I ready to give and willing to share?
28. Are there any areas where greed is manifest in my life?
29. What are the areas where covetousness manifests in my life?
30. I am investing for the future?

EMPLOYEES

31. What is my attitude to work and labor?
32. I am doing everything as "unto the Lord" or do I see myself as serving my boss?
33. Am I being faithful with my employer's time and resources?

EMPLOYERS

34. Am I paying my employees or am I withholding their wages? Could there be wages crying out against me (Malachi 3:5; James 5:4; Deuteronomy 24:15)
35. I am guilty of taking or giving bribes?
36. Do I remit the correct statutory obligations like PAYE and NSSF?
37. Do I prop up corruption in any way?

TO DO:

- Take stock of your attitudes and practice toward money and wealth.
- Repent and make restitution where you where you need to.
- Make personal, family and corporate commitments to do things God's way.

A PROPHECY GIVEN THROUGH CINDY JACOBS OF GENERALS OF INTERCESSION (BASED IN TEXAS, USA) ON 3RD FEBRUARY 1993

Associated scripture: Isaiah 45:2-3

"I will go before you and level the mountains - to make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut asunder the bars of iron. And I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel who calls you by name.

"There are hidden treasures I have laid up for the end-works I am giving my children. The anointing to uncover these treasures will come as the intercessors pray for me to raise up My Josephs in the Body of Christ. It is the Joseph anointing which will release the wealth of the sinner laid up for the righteous. Cry out for my power to penetrate the businesses of the nations. Stand in the gap against the forces of greed, power, and mammon that blind the leaders who are my Josephs in the economic systems.

I want to do a new thing in the area of finance to fund the revivals I am sending among the nations. I will begin to take over whole companies for Christ when my people in the business world establish prayer cells in their companies and focus on the leaders of the business institutions. This day is not like any other day and I will give new perspective. The poverty spirit will break off the Church with the release of this Joseph anointing.

Also look for the spirit of Daniel to be released into the governmental systems of the nations. It is the Daniels who have the anointing to break into pieces the bars of iron and the gates of brass. For I am preparing those who will have favour to stand in the high places of influence. Beseech me to protect these Daniels from the spirit of Jezebel who tries to rule over those who have been given power over the nations.

There is a new sound of intercession in the land. Do not look back to the old, but let Me give you the new-wine anointing in your prayers for the out pouring of fresh oil upon the Church. I desire the church to be the head and not the tail. So it is with the combined anointings of Joseph to uncover the hidden treasures, and Daniel to open the doors of the nations, that I will fill the earth with my glory until every tongue, tribe and kindred has heard the joyful sound of salvation for their people."

The Family and the Economy/Business Sphere

The English word economy is derived from the Latin word 'oikonomia' which means household. It is related to the financial management of household activities. It can also be translated as stewardship: the management or administration of the property of others.

For centuries family members have worked together in business. The family business is the most frequently encountered ownership business model in the world. There are enduring businesses, passed down from one family generation to another, still running today. The major economic driving force in many countries is the small family run business. Such businesses have a huge impact on national economies. Family businesses (FBs) constitute 80-98% of all businesses in the world, with GDP of over 75%, employing over 75% of the working population and the highest contributor in economic growth in the world.⁴ It is estimated that the total economic impact of family businesses to global GDP is over 70%. Records in the world's leading economy, the USA indicate that about 44% of economic activity is driven by small businesses which create two thirds of all jobs in that country.⁵ 35 percent of the *Fortune 500* companies are family companies.⁶

A family business is actively owned, operated, and managed by two or more members of the family and generates income for the family (household income). Jesus was born into such a family - a carpentry business. So, Jesus grew up in a family where the primary source of income to support the family was the small family business – the carpentry. Jesus experienced all the struggles and challenges of being in and eventually running a small family business. He spent 18 years of his life in the carpentry family business.

Business originated from God. He planned the family business enterprise when he charged Adam and Eve to take care of the Garden of Eden. When He told them to cultivate the earth, He meant to harvest its resources and use them to bring flourishing to others. That is all done in the hands of business owners. Business is work and it involves:

1. The production of goods and services
2. Trading - buying and selling with the aim of making profit
3. The use of institutionalized financial services to enhance enterprise
4. A variety of specialized enterprises, work types, or industries

It is an economic activity designed to provide man with good food, durable raiment and habitation that engender a good life and happiness. It was designed to provide man with goods, wealth and possessions that will enable him live a good life so that he can best fulfill God's purposes for his generation. God's wealth provision plan is tied to His covenant purposes in redemption. The time has come for the Body of Christ to redeem the Economy/Business sphere for the Kingdom of God.

⁴https://www.researchgate.net/publication/372028389_Family_Businesses_in_Uganda_Insights_on_Family_Business_Failure_and_the_Role_of_Organizational_Culture

⁵ <https://georgiasbdc.org/management-problems-in-family-owned-businesses/#:~:text=Nearly%2035%25%20of%20family%20Downed,65%25%20of%20all%20wages%20paid.>

⁶ ibid

SCRIPTURES FOR PRAYER:

Proverbs 27:23-27

Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds,
for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations?

When the grass is gone and the new growth appears
and the vegetation of the mountains is gathered,
the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field.
There will be enough goats' milk for your food,
for the food of your household and maintenance for your girls.

Proverbs 24:27

Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field,
and after that build your house.

Ecclesiastes 11: 1-4

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.

Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

Deuteronomy 8:11-19

“Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.

PRAY

- For strong families that can be the foundation for strong businesses.
- That God will raise leaders who will work with families to increase their household incomes.
- For balanced teaching in the Body of Christ about work, wealth, possessions, and poverty.

- For balanced teaching in the Body of Christ about work, wealth, possessions, and poverty.
- For a new attitude in the Body of Christ towards work, money, and wealth that is in line with the teaching of Scripture.
- The increased manifestation of Kingdom Resource Stewards in our day – men and women that God will trust enough to entrust with His resources for the advancement of His Kingdom in the country and the nations.
- The manifestation of the Josephs and Daniels.