

## SIMPLY LIVING 2 - (WE DON'T OWN ANYTHING!)

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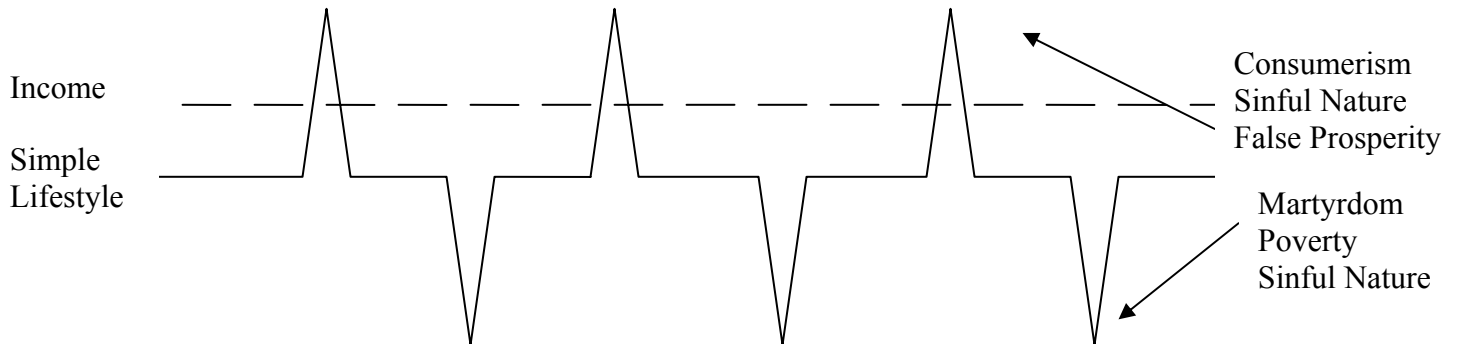
### 1. SIMPLE PRINCIPLE 1 – We don't own anything

There is a strong biblical theme from beginning of scripture to end that God has given us all our resources (job, income, gifts, energy...). We are stewards (house managers – *oikonomos*). And as such are called to be faithful to use what we have under His leading and direction.

- *'So then men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that a steward who is given a trust must be faithful. 1 Cor 4:1-2*

Once we willingly surrender our ownership of everything we have, it makes a life of simplicity far easier!

### 2. SIMPLE PRINCIPLE 2 – All are called to a simple lifestyle



*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. 2 Cor 8:1-5*

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."* Heb 13:5

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*But 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. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. 1 Tim 6:6-9*

*Keep falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal. And so dishonour the name of my God. Prov 30:8-9*

Just because I can afford to buy it/do it/eat it, does not mean I should buy it/do it/eat it
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### **3. SIMPLE PRINCIPLE 3 – I am a steward of God's resources entrusted to me for the good of the community**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your Kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven  
Give us today our daily bread.

*But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' Luke 10:33-35*

*What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. Jam 2:14-17*

*"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? Luke 16:10-11*