

Financial Independence

by Todd Harper

Financial Independence seems to be the unchallenged goal of every affluent American.

Somehow I, as a Christ follower, have adopted this cultural value as my own. In fact, I have spent a tremendous amount of time and energy planning to one day be financially independent. The problem, however, is that I'm not sure this is good for me spiritually.

For me, the more I realize and embrace my dependence on God the better off I am. For example, as a father of five children, I recognize my limitations in raising godly children and embrace my need for God to watch over and shepherd my children. I know that I can't raise them without God's help. Additionally, I know that I can't live the life God has for me in my own strength; I am dependent on Him to live His life through me.

Why, then, do I continue to strive for financial independence? This incongruity dawned on me recently. In every other area of my life I

am seeking to be dependent on God, while financially I'm striving to position myself so that I don't need God. I'm trying to construct a financial bulwark that will survive any storm rather than seeking to be dependent on God to meet our family's needs.



So what does that mean for me practically? I'm not sure I have the answers. I do know that I am attempting to reorient my perspective away from the world's value system and toward God's value system. I am praying for God to "give us this day our daily bread." I am still saving for college for my children and

retirement, but I'm striving to give more and save less, recognizing that my security is not found in financial independence but in absolute dependence on God.

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