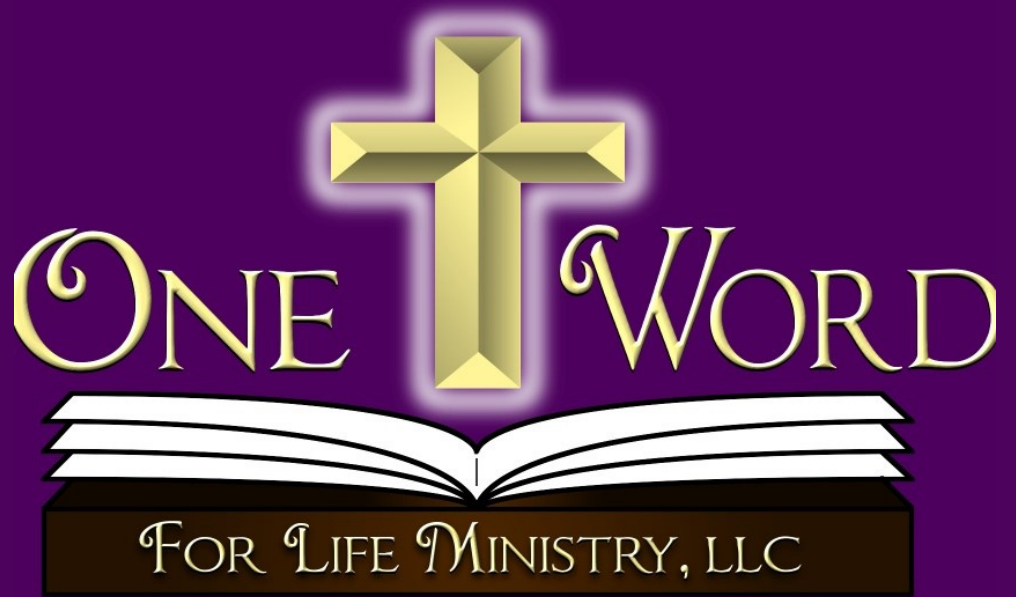


FINANCIAL FREEDOM



IT IS POSSIBLE!!

TONIE MAPSON

WELCOME



I am not a financial guru. Matter of fact, at one point in my life, I did not understand money and admit there is more to learn. When I discharged from the military, I was the owner of twenty-three negative accounts. Some of those accounts went into the land of collections.

Fast forward, I realized living paycheck to paycheck was stressful and knew there had to be a better way.

This e-book is only a small testimony of my journey to debt freedom. I pray that you are inspired and motivated by my journey. These tools may help you on your journey.

One Word for Life Ministry, LLC
www.wordsbymapson.com

INSTAGRAM@oneword4life

FACEBOOK:@onewordforlifeministry,llc



FIRST STEP



TRANSFORM

01



TRANSFORM

forget all you think you know

The first step is to forget everything you think you know about money. We know money is necessary for day to day living but money does not have to rule our lives. My thought was to pay bills (the most important bills), give a small portion to the extra bills (credit cards), and if something was left spend it on myself. Saving was not an option. Save what??!!

"Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think," Romans 12:2, NLT.

Now, I pay tithes, myself, and bills last. I came up with a plan/budget but we will discuss that in a moment. Take some time and think about your relationship with money, then change it.



SECOND STEP



SURROUND

03



SURROUND

find and follow like-minded

The second step is follow and surround yourself with people who have a healthy relationship with money. Do you have family/friends who manage money well? Have a savings account? Contribute to Roth's/Roth IRA's? NO?? Well, find some!!! It is important and vital because it will keep you motivated and provide a support system.

I searched Youtube and Facebook. I spent hours, ok days, watching people testify on decreasing tons of debt. Normal everyday people, single mothers, blue-collar workers, and young adults (20-30's), who are debt free. I found that there is enough information/motivation online to begin a debt-free journey. I also picked up a couple of books and listened to podcasts on money/debt freedom/budgets.

I followed Dave Ramsey, Budgetnista, and Suze Orman to name a few but, I only used information reflective to my situation.



THIRD STEP



SACRIFICE

05



SACRIFICE

some stuff has got to go

This step was difficult. I had to evaluate my life and the stuff I had attached to myself. I realized "things" were not as important as I thought. Cable went out the door, weekly hair appointments gone, bimonthly manicure and pedicures abandoned, and frequent lunch dates with the girls was out. So, look at the way you spend your money. What are some areas adjustments can be made that can save money?

I know it's difficult... but necessary. Remember, you have a goal/plan to debt freedom.

Here is the wake up call. Get a copy of last month's bank statement, write down everything outside of shelter bills (rent, electricity, gas, water), add it all up, then get a tissue to wipe your tears, and get busy!



FOURTH STEP



BUDGET

07



BUDGET

this is the devil...

Ok, so it was not the devil but it is time consuming. Here are the steps I took when I made my budget. I listed tithes, shelter bills, credit cards, car notes, and insurances. After totaling monthly expenses, I divided the amount by the number of paydays for the month.

I separated my account into three accounts (1) bills, (2) personal/play, (3) savings. Each pay day the same amount went into the bill account (I set up auto payments for some of my bills as well), 20% to my personal, and 10% to savings. Basically, I split my check 70%, 20%, 10%= 100%.

This helped me to no longer bounce checks! I never touch the bill account. If there is extra funds in the bill account, DON'T TOUCH!!



FIFTH STEP



SNOWBALL

09



SNOWBALL

make your payments

Remember Rome was not built in a day. This is a process. Depending on the amount of debt you have, this may take years. Do not give up!! You can do this!!

There are several ways to pay off your debt. I like simple. I used the debt snowball method. I listed my credit card debt by smallest to largest. I made an extra payment on the smallest and monthly minimum payments on the remaining accounts. When a paid a card off, I took that monthly payment and added to the next card. Many moons later, I was done but not finished. School loans had to be tackled next, using the same method. The money I paid on the credit cards went to extra school loan payments. I picked up side hustles at this point and everything, EVERYTHING from the side hustles went to school loan debt.... I had school loan debt from 2006, with deferments, minimal payments, and interest you can imagine the debt. I became serious in 2018 and all school loan debt was gone 2020!!!

SIMPLE

You can do it!!!

Did I mention in one season of my life I was a single mother receiving government assistance. I was able to go to technical school and began a path to nursing.

While on this journey to debt freedom, with the help of God, I was able to cash flow two master degree programs.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,"
Philippians 4:13, KJV.

NEW THOUGHTS ON MONEY

WHO TO FOLLOW/SURROUND

WHAT CAN YOU SACRIFICE



5 MOVES TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

If you're like me, you've probably heard the term "financial freedom" and thought, "That's a great concept, but it's not for me. I don't have the money or the time to invest in stocks and bonds, and I don't want to take the risk of losing my money." But what if I told you that you can achieve financial freedom without any of those things? You can, and I'll show you how.

Financial freedom is not a luxury; it's a necessity. It's the ability to live the life you want to live, without being constrained by your current financial situation. It's the freedom to travel, to pursue your passions, and to spend your time with the people you love. It's the freedom to say "no" to a job that doesn't fulfill you, and to say "yes" to a life that does.

TONIE

