

HEART AND TREASURE Newsletter
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God's Entrepreneurs

BJS: *Julian, you come from a family of entrepreneurs. How did it all begin?*

JA: When my dad was a kid, he had to go to church up to 11 times every week, so he acquired some explosives to blow up his church! The police got involved prior to detonation and he left home soon after. He turned away from God, got married at 19, started a small business, and by 25, with two kids in tow, Dad and Mum owned five businesses that they had started from scratch. The stress drove them crazy so they moved to the Bush to live as hippies. During that time, an Adventist man named Harry Walker befriended our family and brought my parents to the Lord. We were all baptized.

BJS: *Your family founded and ran successful businesses in a wide range of industries. However, you retired in your 30's to start a ministry called Faith vs Finance. Tell us about that transition.*

JA: God had blessed us beyond anything we could have imagined. Even though we worked faithfully to use the profits for His glory, I was hectically busy and continuously battling spiritual bankruptcy. I knew that regardless of how much I was doing for God, I didn't have a saving relationship with Him. After fighting the Faith vs. Finance battle for years, I finally completely surrendered to God and found the true freedom that He so graciously provides. We sold the last of 12 businesses in 2007. I was so excited by my new heart that I felt compelled to help others who were still in the battle.

BJS: *You've written a book titled, Help! I've Been Blessed! What is the basic message of your book?*

JA: In *human* terms, it is impossible for us to be financially rich without becoming spiritually bankrupt. When God blesses us materially we should thank Him as we sacrificially share those blessings with others. However, our most common reaction is to center our lives around the gifts instead of the Giver. We get distracted by our career, our assets, our investments and our lifestyle. These are blessings from God but we turn them into curses, eternal curses, by serving them instead of God. We selfishly increase our standard of living instead of our standard of giving. I fought this battle for many years before God gave me the victory. I share my journey, and God's victory, in the book.

BJS: *Can a Christian be rich and truly Christ-like?*

JA: Yes. But as Christ himself said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." In our own power we can't be rich and Christian. But with God all things are possible. Deep, really deep, in my heart I know that the more self-sufficient I become, the less Christ-like I become.

BJS: What are the warning signs that a Christian has begun to worship God's blessings rather than God?

JA: The very first warning sign I experience is that I start to crop or drop my morning devotion time with God. It's like the canary in the coal mine: When I see it happening, I know I need to immediately reprioritize my time. The second is that I see my time, my money, my thoughts, and my energies being refocused onto worldly things. The things of earthly grow strangely. . . bright!

BJS: What do you suggest as a first step for a person who realizes that their lifestyle is damaging their spiritual life?

JA: Have a heart attack! What I mean is that it really comes down to complete surrender. Let God give you a new heart that is no longer attracted and distracted by the things this world offers (see Ezekiel 36:25-27). That doesn't mean wearing an old hessian overcoat and living in poverty. It means that regardless of how God is blessing you, you give it all to Him—your time, talents, treasures, and body temple—and use it all for His glory, not your own.

If anyone wants to chat more with Julian about this topic, feel free to contact him via www.Faith-vs-Finance.org