

**He Got What He Wanted  
But Lost What He Had**  
(Little Richard said this about Elvis)

“Wants vs need” is the most important money lesson we can learn. Many of us have experienced the “Elvis Syndrome” of money. I got the \$400 set of dishes, I got the \$1000 dog, and I got the shopping trip of a lifetime (with the help of my credit cards). Pretty much if I saw it and I wanted it – I got it. That worked for a while, but then real life began to set in and I just about lost all the important things in life because I was busy going after the unimportant things in life.

We are definitely in an economy where we had better be paying attention to exactly where our money is going and how we are spending it. There is no loose cash to be had, we have to make every penny count or we might not be able to pay the electric bill next month.

They say that how you handle your business in the good times, will determine how well you do in the bad. Well, how are you doing right about now? Have you gotten it all and are now scared that you are about to lose it all? Time for a change in spending habits?

Our money as we knew it – no longer exists. Albert Einstein said “You cannot solve a problem with the same mind that created it.” An excessive amount of spending was done by a mind that just wasn’t quite thinking right. Now is the time to calm the whirlwind of money spending. You cannot solve everyone’s problems (loaning them your hard earned money and putting yourself into a bind), you cannot continue to pull out that credit card whenever you see an item that you just have to have (when you had trouble making last months *minimum payment*,) and you can no longer think that this money train is going to last forever. You have to basically erase everything that you thought you knew about money and begin at the very beginning of your financial journey again.

Sit down and begin to organize your finances into a spreadsheet of some kind. The head in the sand approach is not going to work here. It is going to hurt like crazy to see the total amount of debt that you have racked up in your spending frenzy. You are going to be shell shocked at how long it is going to take you to pay it all OFF. I’m talking **debt free**, no bills coming in the mail, paying cash for items that we study and buy on sale (keeping more of our hard-earned money in our pockets).

It doesn’t matter if you’re a rich person like Elvis or a paycheck to paycheck kind of person; you have got to pay attention to the details of your money. What good does it do to acquire all those wants when you are going to lie awake at nights with worry about how to pay for them? Or you get a sick feeling in the pit of your stomach from even thinking about getting the mail or possibly, you’re about to end up in divorce court and now you have to box up your treasures, sell that roomful of furniture for a BIG loss and that fancy schmancy car is being turned back over? I guess they are right – Be careful what you pray for, because you just might get it. By changing my spending habits I now have what I really wanted all along - a calm, logistical, systematic way of handling my money. Try it – I think you’ll like it. Motorcycle Mary