

ENOUGH

Joy through Simplicity and Generosity

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Part 1: *Having Faith in the Midst of Financial Crisis*

**The current economic crisis is
also a crisis of faith.**

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"This is what the LORD says— Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God. ...No, there is no other Rock; I know not one." All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. ...Who shapes a god

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and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. ...The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that

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it may dwell in a shrine. He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. ...It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. Half of the wood he burns in the fire;

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*over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god."
...No one stops to think, no one has the*

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*knowledge or understanding to say,
"Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked
bread over its coals, I roasted meat and
I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing
from what is left? Shall I bow down to a
block of wood?" ...A deluded heart
misleads him; he cannot save himself,
or say, "Is not this thing in my right
hand a lie?"—Isaiah 44:6-20 (NIV)*

- *Credit* comes from the Latin word *credo*, which means, “I believe” or “I trust.”

**Despite the circumstances we need
not fear, for God is our refuge and
strength:**

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So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.—Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

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God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea....—Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)

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"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."—Matthew 6:25, 33 (NIV)

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Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.—1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV)

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- We must not allow ourselves to be controlled by fear, because we have faith in the only One who actually is “too big to fail”.

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The American Dream can become the American Nightmare due to two different yet related illnesses that impact us both financially and spiritually.

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1) Affluenza

- The average American home went from 1,660 square feet in 1973 to 2,400 square feet in 2004.
- Today there is estimated to be almost 2 billion square feet of self-storage space in America.

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2) Credit-itis

- Average credit card debt in America in 1990 was around \$3,000. Today it's over \$9,000.
- The average sale is around 125 % higher if we use a credit card than if we pay cash.

Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.”

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“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”—Matthew 4:8-10 (NLT)

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**Some simple (not necessarily easy)
practical steps:**

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1) Refuse to be manipulated by the voices constantly saying you need more.

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2) Live counter-culturally by living below your means, not above them.

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3) Build into your budget the money to buy with cash instead of credit.

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4) Build into your budget what you need to be able to live generously and faithfully.

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