



5

KEYS

TO GETTING AHEAD

FINANCIALLY



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Introduction

Say goodbye to money related stress! Smart money management and being in control of your finances doesn't happen by chance. It takes vision, willingness, determination and the self-discipline to commit to a plan.

The Plan

Here are **FIVE (5)** simple steps
that can help you get ahead financially.

Key #1 : Build the right mindset

Nothing happens in the physical world until it first happens in your mind and in your heart. Before you can actually see financial success, you have to have the right mindset. You have to truly believe (at a subconscious level) that you are worthy of the success you desire.

Develop some daily habits that can help you get rid of toxic thoughts (prayer, meditation, speaking affirmations, create a vision board, keep a gratitude journal)

Here are some habits you can develop to help you get rid of toxic thoughts:

a. **First thing in the morning, center yourself.**

Pray and/or meditate and speak out loud some positive affirmations over yourself such as: “I am healthy, I am happy, I am loved, I am prosperous, things always work out for me, I am living my best life, etc.”

b. **Visualization.**

See yourself already being where you want to be. Be specific about what you want to achieve. Creating a vision board is a great motivator. Place it in an area where you will see it daily. As Tony Robbins says: “Setting goals is the first step into turning the invisible into the visible”.

c. **Gratitude**

Keep a gratitude journal. There is something powerful that happens when you shift your mind to being extremely grateful for what you already have. It opens up the door to receiving more. I challenge you to do this consistently for 30 days and see how your life changes.

Key #2 : Budgeting

There are several popular budgeting methods, however, the one I personally follow is the 10/10/10/70 method of allocating income:

a. Give away 10%.

Donate it as you see fit but you must give away 10% of what you earn.

b. Save 10%

Pay yourself. Save money no matter what your income is (live beneath your means). Save for emergencies and eventually grow your cash reserves to cover at least six months of living expenses. A simple way to do this is to have the funds go via direct deposit to a different bank account from where you have your primary checking account. You'll never see it, you won't miss it and you'll get used to living without it. This will give you great peace of mind knowing that it's there in case of emergencies.

c. Invest 10%

If your employer is offering a 401(k) match, by all means, take the money! Max out your employer's contribution. Also seek the advice of a qualified and competent financial advisor that can help you understand your investment options. This is critically important for self-employed individuals.

d. Household 70%

This can be further broken down as follows:

• Basic necessities 50%

This is your rent or mortgage, food, gas, electricity, transport, healthcare, etc

• Leisure 20%

Reward yourself! Outside of the basic necessities, you should plan to set aside funds for things such as vacations, entertainment, recreation, restaurants, gifts, , etc.

Key #3: Ramp Up Investments

Now that you have successfully achieved a balanced budget and you have at least six months' savings in your emergency account (one year if you're self-employed), and you have enough put away for your short-term financial goals, it's time to start thinking about investing more aggressively.

You may want to start investing in real estate or learn how to trade stocks or forex. Join a local investment club and speak to a competent advisor that can help you understand your options.

Key #4 : Create an additional stream of income

Get your side hustle on! Earning more money, rather than trying to spend less, is a quicker way to achieve your financial goals.

Turn your side hustle into a thriving business

Owning a business is one of the best tax reduction strategies that exists. Speak to a qualified CPA to implement a strategy to structure your business in a way that maintains compliance while ensuring you pay the lowest amount of tax allowed by law. Keep more of what you earn and start reaping the benefits of owning a business.

Key #5 : Legacy Planning

Set long term goals for your family and begin the process of planning to leave an inheritance to future generations. Your hard work and discipline have paid off so make sure to preserve it for future generations. Meet with a qualified and competent financial advisor that can help you understand your options, purchase the best life insurance you can find for your family and implement a legacy plan for your heirs.

Conclusion

I hope this guide has been helpful in teaching you about building the right mindset and smart money management. Being in control of your finances is a great feeling. If you build the right mindset and keep your budget going, you can progressively achieve bigger goals.

It's important to remember that you don't need to go from zero to sixty overnight. Use this list as a guide and adapt it to your own circumstances. Take small steps in the right direction, set realistic and attainable goals.

Consistently achieve small wins and you will reach your financial goals.