



### **“Managing Financial Freedom”**

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Everyone has heard the story of the woman in Minnesota who hit the Super Powerball Lottery for \$87 million dollars and after two years, she was worse off financially than she was before she won. In fact, this result is quite common with lottery winners. After winning the big one, many lottery winners at first believe they will live their dream, but when the dust settles, they end up living in a personal nightmare.

Why?

Because they were not properly prepared for financial freedom.

I contend that this phenomenon is partial proof that you CAN achieve financial freedom if you follow the path you have set for yourself and you learn to manage your money properly.

So how does the financial failure of lottery winners prove that you can be financially free?

Notice that I used the phrase “partial proof.” In fact, it is not a real proof as mathematics or formal logic would define it, but rather, this phenomenon shows that there is a connection between being financially free and following the path you have set for yourself to become financially free.

Most of these lottery winners were poor before they hit the Powerball, and this is because they did not exercise good money management practices. Their finances were out of control and when finances are out of control, all the money slips away and debt creeps in.

Think of personal money management as a type of machine. Think of it



as a truck on a farm. If you operate the truck properly, keeping up with the maintenance, the truck will do work for you. But if you operate it poorly, it will just break down.

Money management is the same.

Everyone has a personal money management “machine,” and some people maintain their machines better than others do.

Simply put, these lottery winners who end up losing all of their millions have dysfunctional maintenance routines for their personal money management machines, and these routines are plagued by poor habits. When they hit the lottery, all of this money falls in their lap and they do not know how to manage it.

Their machine is inadequate for the task.

It is as if someone gave them an aircraft carrier to manage, a gigantic metal ship that weighs millions of tons—a state-of-the-art war machine, a floating military base.

For these poor lottery winners, all that extra money is plopped in their laps, and they have no experience managing something like that.

Imagine yourself, one moment you are sitting in your old farm truck on a dirt road chewing on a grass blade and trying to figure out how you will pay your taxes next April, when all of a sudden, you are jerked from the cab and dropped into the control tower of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. You are suddenly in charge of a vehicle that takes several hours to make a ninety-degree turn because it is so big, a machine that houses a



thousand military personnel, all of them ready to take orders on an instant's notice.

After a day or so of this, many new captains might just give up, jump over the side, and swim back to Kansas.

In order to avoid ending up like these wayward souls, you need to prepare yourself to attain your goal of financial freedom. The good news is that in order to reach financial freedom, you need to understand what is required to manage and control a much more complicated personal money management machine. You will develop these skills slowly and no one is going to drop you out of the sky into the control tower of a nuclear aircraft carrier; rather, you can educate yourself and learn basic money management skills.