Paying Off Those Bills

by Jackie Abbott

Christmas was so much fun. But, now that the bills are coming in, the fun and glitter is fading quickly. Jackie Abbott sums up this time of year so nicely in this piece she wrote. It might just hit home to many of us.

Are you in debt? Well, from my viewpoint, I think a lot of us are. Some, a little; some, a lot. At this point in time, I am beginning to see daylight at the end of my tunnel.

There can be numerous reasons that we sometimes find our budget stretched to the max. Perhaps the car broke down, or a major plumbing problem caused water damage in your home. Worst of all is the cost of medical bills when there is a major health issue. Been there, done that! (In fact, still paying off one of those hospital bills.)

Saddest of all, I think, is that we sometimes make unwise decisions. Practicality flies through the window and we think we need some "extra" or "luxurious" item that will be used only a handful of times. (But sure looks good when we want to show-off.) Or, we feed a hobby to the point of excess. (I have fallen to that temptation more than once.)

Being human, we all fail to be prudent and practical all the time. It's inevitable that we will slip... thanks to our weaknesses and the temptation that the devil puts in our hearts. He is such a crafty one... and we are vulnerable victims of his evil.

But, guess what? There's a way out of this mess. Remember the true needs. And reflect on the verses from Matthew 6:25-27 when Jesus speaks: ***"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 than food, and body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?"***

We don't need "frills" to make us happy or secure. Be prudent and spend wisely. Plan a budget and work to stick to it as much as possible.

Remember God's portion. While you are struggling to get your head above water, whatever portion you are able to give to God will be returned with His many blessings. Only He knows your needs and your abilities and He will care for you.

And most important, remember Him and His wonderful gift of eternal life to you that cost Him everything. For this we honor Him and give Him our love and our praise. In this way, we pay Him for the debt that we owe Him.