

# Money Move\$ by Faith: *FRIENDS*

## Psalm 1:1-3

### *The Impact of Influence*

- The Weight Gain Effect
  - ▶ If a direct friend gains weight, you are 45% more likely to gain weight.
  - ▶ If a friend of your friend gains weight, your likelihood increases by 20%.
  - ▶ If a friend of a friend of your friend gains weight, your likelihood increases by 10%.
- The Smoke Signal
  - ▶ If a close friend smokes, you are 61% more likely to be a smoker.
  - ▶ If a friend of your friend smokes, your likelihood increases by 29%.
  - ▶ At 3 degrees of separation, your likelihood of smoking still increases by 11%.

1. **WATCH OUT FOR WORLDLY INFLUENCES:** The problem with worldly influences is that it subjects us to a progression of regression—“walking, standing, sitting.” Financially, we progressively regress from hearing worldly advice, to adopting worldly habits, to embracing a worldly financial lifestyle (Psalm 1:1).

### *Two Awful Outcomes of Worldly Influences*

- Comparison – When we engage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century version of “sitting in the seat of mockers,” scrolling on social media, we invite feelings of inadequacy into our lives (Galatians 6:3-4).
- Corruption – You cannot possess a “planted by streams of water” mentality if you consistently hang out in a desert. If your friends constantly pressure you to spend what you do not have, your financial fruit will eventually wither (1 Corinthians 15:33).

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2. **EMBRACE GODLY INFLUENCES:** When our desire is to be “like a tree planted by streams of water,” we subject ourselves to the provisions and blessings of God. Remember, financial stability comes from our divine source of nourishment, not the noise of “the culture (Psalm 1:1-3).”

### *Two Amazing Outcomes of Godly Influences*

- Separation – Be intentional about who you associate with. Instead of planting yourself in deserts, plant yourself next to people who are bearing fruit—mentors, financial advisors and friends who are crushing it by way of faithful financial management (Proverbs 13:20).
- Sharpening – Develop friendships with people who “delight in the law of the Lord.” These are true friends who help hold us accountable to God’s way, not the world’s way of managing the resources that He has entrusted to us (Proverbs 27:17).

3. **CURATE GOD-SENT FINANCIAL CIRCLES:** We have to ask the Lord to lead us by the Holy Spirit in an audit of our relationships for the purpose of ensuring that they are helping us grow and not causing us to wither (Psalm 1:3).

### *Two BIG “To Do’s”*

- √ Learn to say no to excessive expensive outings and spending sprees that prevent us from being truly prosperous (Proverbs 25:28).”
- √ Connect with a Nathan—someone who loves you enough to tell you when you are wrong (2 Samuel 12:1a, 7a).

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