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LEANNESS TO THEIR SOUL

Psalm 106 is a breakdown of Israel's journey from Egypt to the wilderness. It speaks of how God saved them from those that hated them (vs. 10) and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy. Time and time again God intervened on their behalf, yet they continued to desire the things of sin more than the things of God.

Like many of us, they forsook the counsel of God and forgot all the things that God had done for them. They lusted after pagan gods and constantly being warned by prophets about their idolatry. In Psalm 106:15 it says, ***"And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."*** What this means is God let them have what they wanted, but it came at a great cost. Their soul did not retain the knowledge of God. The word leanness comes from the Hebrew root word, *razah* which means "emaciate, thin, famish, wax lean."

In other words, they got what they wanted in the natural, but they were famished spiritually. They were not interested in the things of God anymore. They rejected God and his counsel.

This happens in many lives. They pray for things that are not necessarily bad, but neither are they good for them. Many go into debt for "things" and then are unable to put God first in their lives including their tithes and offerings. They become slaves to what they wanted. It causes bondage rather than freedom and often pushes them away from God.

Years ago, a famous preacher which I choose not to name made a statement that went like this: "God says use things and love people. Man says, love things and use people." When things become more important than God, we can be sure that our souls will become famished. In most cases when we get what we want instead of waiting on God and being content where we are until God brings favor, we go into bondage just like the children of Israel. The things we desire become idols in our lives. We serve them instead of God. Debt is an idol whether you want to believe it or not.

We must learn to be like the Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:11-13 which says, ***"<sup>11</sup>Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. <sup>12</sup>I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."***

Many people take verse 13 totally out of context to say they can do all the things they need or desire to do, including going beyond their means. It does not mean that. It does mean that we can live abased, and we can live in abundance through Christ who will strengthen us in whatever state we are in. Beware of making bad choices that are traps. Don't let leanness come to your soul. Put God first in all things and then wait for him to bring abundance to your soul.