



The Truth About Your Blind Spots (God's Original Design)

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Series Summary:

Part 1: God's Original Design (From Dependence to Independence)

Part 2: Man's Original Fall (It made him dependent)

Part 3: My Personal Testimony: Four Things Life Has Taught Me About Independence

- A. **Dependence is Seasonal (What you depend on now will be gone in the future)**
- B. **Independence demands the right pieces (Master the pieces and you will master independence and self-determination)**
- C. **Cultural religious bias limits our reach (Matthew 23)**

God's Original Design

1. He Wanted to Empower Us (Genesis 1:26-28)

- We were originally designed to be independent people with free-will created in God's **image** (intellect, emotion, and will), with **dominion**, to produce and expand (or be **fruitful** and **multiply**), and to bring order to what was undeveloped (**subdue**).

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our likeness; let them have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply**; fill the earth and **subdue (kabash)** it; have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ([Genesis 1:26–28](#), NKJV)

2. He Wanted to Prepare Us for Independence (Genesis 2:15)

Statement: One blind spot that is often overlooked is the blind spot of dependence. God has a specific design when he created man. He gave him the garden with all the provisions and food he needed. However, his ultimate goal was to lead man to independence in Genesis 2:15,

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.” ([Genesis 2:15](#), NKJV)

Note: Two key words in the text

1. The word “tend (abad)” means to cultivate, work, serve, labor with purpose to till
2. The word “keep: (shamar) means to protect what you produced
 - Man was designed to tend the garden to prepare for his future of independent living. He was given the gift of free choice to decide. He made the wrong choice.

Note: The tools for long-term independence

- “While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.” ([Genesis 8:22](#), NKJV)
- 29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food”; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. ([Genesis 1:29–31](#), NKJV)

Summary: The Rituals and Routines of the World Has Made Many Dependent

A. Average Debt (The Weight People Carry)

- Total average debt per American (including mortgage): ~\$100,000–\$105,000
- Average credit card debt: ~\$6,000–\$7,000
- Average total household debt: ~\$160,000+

Point: Many people are not just working—they’re working under obligation.

B. Emergency Readiness (The Fragility Issue)

- About 37% of Americans cannot cover a \$400 emergency
- When you raise it to \$500, the number is closer to 40–45%
- Nearly 1 out of every 2 people would struggle with a small unexpected expense

C. Cash / Savings (What People Actually Have)

- About 21% of Americans have ZERO emergency savings
- Median emergency savings: ~\$600–\$1,000
- Many households live paycheck to paycheck (roughly 60%+)

Note: People are surviving, not stabilizing.

D. Retirement Reality (The Long-Term Picture)

- Median retirement savings (ages 55–64): ~\$185,000
- Many retirees rely primarily on:
 - Social Security
- Average Social Security benefit: \$1,800/month
- That equals: \$21,600 per year
- Point: That is not wealth; it's maintenance-level living

Closing Thoughts:

- “Debt does not just take your money—it takes your options.”
- “If you can’t handle a \$500 emergency, you’re not free—you’re fragile.”
- “A culture that normalizes debt is a culture that normalizes dependence.”
- “God told Adam to work the ground, not borrow from it.”