

“Emotional Bank Account—Part 3”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Nov. 30, 2024.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued a series with a presentation titled “Emotional Bank Account—Part 3.”

Following are the three subtitles of the first three presentations.

- The subtitle for the first presentation was “Father and Son Make Deposits Into Your Emotional Bank Account.”
- The subtitle for the second presentation was “God Made Positive Withdrawals From Christ’s Emotional Bank Account.”
- The subtitle for the third presentation was “God Makes Positive Withdrawals From Disciples’ Emotional Bank Accounts.”

Deposits are good, withdrawals are bad

The general premise of the emotional bank account is that deposits are good and withdrawals are bad. In human endeavors, that is often true.

Author Stephen Covey wrote about “the Emotional Bank Account” in his book *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. Following are excerpts.

On page 188, Covey wrote: “We all know what a financial bank account is. We make deposits into it and build up a reserve from which we can make withdrawals when we need it. An Emotional Bank Account is a metaphor that describes the amount of trust that’s been built up in a relationship. It’s the feeling of safeness you have with another human being.

“If I make deposits into an Emotional Bank Account with you through courtesy, kindness, honesty, and keeping my commitments to you, I build up a reserve. Your trust toward me becomes higher, and I call upon that trust many times if I need to. I can even make mistakes and that trust level (that emotional reserve) will compensate for it.”

Later in this series

As this series progresses, we are going to focus upon Covey's words to reach the following goals.

- We want to make good deposits into the lives of other people.
- We want to deal with the negative withdrawals that people make toward us.

But before we do that, we want to remember the sovereignty of the Father and the Son (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

Father's deposits to mankind

Here are some quick reminders about the Father's deposits to mankind.

- John 10:1-30
- Romans 8:31-39
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-10

Father's withdrawals from the Son

Here are some quick reminders about the Father's withdrawals from the Son (which were also deposits for Him and for all of mankind).

- Matthew 16:21
- Matthew 26:37-38
- Matthew 27:46
- Hebrews 5:7-8

Positive withdrawals from disciples

Just as the Father made some withdrawals from His Son, He occasionally makes withdrawals from His disciples.

Seek to understand why the Father made specific withdrawals in the lives of the following five people in the Bible.

Withdrawals from Joseph

Notice how the Lord's withdrawals in the life of Joseph were meant to further a greater purpose.

- Genesis 37:18-20—The brothers of Joseph discussed killing him—I am not aware if Joseph knew this at the time or if he became aware of it later, but he probably was aware of their friction toward him.
- Genesis 37:22-24—The brothers of Joseph threw him into a pit.

- Genesis 37:25-28—The brothers of Joseph sold him into slavery.
- Genesis 39:7—The wife of Joseph’s boss made a sexual advance toward Joseph.
- Genesis 39:19-20—Joseph’s boss believed his wife and threw Joseph into prison.
- Genesis 50:20—Joseph told his brothers that God used these events (withdrawals) to further His purpose.

Withdrawals from Moses

Even though the Lord God corrected Moses (a withdrawal) in the following scriptures, the correction was meant to help Moses—who was listed positively throughout the Bible (including in Hebrews 11).

- Deuteronomy 3:23-27—God said “no” to Moses’ request, because He was disappointed (the Bible says “angry”) with a particular behavior.

Withdrawals from David

Even though the Lord God corrected David (a withdrawal) in the following scriptures, the correction was meant to help David—who is listed positively throughout the Bible (including in Acts 13:22).

- 2 Samuel 12:13-14—When David repented of his sins of adultery and murder, he was forgiven, but the Lord informed him that his son would die.
- 2 Samuel 12:15-23—When David pleaded for the life of the child (with fasting), the Lord said “no” to his request.

Withdrawals from Job

Even though the Lord God corrected Job (with several withdrawals) in the following scriptures, the correction was meant to help Job—who exhibited a repentant attitude in the end of the book of Job (Job 42:1-6).

- Job 1:8—God initiated the first trial.
- Job 1:9-11—Satan suggested the details of Job losing his possessions and his children—which was a major withdrawal.
- Job 1:12—God approved Satan’s details, but maintained a hedge around Job.
- Job 2:3—God initiated the second trial.
- Job 2:4-5—Satan suggested the details of Job losing his health—which was another major withdrawal.
- Job 2:6—God approved Satan’s details, but maintained a hedge around Job.

Withdrawals from Paul

Notice how the Lord’s withdrawals in the life of Paul were meant to further a greater purpose. Notice three withdrawals for Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

1. The initial thorn—When the Lord gave Paul a “thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7), it was both a withdrawal and a deposit.
 2. Pleading with the Lord—When Paul went through the action of pleading with the Lord three times to take away the condition (2 Corinthians 12:8), it was both a withdrawal and a deposit.
 3. Accepting the Lord’s response—When the Lord said “no” to Paul (2 Corinthians 12:9-10), this rejection of Paul’s request was both a withdrawal and a deposit—for Paul and for people who read the account).
- Philippians 4:11—Paul recognized his needs, but learned to be content.
 - Philippians 4:12—Paul learned how to be abased and how to abound (how to be full, how to be hungry and how to suffer need).
 - Philippians 4:13—Paul said: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Reminders

As we continue in this series, we are going to talk about the following Christian-living goals.

- We want to make good deposits into the lives of other people.
- We want to deal with the negative withdrawals that people make toward us.