

7 THINGS\$

MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME
ABOUT MONEY

That we all could learn from



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A Dedication to my beautiful mother, Sheryl D. Fleming.



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MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME
ABOUT MONEY

One Sunday I was over my mom's house for dinner as usual, (Lucky guy, I know) and we started reminiscing on some of my childhood memories. Mainly the part where I acted like I had no sense and well, she did what mothers do, "Discipline" me. In the midst of that conversation, it reminded me of some memories that now as an adult, I have a different perspective on. So I want to take this time to reflect on 7 things my mother taught me about money that we all could learn from.



"I'm not saying you can't have the shoes, but this is all that I can give you for them."

I *If you want it, earn it.* Like most kids growing up, I always wanted something. Whether it was a new toy or new pair of shoes. As a single mother, my mom did all that she could to give us everything we needed and some of what we wanted. One year, I got the courage to ask her for a brand new pair of Jordan sneakers when it was time to go shopping for school clothes. If you know anything about Jordan's, you know they are not cheap! My mom always set aside some money to take my sister and I shopping, based on a budget of what she could afford. So her response to me was, ***"I have a certain amount of money for you to spend on shoes, I'm not saying you can't have the shoes, but this is all that I can give you for them."***

So, I had a decision to make. I could get the shoes I wanted, or I could have decided to just get the ones she could afford. I chose to get the Jordan's once I saved up for them.

Lesson Learned: If it's not in your budget, don't buy it; But, if you really want it, earn extra money so that it does not effect your budget. Sometimes it might make sense to find away to generate some extra income just so that you can splurge on certain things that you want. However, it is not ok to frivolously spend money and “blow up” your budget just because you really want it.



“Plan ahead for what you want, to have a successful outcome.”

2 *Plan Ahead.* Going back to the annual school-shopping story, often times my mother would go the stores a month or so in advance and we would pick out our clothes. I was so excited for all my new stuff. Once we picked everything out, she would take us to the back of the store to a section called LAYAWAY. For those of you who do not know what layaway is, it's just like it sounds. You gather all the things you want to buy, place it on hold with the store and come back and pay the difference when you have the rest of the money. At the time I was puzzled when we left the store because we didn't leave with any of the things we picked out.

Lesson Learned: Plan ahead for what you want to have a successful outcome. What I now realize is that my mother was planning ahead. She had a set budget in mind that she knew she would be able to afford by the time school started back. Instead of waiting the weekend before to do all the shopping when it would likely be slim-pickings, she picked out all of our stuff in advance and paid for it when she could afford it.



“If I got grades just half as good as you my mom would buy me whatever I wanted.”

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You don't Get credit for what you're suppose to do. Growing up, like most kids I had my moments where I probably drove my mother up a wall, but for the most part, I would like to think I was a pretty good kid (You'll have to ask her to be sure.) One year I distinctively remember getting really good grades. I was excited to go home and show my mom how I did because when I was on the bus my friend said "man if I got grades just half as good as you my mom would buy me whatever I wanted." In my mind I thought this meant the same would apply for me so I was ready to tell my mom exactly what I wanted. When I showed her my grades, she was indeed proud and even said, "If you did this good, imagine what you could do next time." I somehow mustered up the courage to ask her "what do I get in return for my good grades?" She simply responded; "Son, you don't get credit for what you are suppose to do. Getting good grades is your responsibility." At the time I thought this was the textbook definition of tough love, but now I realize that she taught me something greater.

Lesson Learned: You are responsible for your success, no one else. Often times we want recognition for the things that we are indeed responsible for doing on our own. You don't need to receive an award for making responsible financial decisions, which is what you should be doing anyway! Just because the world around you is settling for less and not making good decisions with their finances, doesn't mean you need notoriety for not doing the same. All the recognition you need will come from the satisfaction and enjoyment that comes from having your finances in order, to live life on your terms.



“Never spend all your money without taking care of your priorities.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

GEORGE N. ACHEAMPONG II

I have been in the financial industry since 2010 but my passion for finance stemmed back long before I realized that this would eventually be my purpose. When I was a child, I would get extra money by helping my uncle wash cars and anything I could think of. Instead of buying toys and candy I actually saved the money I made and believe it or not, I was only in elementary school. I actually remember loaning money to my family members. I knew at the young age of 9 that if you loan out money you should get back more than you gave out, and I even helped my mother buy a microwave when we moved to an apartment and we didn't have one. This mentality has been apart of who I am for awhile now and what God has called called me to do.

So fast forward a little bit and I'm in college interning for Coca Cola, My mom was about to get remarried one summer I was interning and she asked me if I could help them create a budget and a plan for them, as they were about to join their finances together. I didn't have any official expertise in this matter; she just

knew I was always responsible with money. So here I was after a long day working at Coke, staying late putting this plan together for them just based on what I thought was logical and it ended up being something very valuable. I had a friend at the time that was interning with a financial planning company and I asked him what he thought about the plan I created and he said "man this is better than anything I have done or seen, you should consider getting in this industry." I told him no, because I was already satisfied with my work at Coke and would be a manger when I graduated. As fate would have it, right before I graduate, they did away with the department that I am suppose to be hired into so I was out of a job. As I start my search my friend reminds me to take a look at the financial industry, so I interviewed with a few firms, he set me with an interview with his manager and I ended up working there.

After working for a firm for a couple years I realized that this was more than a paycheck, it was a purpose. I wasn't so sure that the way I wanted to approach



finances. I always felt that there was so many people that needed to be helped and they didn't know where to start. Financial advice always seemed to be something reserved for the wealthy; yet those who are just getting started or starting over, need it the most. Most financial advice seemed either too cookie cutter or too complex. It was hard to find practical advice that was still personal enough to get you headed in the right direction. So instead of creating another app that tells you it can invest your money for you, or track your expenses, I wanted to create a platform that provided real advice, created by real experts for real people. No matter how many families, businesses or individuals I try to meet with, there will always only be 24 hours in a day and only one of me. My mission is bigger than me, so I knew that I had to create a platform that would empower people to take charge of their own financial life; with the tools, resources and advice to hold them accountable towards reaching their goals and living the life they always dreamed of.

the business was the same way that they wanted me to. I wanted to help change peoples lives and not just just provide a service to them. After getting my training, licenses and experience, I decided to join forces with a couple of partners and we could start our own firm. One of the first things I did was launch an online learning initiative because what I realized is that the more people became empowered through education; the more confidence they would have to take action on getting their finances in order. The world of finance can seem very complex, so people need simple practice and useful information and tools to help them understand their finances better.

Through my experience working with clients I have seen all types of people from young to old and all different backgrounds, one thing that everyone had in common was the lack of understanding of their

I have been invited to host speaking engagements, radio appearances and workshops to discuss the need of financial planning at all ages. I hope to revolutionize the way people all over the world approach, handle and understand their finances. I want to keep marriages together, keep families happy, break generational curses and help people leave lasting legacies for both themselves and the community. I hope you enjoyed this short E-book and all the other resources you can find on **makescents2me.com**