**THE "RATCHET" PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO FINANCIAL WELLNESS**

**INTRODUCTION - Welcome to Your MINGUS Journey**

Let's be real for a second. You picked up this book because something about your money situation isn't working the way you want it to. Maybe you're tired of having that conversation with yourself at checkout: "You know you shouldn't have paid for everyone's drinks last night..." or "Girl, you really about to buy this when your car payment is due next week?"

I see you. And here's the thing—this isn't another book that's going to talk down to you like you can't do basic math. You already know you have more going out than coming in. **What you need is a system that actually works with your real life, not against it.**

**What This Book Will Actually Do for You**

I have one simple goal: **help you create new habits that increase your awareness of how everything in your life affects how you earn and spend money.** Not just your budget—everything. Your health, your relationships, your stress levels, where you live, how you sleep, who you're dating. All of it connects to your bank account in ways that other financial advice completely ignores.

**Here's my guarantee:** If you give me 5 minutes a day with the strategies in this book and the MINGUS app, you'll transform from someone who's struggling across multiple areas of life into someone who knows exactly how to get back on track when things go sideways.

**This Isn't Just About Budgeting**

Most financial advice treats you like you're just bad at math. That's insulting and unhelpful. We're going deeper because your money problems aren't really money problems—they're life problems that show up in your spending.

**We're going to address:**

**Health**: The leading cause of financial trouble is poor health. You can't build wealth if you're physically and mentally falling apart.

**Mental Peace**: How your relationship with yourself and your inner dialogue drives every money decision you make.

**Relationships**: Your partner, your kids, your family, your friends—they all impact how and where you spend money, whether you realize it or not.

**Future Thinking**: Most people make financial decisions based on how they feel right now. We're going to train you to think about how today's choices affect your future self and the people who depend on you.

**Skills**: The days of one job for life are over. Your ability to solve problems and generate income needs constant attention in today's economy.

**Housing**: Where you live affects everything from your commute costs to your kids' school options to your grocery bills.

**Transportation**: Your ability to get to work, side gigs, and opportunities directly impacts your earning potential.

**Why the "Ratchet" People's Guide?**

Because sometimes you need someone who gets it to tell you the truth without judgment. Sometimes you make choices that aren't perfect. Sometimes you spend money you shouldn't have. Sometimes you're just trying to feel good for a minute in a world that's constantly stressing you out.

**That's human. That's normal. And that's exactly who this book is for.**

We're not here to shame you or pretend like perfect people exist. We're here to help you build a system that works even when you're not perfect, and especially when life gets messy.

**CHAPTER 2: THE MINGUS DIFFERENCE**

Let me tell you why every other financial app and budgeting system has probably failed you, and why MINGUS is different.

Traditional budgeting is like getting a diagnosis without treatment. "Congratulations, you spend more than you make!" Okay... and? That's not helpful. That's just depressing.

**MINGUS doesn't just tell you what you already know—it helps you understand WHY you make the money decisions you make, and more importantly, how to change those patterns.**

**The Problem with Traditional Financial Advice**

Most financial advice assumes you're a robot who makes purely logical decisions. But real life doesn't work that way. You don't spend $40 on DoorDash because you can't do math. You spend it because:

* You had a stressful day at work
* Your relationship is going through something
* You're exhausted and don't want to cook
* You feel like you "deserve" something nice
* You're avoiding dealing with something else

**Traditional budgeting ignores all of this context.** It's like trying to lose weight by only counting calories while ignoring stress, sleep, emotions, and everything else that drives your eating habits.

**How MINGUS Actually Works**

Instead of just tracking money in and money out, MINGUS tracks the connection between your life and your spending. We ask questions like:

* How did you sleep last night? (Poor sleep leads to poor financial decisions)
* How stressed are you feeling today? (Stress spending is real and expensive)
* How are your relationships going? (Relationship problems cost money)
* When was the last time you moved your body? (Physical health affects financial health)
* What's your energy level? (Low energy leads to expensive convenience choices)

**Then we show you the patterns.** You'll start to see that the weeks you skip working out are the same weeks you overspend on food. You'll notice that the days you don't check in with yourself mentally are the days you make impulse purchases you regret.

**Why This Method Works: My Story**

I developed this approach because I went through a period where everything I thought I could depend on disappeared. I was the only child responsible for taking care of my aging mother and grandmother while trying to build my own financial future. Traditional budgeting wasn't cutting it because my money problems weren't just about money—they were about stress, family obligations, health scares, and trying to figure out how to plan for a future that felt uncertain.

**That experience taught me that you can't separate your financial life from the rest of your life.** They're all connected. Your health affects your earning potential. Your relationships affect your spending patterns. Your living situation affects your stress levels, which affects your decision-making, which affects your money.

Once I started tracking these connections, everything changed. Not overnight, but consistently and permanently.

**The Five Pillars of the MINGUS Method**

**1. Health Foundation (Physical and Mental)** Your body and mind are your most important financial assets. When they're not working properly, everything else gets more expensive.

**2. Relationship Intelligence (Daily and Family)** The people in your life—coworkers, friends, romantic partners, family—all influence your financial decisions. Understanding these dynamics helps you make better choices.

**3. Housing Strategy** Where you live drives stress levels, commute costs, food access, safety, and opportunities. Getting this right affects everything else.

**4. Spiritual Foundation** Your life philosophy and what keeps you going during tough times. This isn't about religion necessarily—it's about having something bigger than yourself to lean on when making difficult decisions.

**5. Future Thinking** Most people make decisions based on how they feel right now. We train you to consider how today's choices affect your future self and the people who depend on you.

**A Real Example: How It All Connects**

Let's say you're having a rough week. Your relationship is stressful, you're not sleeping well, you skipped your workout three days in a row, and you're behind on a project at work.

**Traditional budgeting says:** "Just stick to your budget."

**MINGUS says:** "Let's address why you're in this pattern and how it's affecting your money."

Here's what we might discover:

* **Poor sleep** is affecting your focus at work, making you feel behind and stressed
* **Relationship stress** is making you want to avoid going home, so you're eating out more
* **Skipping workouts** is reducing your energy and mood, leading to more convenience spending
* **Work stress** is making you feel like you "deserve" stress purchases

Instead of just telling you to spend less, we help you see that addressing the sleep issue, having one honest conversation about the relationship, and doing a 20-minute workout might actually solve the spending problem more effectively than any budget.

**That's the MINGUS difference.**

**How the App Makes This Practical**

The MINGUS app doesn't just track your money—it tracks your life and shows you how it all connects:

* **Daily check-ins** that take 2 minutes and help you see patterns
* **Spending alerts** that ask "What's really going on?" before you make purchases
* **Future impact** calculations that show how today's choice affects your goals
* **Pattern recognition** that helps you identify your personal triggers
* **Celebration system** that acknowledges your wins, not just your mistakes

**Why This Matters More Now Than Ever**

The world is changing in ways that make financial awareness more critical than ever. The safety nets previous generations counted on are disappearing. **Your financial security is increasingly dependent on your ability to make good decisions consistently over time.**

This isn't about perfection—it's about awareness and improvement. When you understand why you make the money choices you make, you can start making different choices. And when those different choices compound over time, your entire financial picture transforms.

**CHAPTER 3: BE FAITH FILLED - Developing Your Inner Foundation (Enhanced)**

The number one thing you need to understand about building real wealth is this: **you need something bigger than yourself to lean on.** Whether you call it God, the Universe, your higher power, or your deepest values—you need a spiritual foundation that's stronger than your fears, stronger than your immediate desires, and stronger than the pressure to make decisions based on how you feel right now.

I'm not trying to convert you to anything, and I'm not claiming to be a preacher. But what I know for certain is that every person I've seen make significant, lasting financial progress has had some kind of spiritual grounding that helped them make decisions based on their long-term vision rather than their immediate emotions.

**Why Most People Struggle Without This Foundation**

Here's what happens when you try to build wealth without spiritual grounding: **every decision becomes a negotiation with yourself.**

* "Should I invest this money or go on this trip?"
* "Should I pick up extra hours or spend time with family?"
* "Should I buy this thing I want or stick to my savings goal?"

Without a deeper foundation, these decisions become exhausting. You're constantly weighing short-term pleasure against long-term benefit, and honestly, short-term pleasure wins a lot of the time because it's easier and more immediate.

**But when you have a spiritual foundation, these decisions become clearer.** Instead of negotiating with yourself, you're following principles that you've already committed to. Instead of relying on willpower, you're relying on wisdom.

**The Power of Constant Communication**

Recently, I heard comedian Katt Williams talk about his relationship with God in an interview. Despite what people might think about his lifestyle, he was very clear about one thing: **his success, his ability to bounce back from setbacks, and his capacity to help others all came from maintaining constant communication with God.**

The biggest insight from that conversation was this: **when you have that spiritual connection, you don't have to depend entirely on yourself.** You're not carrying all the pressure alone. You're following guidance that's bigger than your own limited perspective.

This isn't about being perfect or religious—it's about having access to wisdom that goes beyond what you can figure out on your own.

**My Personal Example: The MINGUS Journey**

Let me tell you about how this worked in my own life. I started working on MINGUS almost eight years ago. In those eight years, I stopped and started dozens of times. I had moments where I thought it would never work, where I almost gave up completely.

But I kept praying about it: "I know this idea came from somewhere bigger than me. Just show me what I need to do to make it happen."

**Here's the crazy part**: in this past year alone, using technology that finally caught up to the vision, I built in weeks what had taken me months before. The pieces that seemed impossible suddenly became clear. The timing that seemed wrong suddenly became perfect.

That's what happens when you align your efforts with something bigger than yourself. You stop trying to force things to happen on your timeline and start working with timing that makes sense from a bigger perspective.

**Your Values: Your Financial GPS**

One of the most practical applications of spiritual grounding is developing clear values that guide your money decisions. These values become like a GPS for your financial life—they keep you pointed in the right direction even when the path gets confusing.

**Your values should influence:**

* How you spend your time
* Who you spend your time with
* What you spend your money on
* How you think about risk and opportunity
* What you're willing to sacrifice for and what you're not

**Here's the key**: your values have to be bigger than your immediate desires. If your value is "I want to take care of my family long-term," that's bigger than "I want this thing right now." When those two desires conflict, your values help you make the decision that serves your bigger purpose.

**When Logic Doesn't Make Sense**

One of the most important things you'll learn as you develop spiritual grounding is that **the logical choice isn't always the right choice.**

There will be times when your spiritual guidance tells you to take a risk that doesn't make sense on paper. Times when you need to turn down an opportunity that looks good but doesn't feel right. Times when you need to invest in something (your education, your health, your relationships) even though it strains your budget in the short term.

**The ability to act on faith-based guidance, even when it conflicts with conventional logic, often makes the difference between staying stuck and breaking through to the next level.**

My personal example: In college, I struggled terribly with computer science. I failed classes, got terrible grades, and wanted to quit multiple times. Logic said "find something easier." But something kept telling me to push through.

That struggle with technology, which felt like failure at the time, became the foundation for everything that followed—graduate school, better career opportunities, and ultimately the ability to build MINGUS. The thing I thought was going to destroy my future actually created it.

**Overcoming the "I'm Not Worthy" Obstacle**

One of the biggest barriers to spiritual and financial growth is thinking too small about yourself. **You start believing you don't deserve good things because you're not perfect.**

Here's what gets lost: look at the stories in any spiritual tradition. Moses had a speech impediment. David committed adultery and murder. Paul persecuted Christians before becoming one. These weren't perfect people—they were flawed humans who learned to follow guidance bigger than themselves.

**The requirement isn't perfection—it's obedience to your calling and willingness to take one step at a time.**

When you really understand this, everything changes. You stop waiting to be "good enough" and start taking action based on the vision you've been given. You stop comparing yourself to some impossible standard and start focusing on the next right step.

**Preparing for an Uncertain Future**

The world is changing rapidly, and many of the safety nets previous generations counted on won't be there for you. Social Security might not exist. Employer pensions are already mostly gone. Healthcare costs keep rising.

**This means your spiritual foundation isn't just nice to have—it's essential for survival.** When you can't depend on institutions to take care of you, you need to be able to depend on guidance that helps you navigate uncertainty with wisdom instead of panic.

**How MINGUS Supports Your Spiritual Foundation**

The MINGUS app helps you develop long-term thinking that supports your spiritual values:

* **Important dates tracking**: You can see how today's choices affect your future goals (that family vacation, your kid's college, caring for aging parents)
* **Values-based spending**: The app helps you see whether your money is flowing toward your stated priorities
* **Pattern recognition**: You can identify when you're making decisions based on emotion vs. when you're following your deeper values
* **Future impact visualization**: You can see the long-term consequences of your choices, which helps you make decisions aligned with your spiritual guidance rather than your immediate desires

**The Daily Practice**

Developing spiritual grounding isn't about having dramatic religious experiences—it's about building a daily practice that keeps you connected to something bigger than yourself.

**This might look like:**

* 15-20 minutes of prayer, meditation, or reading spiritual texts each morning
* Asking yourself "Does this align with my values?" before major financial decisions
* Taking time to be grateful for what you already have
* Seeking guidance when you're feeling confused or overwhelmed
* Connecting with others who share your spiritual values

**The goal is constant communication with whatever you believe is bigger than yourself, so you're not making all your decisions from a place of fear, ego, or immediate gratification.**

**Action Steps: Implementing Faith-Filled Financial Planning**

**1. Establish Your Spiritual Foundation**

* **Daily Practice**: Set aside 15-20 minutes each morning for prayer, meditation, or reading spiritual texts
* **Decision Framework**: Before any major financial decision, ask yourself: "Does this align with my spiritual values?"
* **Communication**: Maintain constant dialogue with your higher power about your financial goals and challenges

**2. Define Your Core Values**

* **Values Assessment**: Write down your top 5 values and how they should influence your money decisions
* **Alignment Check**: Review your last month's spending—does it reflect your stated values?
* **Regular Review**: Reassess your values quarterly to ensure they still guide your decisions

**3. Overcome Worthiness Obstacles**

* **Daily Affirmation**: Remind yourself: "I am worthy of financial success because I was created for a purpose"
* **Perfection Release**: When you make financial mistakes, practice forgiveness and focus on the next right step
* **Study Imperfect Examples**: Read stories of flawed people who achieved great things (biblical figures, historical leaders, successful people who overcame failure)

**4. Use MINGUS for Long-Term Vision**

* **Important Dates**: Input all significant future financial needs (family trips, education costs, care for aging parents)
* **Progress Tracking**: Check weekly how your current decisions impact your future goals
* **Value Alignment**: Use the app's spending categories to ensure your money flows toward your stated priorities

**5. Prepare for the Changing World**

* **Self-Reliance Planning**: Assume less governmental/institutional support and plan accordingly
* **Skill Development**: Invest in abilities that will make you more valuable and self-sufficient
* **Community Building**: Strengthen relationships with like-minded, spiritually grounded people who share your values

**6. Practice Faith-Based Decision Making**

* **Pause Before Purchasing**: Take 24 hours before any purchase over $100 to check if it aligns with your values
* **Seek Guidance**: When facing difficult financial decisions, spend time in prayer or meditation before acting
* **Trust the Process**: When spiritual guidance conflicts with conventional logic, consider following your spiritual guidance

**Questions to Ask Yourself: Chapter 3 - Be Faith Filled**

**1. Do Your Money Decisions Reflect Your Spiritual Foundation?**

Look at your last 10 purchases over $150. Before each one, did you pray about it, consider how it aligned with your values, or ask for wisdom? What does this pattern tell you about whether your faith truly guides your financial choices?

**2. Can You Identify Your Values-Spending Gap?**

Write down your top 5 spiritual/life values, then review your bank statement from last month. What percentage of your discretionary spending actually supported these values versus went to things that conflicted with them or were just mindless purchases?

**3. Have You Been Making Yourself Too Small?**

Think about a financial goal or opportunity you've avoided pursuing. What story have you been telling yourself about why you don't deserve it or aren't capable of achieving it? How might this limiting belief be keeping you from fulfilling your purpose?

**4. Do You Have Constant Communication or Sporadic Prayer?**

When was the last time you specifically asked for guidance about a money decision and then waited for an answer before acting? How often do you include your financial life in your regular spiritual practice?

**5. Are You Planning for Independence or Dependence?**

Given that safety nets may not exist in 20 years, what specific skills, relationships, or financial reserves are you building now? What would need to change in your current spending and saving if you knew you'd have to care for aging parents while supporting your own family?

**6. Can You Accept Imperfect Obedience Over Perfect Planning?**

Describe a time when logic told you not to take a financial step, but your spiritual guidance said to move forward anyway. What happened? If you've never taken such a step, what might be holding you back from acting on faith-based financial guidance?

**7. Does Your Money Flow Toward Your Calling?**

If someone analyzed your spending patterns without knowing you personally, would they be able to identify your spiritual values and life purpose? What would your bank statement say about what you truly believe matters most in life?