

# *Living a Stewardship Lifestyle*



“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God”  
(Colossians 1:10).

Our stewardship is the expression of our faith as we manage our lives and resources for God’s purposes. It is the wise management of who we are and all that we have. God has chosen us as His stewards and grants us the wonderful privilege to serve Him. He also equips and empowers us for service. As He molds and transforms us into His stewards, we acknowledge that everything in this life is a sacred trust from Him. God is the source and owner of all things. He allows us to use His creation and intends it for our good.

Our stewardship is seen in our deeds and actions. Our acts of stewardship become more Christ-like as our relationship with Jesus grows. Out of love and gratitude for our Savior Who has redeemed us, we are eager to perform our stewardship activities. Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we become faithful stewards who respond willingly and joyfully to God’s love, goodness, and mercy. Through faith, we are empowered to do as God directs us in 1 Peter 4:10: *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

## **Total Commitment**

Our lives as stewards do not start or stop at certain times of the day or days of the week or month. We are not stewards merely on Sundays or other special days. As stewards for Christ, we are to be devoted to full-time effort and commitment to serve the Lord with our lives and possessions. Stewardship involves our entire beings, our entire time, and our entire resources. Christian stewardship includes both attitudes and actions. We are to commit all that we are, all that we have, and all that we will be to God's glory. By His grace, God promises that He will “. . . equip [us] with everything good for doing His will” (Hebrews 13:21).

As God's stewards, we acknowledge and accept His absolute authority. “*You shall have no other gods before Me*” (Exodus 20:3). We understand that our time, talents, and money are to be used for God's purposes. Realizing our position and purpose in life gives us a new perspective. We live as grateful people who have a deep sense that all of life is a gift.

## **Devotion to God**

Our careers, hobbies, and money are important but not worthy of our devotion. God alone deserves our whole-hearted devotion. David exhorted his son Solomon to “*serve [the Lord] with wholehearted devotion*” (1 Chronicles 28:9); we are to have that same devotion. Our devotion to God is illustrated by the lifestyles that we lead as we steward our days in faithful service to Him.

Devotion can be expressed at every level and in every activity of life. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*” (1 Corinthians 10:31). As God's stewards, we need to remember that even our most mundane tasks can be dedicated to God.

## **A Lifestyle of Giving**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church of Corinth: “. . . see that you also excel in the grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). God's will for us is not only that we should be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), but also that we should be sanctified—live a faithful Christian life (Ephesians 4:1). In Christ, we can stop putting our self-interests first and seek to be giving and sharing people. We give because we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. In faith, we want to give generously and cheerfully.

## **A Lifestyle of Serving**

As our Chief Steward, Jesus gave us a perfect model of service to emulate. He faithfully served His Heavenly Father and all people. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve (Matthew 20:28). Jesus calls us into servanthood not just because others need our service but because of what He wants to do in and for us through our serving. In serving others, God blesses those who serve as well as those who are served.

## **A Lifestyle of Walking Humbly with God**

Micah 6:8 states, “*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*” God's unconditional love for us which “*sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins*” (1 John 4:10) becomes our best encouragement to walk humbly with God in obedience born of love and our motivation to live a stewardship lifestyle.

## **A Lifestyle of Healthful Living**

Since our bodies, too, are trusts from God, instruments for glorifying and serving Him, we must take care of our bodies. We are good stewards of our bodies when we get the proper rest, eat the right foods, and exercise. With proper care of our bodies, we increase our usefulness to the Lord.

In Romans 12:1 Paul wrote, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.”* In speaking to the Corinthian Christians Paul wrote, *“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body”* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul considered our bodies a trust to be used for Jesus.

*Go and Live a Stewardship Lifestyle!*

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