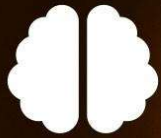


# BIBLE STUDY





# GIVING & STEWARDSHIP



Giving is a facet of a larger subject called stewardship. According to James 1:17, God owns everything because He is the Creator, Maker and Giver of all things – so when we give, we are merely giving back a portion of what belongs to God anyway.

Our stewardship towards God includes everything that we have been given and how we use them on behalf of the Lord and for the Lord's work. We are stewards of the abilities, spiritual gifts, knowledge, money, in fact everything that we have been given comes from one source.

# Apostle Paul's Points/Principles

(2 Corinthians 8:1-15/ 9:6-14)

- ❖ Poverty is not an excuse not to give;
- ❖ What you sow you will reap; if you sow bountifully, you will reap bountifully (but the inverse is also true)
- ❖ God loves a cheerful giver; it should be done with a cheerful attitude
- ❖ Giving is an opportunity to be sought and chased after (2 Cor 8:3-4)
- ❖ God will supply the giver's needs (2 Cor 9:8-11)
- ❖ Give yourself first to the Lord
- ❖ Giving is proof of your love of God
- ❖ Giving is a form of worship (2 Cor 9:12)
- ❖ Christ is the example of a great giver
- ❖ Be willing to make a pledge and more willing to fulfil it if God provides
- ❖ Give willingly; our willingness makes it acceptable to God, however, if we give grudgingly, it may help the one who receives it, but it does not put the giver in good standing before the Lord
- ❖ Do not give to the point of poverty but to the point of equality (2 Cor 8:13-15)



# Are You A Good Steward?

Every Christian has been given a responsibility (the stewardship) by God to look after the things of this earth and ensure that it is used to give glory to His name. A father is the overseer of his family, the church worship leader answers to God regarding his ministry, the pastor is the steward of the Gospel, a student is accountable to God to study diligently, a business owner must deal honestly as he/she represents God, and the list goes on. Every Christian is a steward of God.

Stewardship comes from the Greek word oikonomos which refers to someone who manages a household.

To be clear, stewardship is not all about money. Whether or not you have a bank account, manage your family's finances, or run a million-dollar business, we are all a steward of whatever we have in our hands right now.

We are answerable to God for how we “manage” our life on earth and everything in it. **THIS IS STEWARDHIP** – your time and treasures, your skills, church ministry, your profession, the role you play in your family, and ultimately, your entire life.

# Group Stewardship Quiz

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1. Do you fully understand the essential truth that everything we have belongs to God?
2. Do we generally refer to the things around us as “mine”: my life, my money, my car, my time?
3. Do we put God first with our time, effort, and money?
4. Do we live with integrity?
5. Do we practice self-control?
6. Are we engaged in any form of service to others?
7. Do we often worry about our family’s finances or our children’s needs?

*C.S. Lewis – “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life Exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.”*

# Do you fully understand the essential truth that everything we have belongs to God?

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If so, then we need to seek God's guidance before every decision you make, whether we're just making weekend plans or making a big business investment.





Do we generally refer to the things around us as “mine”: my life, my money, my car, my time?

Nothing on earth is ours; everything is entrusted to us by God. But it is so easy for many Christians to refer to their existence and say, “This is my life.” We might want to re-think that!





Do we put God first with our time, effort, and money?

If so, then God should receive our quality time, our diligent work/effort and the first-fruits of our labor. This is a good steward's response to God's goodness.





# Do we live with integrity?

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God has entrusted us with so many blessings and He requires that we manage them with integrity. As the Bible says, “whoever can be trusted with little can be trusted with much.”

**Integrity**  
is choosing your  
thoughts and actions  
based on values rather  
than personal gain.



# Do we practice self-control?

If so, when was the last time we used our credit card, was it for an urgent need? Remember a good steward understands the difference between his needs and his desires.





# Are we engaged in any form of service to others?

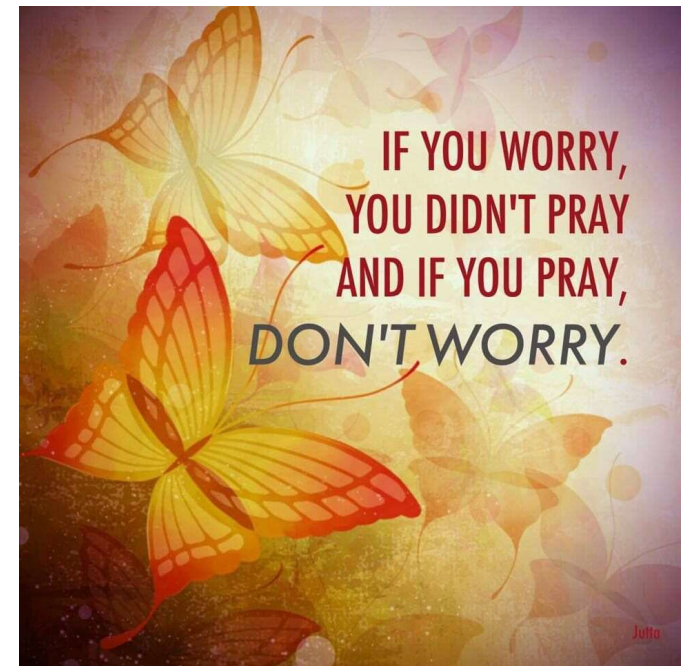
As God's stewards we must follow His example of servanthood. God desires that we use our life and resources to reach out to others and be a blessing.



# Do we often worry about our family's finances or our children's needs?

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Why worry when all these are God's? Once you fully realize this truth, then there's no reason to worry about not having enough money to pay the bills, or that your children will not be provided for... even they belong to God.



# The Truth about Tithing

2 Corinthians 9: 6 – 8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in All things at All times, having All that you need, you will abound in every good work.

# What Tithing Does to You

## Accountability

taking responsibility for one's own actions and making a conscious choice of allowing God and others to help in accomplishing what is right

## Discipline

practices that by design can lead to life transformation

## Honesty

means choosing not to lie, steal, cheat, or deceive in any way

## Diligence

careful and persistent work or effort

## Faithfulness

the fact or quality of being true to one's word or commitments, as to what one has pledged to do, professes to believe

## Trustworthiness

credibility, dependability, transferability, and confirmability

*Basic Biblical Principles About*

**GIVING**

# Stewardship (The Water Parable)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joiSgXzP-ik>



# Giving is a measure of one's love for God:

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Matthew 6:19-21 teaches that the believer should lay up treasures in heaven, for where one's treasure is, there your heart is also. If we lay up treasure in heaven, our heart will be on heavenly things. Further, 1 Timothy 6:17-18 says that the rich should have their hope set on God and be ready to give out of their wealth. Believers must remember our hope is not wealth, but on the Lord God. According to 1 John 3:17, if one does not give, then the question is, "Does the love of God abide in that person?"

# Giving as an expression of one's faith:

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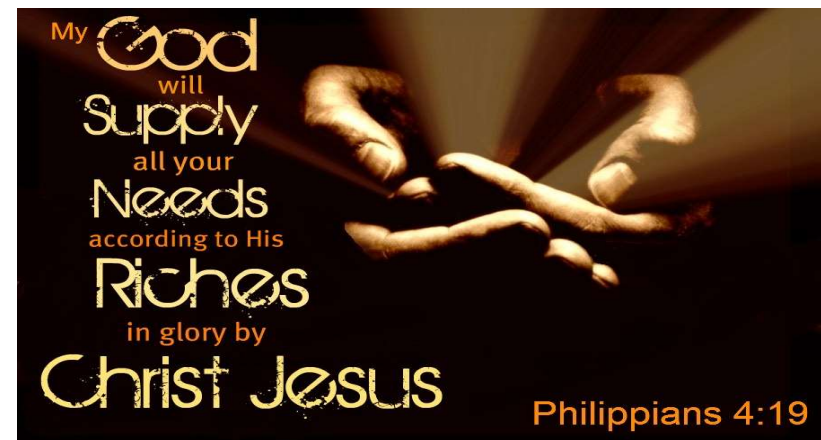
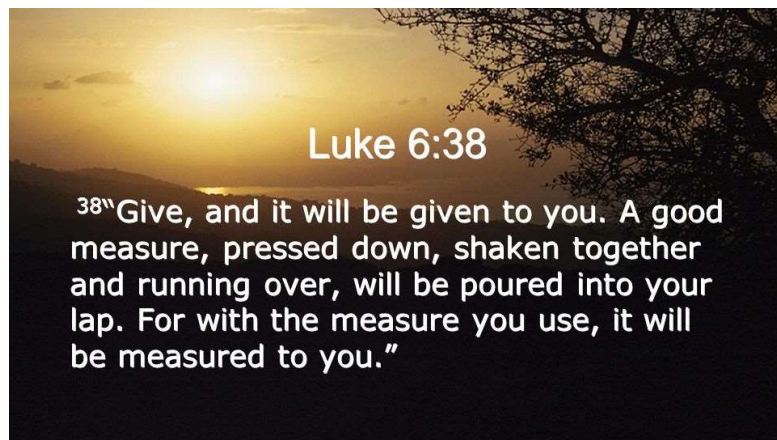
James 2:15-17 teaches that the believer's faith becomes useful when it is expressed through works. The work of the giving therefore shows one's faith. The believer is not saved by works but shows his or her faith through their works.

If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?  
So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.  
James 2:15-17

# Giving more results in receiving more:

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This is not a license for the name-it-and-grab-it movement, but simply to say that the believer can never out-give God. This is a promise from God: Give and it shall be given unto you (Luke 6:38). Further, Philippians 4:15-19 teaches that God will supply all our needs (not 'wants').



# Giving should be done in secret:

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Matthew 6:1-4 states that giving should be done in secret, not for show. Keep your giving between you and God.

Matthew 6:1-4 New International Version (NIV)

## Giving to the Needy

“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

# Giving produces a willingness to work:

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We should be willing to work in order to be able to give more. (Acts 20:33-35).

**Acts 20:33-35** <sup>33</sup>“I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothes. <sup>34</sup>“You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my *own* needs and to the men who were with me. <sup>35</sup>“In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”



# When is Giving Improper

If it is done with ulterior motives

To impress people

- Matthew 6:2

To receive something in return

- Luke 14:12-14

To try to buy salvation

- Psalm 49:6-7

# Giving is an Act of Worship

- Give cheerfully as an act of sacrifice and an act of worship
- We should give sacrificially as we feel led by God; allow Him to use our giving to bring about a great harvest in the lives of others and in His church
- Giving is not one of box-checking and obligations, it's a daily lifestyle of kindness and generosity flowing from the Spirit which dwells within us
- If we simply give an obligatory dollar amount on Sundays, then live ungrateful lives on Mondays through Saturday because we have 'met our obligations' we have missed the point of giving entirely...God deserves all we are, not just a dollar amount once a week
- We give because sometimes we will know what it is like to be in dire need and receive graciously from others, and it is an unspeakable joy to give as has been so generously given to us