

Biblical Stewardship Principles

1. God is the giver of all that we have. What we possess is not earned but is a gift from God.

Moses said to the people of Israel in the wilderness, before they went into the land of milk and honey,

“Do not become proud at that time and forget the Lord your God, who rescued you from slavery in the land of Egypt. Do not forget that he led you through the great and terrifying wilderness with poisonous snakes and scorpions, where it was so hot and dry. He gave you water from the rock! He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you for your own good. He did it so you would never think that it was your own strength and energy that made you wealthy. Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you power to become rich.” Deuteronomy 8:12-18

2. We are accountable to God for what we do with what he has given to us. We are managers, not owners.

In the parable of the talents:

After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. (To two of the servants he said,) ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together! (But to the third he said,) You wicked and lazy servant! . . . Take the money from this servant and give it to the one with the ten bags of gold. Matthew 25:14-30

3. One aspect of being a trustworthy steward is giving. Our decisions about possessions are spiritual decisions. Giving brings us closer to God.

Jesus said, *“So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. “Sell what you have and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven have no holes in them. Your treasure will be safe—no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be. Luke 12:32-34*

4. As we give, we are called to tithe, to return 10% of what he gives us.

A tenth [literally, “tithe”] of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy. Leviticus 27:30

Jesus said, *But how terrible it will be for you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest part of your income, but you completely forget about justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but you should not leave undone the more important things. Luke 11:42*

5. The motive for giving to God is thankfulness. God wants us to give with joy.

What can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me? I will offer you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. Psalm 116:12, 17

You must each make up your own mind as to how much you should give. Don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves the person who gives cheerfully. 2 Corinthians 9:7

6. God calls us to give so that we might experience the quality of life that he wants for us.

Moses said, *Be careful to obey all my commands so that all will go well with you and your children, because you will be doing what pleases the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 12:28*

7. After we know why we give, then we can focus on the ones who receive what we give to the Lord.

Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God. So two good things will happen—the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanksgiving to God. You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts. For your generosity to them will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the wonderful grace of God shown through you. 2 Corinthians 9:11-14