

YOUR LIFE AND STEWARDSHIP

1 Peter 4:10 ... "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Stewardship is defined in the Bible as how you care for the resources that God entrusts to you. To understand this, we must first accept the Bible's teaching that all of creation, including man, is the created property of God. We belong to God, that includes believers AND unbelievers. Even atheists belong to God because he made them. Second, we must accept that God created each of us for a specific purpose. He did not push a button on a man-making machine to produce several billion identical people. Each person who was ever born is a unique creation of God to accomplish something for God's kingdom. However, we were also created with a free will; we can choose to honor our creator and serve him as he designed, or not.

So, with the understanding that we belong to God and were created to serve him, we then consider the talents he gives us. If you were given a musical talent, God intends for you to serve him musically. If you were given a talent to lead others, to build, write, or teach, God expects you to honor him by using those talents for his glory. If God blessed you with wealth, he expects you to use your resources to further the gospel. If God gave you good health and a strong body, he desires for you to serve him with that healthy body. But, if God gave you a disability that confines you to a wheelchair or even bed, he still expects you to serve him with the other talents and abilities you have. Nothing escapes God's knowledge when he creates us. He does not make mistakes. Each person is given a responsibility to serve God according to his or her abilities.

In our previous devotional we spoke about borrowing and lending. At the moment of your birth, God loaned you certain abilities. Your mind, your God-given talents, and your time all belong to God, but are placed in your care as long as you live. God entrusted you with certain abilities and resources for the sole purpose of serving and pleasing him. You are a steward of the life and assets God has placed in your care. What you do with those assets, determines if you will please God or not. Your life is loaned to you. Every breath you take is borrowed from God. Every talent or skill you possess, is on loan from God for the purpose of glorifying him. If you squander your assets on an ungodly lifestyle, if you hoard your blessings without sharing, or if you waste your time on things that do not help others, you are robbing God.

It is easy to get caught up in the excitement of life and forget your obligations. You might even thank God for giving you the talent to sing, while using that gift to sing songs that are offensive to God and do not honor him. You might thank God for a healthy body that you use for immoral purposes. You might consider the money God placed in your care, useful for buying cars and other toys that are not necessary. Please study your lifestyle and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal if you are misusing the blessings and gifts God has given to you.

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