

Stewardship and Tithing

New Member Orientation
St. James Missionary Baptist Church
Austin, Texas



Stewardship– Definition

- ◉ The responsible planning and management of resources.
- ◉ One who manages another's property, finances, or other affairs.
- ◉ The responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has given.



Stewardship

A steward is a person entrusted with the care and management of someone else's property. In biblical times, a steward was a servant who was given the authority and responsibility to manage his master's resources in such a way as to benefit the master's interests—not his own. Stewards who proved faithful managers of their lord's estates were honored and rewarded.



Stewardship

Faithful Christian stewardship of our time, talents, and treasure revolves around understanding and appropriating into our lives four key biblical principles. Understanding these principles can motivate us to greater commitment of our energies and resources to the ministries God is carrying out through your church family. We are after all, his body in the world, his agents called to be salt and light in this place (Matthew 5:13–16).



Four Key Biblical Principles

1. Ownership –

- God owns everything. Psalms 24:1; Deuteronomy 8:17–18; 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

2. Responsibility –

- Use your gifts, talents and abilities responsibly and properly in a way that honors God. 1 Peter 4:10; 1 Cor. 9:17

3. Accountability –

- All will have to give an account of themselves to God. Matthew 25:14–30; Romans 14:10–12

4. Reward –

- God rewards the faithful steward. Colossians 3:23–24; Matthew 25:21



The Principle of Ownership

This principle affirms that God is the owner of all that is. Everything is God's by right of creation and preservation. All that we have added to creation – our talents, skills and abilities we have used and the things we have developed – are from God as well. We do not even own the fruits of our own work.



The Principle of Responsibility

- ◉ Regarding responsibility, “Although God gives us all things richly to enjoy, nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us.” God owns everything; we are responsible for how we treat and what we do with it.
- ◉ While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible consistently asks, what about your responsibilities? Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities. We are called as God’s stewards, to manage that which belongs to God.



The Principle of Accountability

We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the God has given us. When life assigns us responsibility, it generally assigns us accountability of some kind. Jesus told several parables in which he used stewardship as a metaphor to describe the relationship between believers and their God. Each ends with a steward giving an account of what he has done with his master's property. In the same way, we are stewards of everything we have been blessed with, including time, money, resources, gifts, talents, abilities.



The Principle of Reward

The bible promises that God will reward the faithful steward. Those who serve God faithfully, are promised God's sustaining grace in this world and eternal life in the age to come. But closer to home, Jesus promises that those who trust in God and give generously of themselves, forsaking excessive preoccupation with wealth, will find themselves blessed by a life of serenity and the comfort of knowing God's faithfulness to provide all of their needs first hand.



Tithe – What is it?

- ◉ Tithe – tenth part of something, given as a voluntary gift.
- ◉ In Malachi 3:8–10, God tells us what He wants us to give Him.
- ◉ He says we are to give Him our “tithes and offerings.”
- ◉ Whatever you get/ receive, you should willingly give back to God one–tenth of whatever you get. I.e. income from employment, birthday money, money you find on street or given to you.



Tithe/ Offering - What's the Difference?

- ◉ Tithe – is a set amount. It is one-tenth of something or 10%.
- ◉ Offering – anything given in addition to the tithe.
- ◉ An offering is not something you have to give; it is something you give to God just because you want to.



God's Promise To Those Who Give

- Malachi 3:10 – “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it”.
- God gives this exciting promise to those who will obey in giving.



God's Promise To Those Who Give

Mal. 3:10 God says that we should test Him, or prove that what He says is true. If you do, you will find that God will “open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it”.



God's Promise To Those Who Give

- ◉ God is saying that if we will give Him our tithes and our offerings, He will give us so many good things that we will not be able to hold them all.
- ◉ This does not necessarily mean that God will bless us with money all the time. It means that God will fill our lives with so many good things (home, family, health, friends, food, exciting opportunities to learn and grow, basic needs, peace and joy inside) that you won't know what to do with them all. What a wonderful promise!



Bible Verses on Giving

- ◉ 2 Corinthians 9:6–8
- ◉ 1 Chronicles 29:14
- ◉ Luke 6:38
- ◉ Proverbs 3:9
- ◉ Malachi 3:10
- ◉ Philippians 4:19
- ◉ Acts 20:35
- ◉ Proverbs 11:25
- ◉ 2 Corinthians 8:12
- ◉ Psalm 37:4
- ◉ 1 Timothy 6:17–19
- ◉ John 3:16–17



Orientation Quiz

For Lesson Credit, please answer the questions below and send your answers, via email, to your Lesson Facilitator.

1. What is the definition of stewardship?
2. Which biblical principle is associated with the Parable of the Talents?
3. What is the difference between a tithe and offering?
4. What does God promise those who give?



Thank You!

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