

THE FINAL STRONGHOLD

Introduction

When it comes to handing over authority of our lives to Jesus, some areas of life are easier than others. While everyone has their own particular areas of difficulty, there is one particular area of life where practically everyone struggles to hand over control- how we manage our possessions and our belongings. It's the final stronghold to come down in the lives of most Christians.

Scripture for study

God doing a new thing- Isaiah 43:18-19

Everything belongs to God- Ps. 24:1-2, Ps. 50:9-12

We are stewards- Gen. 1:27-28

God rewards stewardship- Matt. 25:14-18

Stewardship of our children- I Samuel 1:24-28

Tending to our children's spiritual health- Deut. 6:4-7

Tithing- Malachi 3:10

Spiritual gifts- Romans 12:6-8

Message Outline

The Foundational Principles of Stewardship

1. God is the owner of all we have
2. We are God's stewards
3. God's stewardship plan is designed to benefit us

Through stewardship...

- God is testing our obedience and loyalty
- God is testing our faith

The Final Stronghold

Three areas of our lives where we are to be stewards:

1. Our children and grandchildren
2. Our money
3. Our gifts and talents

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor George believes that real change is not possible without the power of God. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
2. Why do you think that the area of finances and possessions is one of the last strongholds to come under the authority of Jesus in a person's life?
3. What factors have influenced us to believe that what we have is ours and not God's?
4. Why do you think God asks us to be stewards of His possessions?
5. In your opinion, what is the primary lesson God is trying to teach us through stewardship?
6. What are some ways we can be good stewards when it comes to our kids and grandkids?
7. Why does a discussion of tithing turn so many people off?
8. Take a moment in your group to go around the room and allow the group to identify a particular gift or talent in each person's life that would benefit God's Kingdom and other people's lives.

Review and Reflection

This area of stewardship is often the last and largest stronghold of a self-directed life to fall. Practicing Biblical stewardship isn't just giving the church a specified proportion of money or time or energy. It's about bringing this part of my life under the control and authority of Jesus by doing what the Bible directs me to do. If you really want 2019 to be the year God makes you new, then the first step is to surrender every part of us to God's authority- including this area of stewardship. Would you be willing to make that step today?