

Lesson 10: Biblical Principles of Stewardship

How are you doing with the resources (possessions, time, body, spiritual gifts) that God has given you? What are you doing to become useful to the Master?

I. A Good Steward's _____

- A. God owns _____, including your actual _____ (Ps 24:1; 1 Cor 6:19-20).
- B. God gives _____ possessions (1 Chron 29:11-12).
- C. God gives _____ (Dt 8:17-18; Dan 4:30-33).
- D. God gives _____ (Ps 139:16).
- E. God gives spiritual _____ (1 Cor 12:7, 11, 18).
- F. God gives the _____ (2 Cor 5:17-20).

II. A Good Steward's _____

- A. A good steward has a *desire* for _____ (Mt 6:1; 1 Cor 6:20; 1 Cor 10:31).
- B. A good steward has a *desire* for _____ (Lk 12:13-48).
- C. A good steward has a *desire* for _____ (Lk 16:13).
- D. A good steward has a *desire* for _____ (1 Pet 4:10-11).
- E. A good steward has a *desire* to be _____ (1 Cor 4:1-2).

III. A Good Steward's _____

- A. _____ - Are you making wise use of your time? (Eph 5:15-17)
 - 1. Your personal time: what are your time wasters?
 - 2. Your communal time: are you keeping good company?
 - 3. When your time is up: estate planning

- B. _____ - Are you taking care of your body as Christ would have it?
- C. _____ - (houses, cars, etc.) Are you using them for Him? Do you use them to help others in need? Are you hospitable?
- D. Money - New Testament principles of giving:
1. Sacrificially – 2 Corinthians 8:2
 2. Generously – 2 Corinthians 8:3-4
 3. To Him first – 2 Corinthians 8:5
 4. Out of love – 2 Corinthians 8:8
 5. With a ready heart – 2 Corinthians 8:11, 12
 6. Cheerfully – 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
- E. _____ (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-30; Eph 4:7-12)
1. _____ Gifts
 - a. Apostleship
 - b. Prophecy
 - c. Distinguishing of Spirits
 - d. Word of Wisdom
 - e. Word of Knowledge
 2. _____ Gifts (aka Authenticating Gifts, Sign Gifts)
 - a. Faith – inspired ability to overcome obstacles in ministry for Christ
 - b. Healing – inspired ability to heal a variety of sicknesses and diseases
 - c. Miracles – inspired ability to effect the working of miracles (that don't fit in the category of healing)
 - d. Tongues
 - e. Interpretation of Tongues
 3. _____ Gifts
 - a. Evangelism – inspired ability to win souls for Christ
 - b. Teaching – inspired ability to grasp, arrange and present revealed truth effectively
 - c. Pastor-Teaching – inspired ability to teach (see 'b' above) combined with shepherdly concern and care
 - d. Exhortation – inspired ability to persuade the will of believers, moving them to action

4. _____ or Ministry Gifts
- a. Serving (aka Helps, Ministry) – inspired ability to serve the temporal and physical needs with the Body
 - b. Mercy – inspired ability to serve (see ‘a’ above) specifically to those in some kind of distress, pain etc.
 - c. Giving – inspired ability to invest material wealth in spiritual endeavors
 - d. Administration (aka Governing, Ruling) – inspired abilities in leadership, steering the Body with wisdom

How Do I Determine My Spiritual Gift?

Step 1- Believe they exist

You must obviously first believe that every Christian has at least one gift. You have to start here.

Step 2- Understand each one

You must have an awareness and comprehension of the possibilities and purposes of each gift.

Step 3- Ask for wisdom

Following James’ exhortation, if anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask. You need to pray that God would help make clear the ways in which He has gifted you. Then you must zealously pursue it. First Corinthians 14:1 commands a zeal for spiritual gifts, even though that zeal is secondary to the pursuit of love in that same verse. The zeal is still there and indicates a degree of intensity in one’s quest for spiritual gifts. This, without a doubt, involves prayer toward that end.

Step 4- Consider your talents

Consider your natural abilities, inclinations, circumstances and resources. This is not always determinative in the final analysis, but many times, the two will coincide. For example, usually someone who has the gift of giving is very good at accumulating! But one does not presuppose the other.

Step 5- Experiment through service

This step is crucial, but it can also be difficult. If you don’t sense a particular leading, involve yourself in various ministries that will require different types of giftedness. In reality, each of the eight gifts is something we all must be doing in service to the Lord anyway, so the experimentation is not pass/fail, but rather pass/excel.

Have you honestly tried serving well in each of these eight ways (speaking and auxiliary gifts)?

Step 6- Evaluate your experience

Having completed the above experimentation, you should evaluate the experience. Chances are, one or more area will have given you a sense of inner satisfaction not found in the others.

Step 7- Look for affirmation

This involves receiving the affirmation of other mature believers. If no one else sees your life marked by the qualities of one with the gift of ruling/leadership, perhaps you've been a little subjective in your assessment. Maybe you've got some blind spots. Counsel and confirmation from others is helpful in this regard.

Step 8- Allow for several

Allow for the fact that you may have more than one gift. Don't feel you need to try to fit into only one category.

Step 9- Recognize various degrees

Finally, you need to recognize that there are degrees of giftedness. This is not cause for boasting, nor for feeling like you don't measure up against another with the same gift. God gifts, God grants ability, we are simply to be faithful with what we've been given.

Step 10- Stay humble

Remember that God is the one that gives to every believer as He wills, and each is important and necessary. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you." God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Wrap-up

What is your plan to use what God has given you for His glory and the common good?

"If I do not organize my life in a way that pleases God, it will naturally organize itself in a way that pleases self."