

Managing God's Stuff

“It’s more blessed to give than to receive.”
(Acts 20:35)

-Paul quoting Jesus-

“God loves (Agape) a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

Do you ever receive the blessing of knowing that God is fond of you, well pleased with you, desires the best for you because He gets to watch you give cheerfully?

Means of Grace: Experiencing God
through ordinary activities.

2 ways to give:

1) Give to Get

2) Get to Give

2 Biblical Concepts Concerning Giving

1) First Fruits - Giving the best of my resources to God first.

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- 1) First Fruits - Giving the best of my resources to God first.
- 2) Stewardship - Managing God's resources - It all belongs to Him.

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

**My *value* is not based on my
ability.**

***My responsibility* is based on my
ability.**

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”

-Jesus-

God has blessed you with talents,
gifts, and resources for His glory.

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

(Luke 16:10): “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

-Jesus-

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

**26 “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant!
So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown
and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27
Well then, you should have put my money on
deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I
would have received it back with interest.**

Matthew 25: 14 - 30

28 “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

What is Stewardship?

Everything belongs to God and we manage His stuff.

Psalm 24:1

**The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;**

Psalm 50:10-12

**...for every animal of the forest is mine,
and the cattle on a thousand hills.**

**11 I know every bird in the mountains,
and the insects in the fields are mine.**

**12 If I were hungry I would not tell you,
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.**

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

One of the results of being a good steward
is generosity.

3 ways we experience giving as a means of grace

1) Tithing is Trusting

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- 1) Tithing is Trusting
- 2) Receiving God's blessings for faithfulness with the "little."
- 3) Receiving God's blessings for faithfulness with the "extra."

What kind of steward are you?

“Well done my good and faithful servant” is based on managing God’s stuff.