

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE
(Making Your Life Count for God's Glory)
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Course Objectives

- *To realize that all that I am and have belong to God and all I have was given by Him and I only hold them in trust for Him.*
- *A reminder that I shall give account to God for the way I use His resources*
- *To have a practical guide in developing the right attitude in handling God's resources.*
- *To know what God has put in my care and how to practically use them for God's glory*
- *To open my spiritual eyes to see opportunities God places on my path to serve others*
- *To transform my witness for Christ from mere words into valid testimonies*

The “What” of Stewardship

Stewardship

“The practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, material possessions *and all of God's love gifts* to us based on the conviction that they are a trust from God, to be used in His service, for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming.”

Dr Han Kyung Chik (The Steward by Dr. John Haggai)

Steward (Servant, Manager)

“One who is entrusted with property of someone else and dispenses the same to the instruction of the owner.”

Dr Han Kyung Chik (The Steward by Dr. John Haggai)

A servant is a person who lives without the right to fulfill his own personal will; he exists to do the will of his Master” – Bob Gordon

The Stewardship Mandate

- God put man in charge of the world He made to subdue it and rule for Him
– Gen 1: 27 – 31, Psalm 8: 6-8
- God also gave us a command to preach His word so that all men would turn to Him
– Matt 28: 18 – 20

The ‘Who’ of Stewardship

Conditions for Stewardship

- New Birth
- A disciple of Jesus

Stewardship is about you and me..., knowing God and working alongside God as His vessels entrusted with the gospel and His resources, to draw people into His kingdom.

Jesus - the Perfect Example of Servanthood

Mk 10:45 - For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

1 Pet 2:21 - For God called you to do good, even if it means suffering, just as Christ suffered for you. He is your example, and you must follow in his steps.

1 Jn 2:6 – Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Basic Principles of Stewardship

1. The Principle of Ownership

- God is Creator and Owner
- The earth is the Lord's and everything in it – Psalm 24: 1-2 –

- Everything belongs to God – 1 Chronicles 29: 11-12
- He created all things for His pleasure – Rev 4: 11

2. The Principle of Delegated Authority

Man – God’s representative on earth

- God and Moses – Ex 3: 10 – Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh.
- Jesus and His disciples - – Jhn 20: 21 - As the Father has sent me so send I you
- All believers are entrusted with the spreading the gospel – Matt 28: 18-19

3. The Principle of Trust

- *Trust: To have confidence in somebody; to believe that the person can be relied on.*

- *Trust: To give something/somebody to a Person to take care of because you believe they would be very careful with them.*

Relationship of trust between God and me

- God has entrusted us with His resources – I am a trustee of God’s property in my care. Matt 25: 14
- God has entrusted us with the gospel of salvation Matt 28: 18-20

4. The Principle of Accountability

- Stewards are expected to be **faithful** – 1 Cor 4: 2
- Stewards are expected to be **accountable** – Matt 25: 19

Qualities of an Effective Steward

(Gen 39:6-9, Gen 41:39, 46-49 - The extent of Joseph’s stewardship)

- Faithfulness – Joseph was faithful, so was trusted by Potiphar - Gen. 39: 2-5
- Integrity – Joseph refused to betray God’s trust – Gen. 39: 9
- Wisdom – Joseph received wisdom from God to rule Egypt - Gen. 41: 39
- Diligence – Joseph personally went through Egypt gathering the food – Gen 41: 46-49

The Articles of Stewardship

Stewardship of My Person and Stewardship of My Resources

Stewardship of My Person

I am a Spirit, I have a Soul, and I live in a Body. All three must function optimally if I am to achieve God’s purpose for my life

How do I care for my Spirit?

- Regular intake of God’s word - Joshua 1:8-9
- hear (Rom 10:17), read (Rev 1:3), study (Acts 17:11), memorize (Ps 19:9, 11) and meditate (Ps 1:2,3)
- Prayer (with regular fasting) Luke 18:1, Act 13:2, Is 58:6
- Fellowship with other Believers - Hebrews 10:24-25

How do I take care of my Mind?

- **I am selective of what I look at** - what I watch on TV and the books and materials I read.
- **I am selective of what I listen to** - The people and music I listen to shape what I think.

What I see and hear shape my thinking and eventually determine what I do!

How do I care for my My Body?

My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor 6:19-20

God wants us to spend our time here on earth in good health and strength so we can fulfill His purpose for our lives. **I must take proper care not to weaken my body.**

How do I take care of my Body?

- Present my body to God Rom 12:1
- Maintaining proper diet - Ex 16:13-14
- Regular exercise - 1 Tim 4:8
- Make time for relaxation and rest - Ps 127:2
- Avoid harmful habits - Prov 1:20-33

How healthy is your Person?

Stewardship of My Resources – Time, Talents & Treasures

TIME

Time is the one **non-renewable resource** that is **given in equal amount to every creature** under the sun – it **cannot be stored or accumulated** and **has no substitute**. It is **the most valuable commodity you have**.

Instead of measuring time by the clock and calendar, we should measure it by our achievements and by what we do with opportunities that come our way that may never come again



What are the activities in your normal day and how much time do you spend on each?

What is your life all about?

Vision - Seeing beyond the present horizon. **When you look into your future, what do you see? What has God told you?** What is your vision?

Vision must start with an understanding of God and His purpose. It is the revelation of God's will for my life - the ability to see God's presence, power and plan in spite of the obstacles.

It is a clear picture of what you see yourself becoming or doing in the future which involves beneficial change for you.

Vision consists of:

A - **Attitude** - your attitude should be positive rather than negative; optimistic rather than pessimistic.

B - **Belief** - you have assurance and confidence not only in God, but in others and in yourself.

C - **Capacity** - you demonstrate a willing capacity to be stretched. As Christians, we are never really useful until we allow God to stretch us.

D - **Determination** - you develop the determination to face any obstacles you may encounter so you actualize the vision.

E – **Enthusiasm** - you are enthusiastic that God is on your side fighting for you, not against you.

The vision of the 10 vs the vision of the 2 - Num 13: 25-33, 14: 6-9

There will always be a “Canaan”, there will always be challenges. When we live by statistics, by numbering and measuring and weighing information from the social media, we become intimidated and will begin to see ourselves as grasshoppers in our own eyes, in the face of challenges God has set before us. God gives us challenges, not to crush us; but to strengthen us and make us courageous.

While **Vision** is the destination that you visualize and want to attain, having **Goals** will help you set the path for the rightful achievement of your vision.

What is a Goal?

A goal is a predetermined plan of action. It is like a map for traveling through the journey of life.

Goals provide the needed direction to your vision. They give some measure of control and help in giving clarity in decision-making. They help give you a clearer focus on what is important to help achieve your vision.

Goal Setting

Developing an action plan that will guide you to achieve your vision

Your goals must...

- reflect your own values - not someone else's expectations
- be in harmony with your God-given mission - God's expectation of you.
- be holistic – your goals should include all areas of your life - Personal, Family, Work, Church/Ministry, Financial and Community/Society life.
- be clearly written.
- be stated in the positive.
- reflect long, medium and short term range - we must take a long-term view of life but break it down into specific periods of days months and years.

Your goals must be S.M.A.R.T.

Specific - Is it well defined, clear, and unambiguous? Does it state what you want to accomplish with as much detail and exactness as possible?

Measurable - Does it have specific criteria that measure your progress towards the accomplishment of the goal?

Achievable - Is it something that is attainable even though you it may require a lot of hard work?

Realistic - Is it within reach and relevant to your life purpose and your vision?

Time-bound - Does it have a clearly defined timeline, including a starting date and a target date. The purpose is to create urgency and keep you focused till the vision is accomplished.

WHY MANAGE TIME?

John 9: 4. – *We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming and then no one can work*

For us night can come in three ways:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ could come at any moment.
2. Death is sure, I just do not know when. I cannot boast of the next minute.
3. Opportunities I don't make use of, may never again come my way.

How does God expect us to plan the use of our time?

Prov 6:6 - Learn from their ways and become wise!

Ecc 9: 10 - Whatever you do, do well, there will be no work or planning in the grave

Matt 25: 1-13 - Parable of the 10 virgins

Josh 24:15 - choose today whom you will serve

Life is more accurately measured by the lives I touch than by the things I acquire.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE YOUR TIME

1. Vision - Consider before God and **find out His will for you.**
2. **Assess** your abilities, talents and gifts.
3. Determine Priorities and **set goals** and objectives in the various areas of your life in the light of God's will.
4. Determine **strategies and activities** for reaching the goals and objectives in the light of your resources, abilities and gifts.
5. **Have a to-do list** which includes personal, family, Church and official activities. Decide time periods (day, week, month, year etc.) as a guide to implementation. This will help you better organize your time and life.
6. Concentrate on one thing at a time, so you can diligently give it full attention.

"The key to successful time management is doing the most important task first, and giving it your full concentration, to the exclusion of everything else." -- Alex MacKenzie

7. Delegate when necessary and keep proper record so you can follow up
8. Know your limitations. Have proper boundaries and learn to say 'No'. A proper assessment of your abilities, resources and schedule should help you not to get overloaded.

THE 4Ds OF TIME MANAGEMENT – Dr. David Lewis

- **DO** – Highly urgent and highly important (Must be done immediately, and only by me)
- **DELEGATE** – Highly urgent and less important (Must be done immediately, but can be done by someone else)
- **DELAY** – Less urgent and highly important (Can be done later, but only by me)
- **DROP** – Less urgent and less important (Does this need to be done at all?)

TALENTS

- Natural ability given to you by God to do something well.
- An investment of God in man, given for a purpose

Matt 25:15-17

... A man called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. - Matt 25: 14

*He called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas and said to them **do business (occupy) till I come.** Lk 19: 13*

☞ *Make a list of your abilities/talents. Which of them are you currently using and which are dormant?*

Putting Your Talent (Gift, Ability) to Work:

Stir up the gift of God which is in you. - 2 Tim 1: 6

How can I best put my abilities to work for God's glory?

- Think and Pray about it until you know what God is leading you to do.
- Plan the best way to implement the objective(s).
- Boldly execute the plan without unnecessary delay.

When adequately used, our talents bring blessings and greater responsibilities

– Matt 25: 20-23

Note: Whatever talent or ability you don't DEVELOP and USE, will DIE and DECAY.

TREASURE

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine. - Pr 3: 9-10

No one may appear before the Lord without an offering - Ex 23:14-15, Deut 16: 16

☞ *What does your money represent to you?*

Mk 12: 30 - Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your STRENGTH - *How do you love God with all your strength?*

Matt 6: 24 - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money, possessions, fame, status, or whatever is valued more than the Lord]. (AMP)

Wealth is not just money or materials; it is everything that makes you, YOU - the sum total of all that God has given you – Spirit (spiritual), Soul (mind, will and emotions) and Body (physical).

What is giving?

– *Parting willingly with what God has blessed me with so it can bless someone else.*

THE BASIS OF GIVING

1. God has the first claim on all I have - Pr 3: 9-10
2. All I have was given by God and He can take it away – Job 1: 20-21
3. God gives wealth so that others may be blessed through me.
4. I must seek to do the maximum amount of good with my wealth while I have it
5. I must give beyond my 'comfort zone' - 2 Cor 8: 7 – 9
6. If I fail to use my wealth to help others I will not really enjoy it myself.

☞ *Of all your earthly possessions, which is most precious to you?*

*Jesus presents a new measure of giving - from 10% to 100% – He requires His followers to give up all for Him. –Lk 14: 26, 33

*Giving is not limited to material things, it includes your time and talent
- as you are prompted by the Spirit of God!*

Right reasons for giving

- Worship in Truth – giving as an act of worship – Rom 12: 1-

- Walking in love – to establish the gospel of love – 1 Jhn 3:16-17
- Word in Action – in keeping with the word of God – 2 Cor. 8: 7
- Wealth of blessings– to receive His blessing of abundance – Acts 20: 35b
- Wisdom of Investment – towards an eternal investment – Lk 12: 33 -
- Wash off Mammon – To break the spirit of mammon – 1 Tim 6: 9-10

Wrong reasons for giving

- Giving to be seen, to be like others, not to be left out, to earn respect and position in society or to out-give another (Ananias & Saphira)
- Giving on the sole basis that we will receive blessings from God
- Giving with the wrong assumption that by it we earn a right standing with God.
- Giving grudgingly or with an attitude that demeans the recipient.

Giving is the only way to show that the sin of greed is not in your life

The more sacrificial the giving, the more strengthened the spiritual life of the giver, the greater the kingdom returns.

To whom should we give?

- God – Ex 25: 2, Matt 25: 40
- Aaron, the Priests and the Levites (Ministers and Missionaries) – Num 18: 8-32
- Levites, the foreigner, the orphans and the widows – Deut 14: 28 -29
- The Needy – the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the prisoner - Matt 25: 31- 46
- My Neighbor – Lk 10: 25 -37

THE STEWARDSHIP TEST - Luke 16: 1-13

- ***God will test you with small things before He can trust you with bigger things***
- ***If you cannot properly handle things that belong to others, He will not give you your own***
- ***Rid yourself of the love for money so you can allow God determine how you use it***

Giving is God’s nature (Jhn 3: 16) and it should be your nature too.(1 Jhn 3: 16); Mt (10: 8; Lk 6: 38.

How to develop a culture of giving

- ***Be willing to give all – then you wouldn’t struggle with the Holy Spirit when He prompts you to give – Lk 14: 33***
- ***Pray and seek God’s help to increase the grace of giving in you.***
- **Budget & spend wisely**
- **Learn to save**
- ***Make a practical plan for giving - 2 Cor 9: 2 – 5***
- ***Avoid DEBT - Don’t live or give on credit - Pr 22:7***
- ***Be content with God’s provision. Don’t hoard wealth and don’t increase your expenditure just because your income has increased – Lk 12: 16 – 21, 1 Tim 6: 6-10; Matt 6: 19,***
- ***Make it a habit to always give your best – build with Gold - 1 Cor 3: 10 -15***
- ***Give Sacrificially - 2 Sam 24: 24, Lk 21: 1- 4***

The measure our giving is not how much of “our money” we give to God, but how much of God’s money we keep and spend on ourselves!

The Wages for Stewardship

‘Wins’ for Good Stewardship

- All needs supplied – Phil 4: 19; Matt. 6: 33.

- You will have in abundance – Lk 6: 38; 2 Cor 9: 10 – 15; Pr 28: 27
- Heavenly treasure – Matt. 6: 20. –

‘Whips’ for Bad/Negligent Stewardship

- Continuous lack. Pr 11:24
- Eternal loss. 1 Cor 3: 15
- Outer darkness - Matt 24: 45-51; Matt 25: 28-30.

CONCLUSION

3 Questions to ask yourself

- 1. Can I say I am in the centre of God’s will?***
- 2. Are my choices leading towards a satisfying and meaningful life?***
- 3. In the light of eternity am I making consistent investments in causes that honour God and give Him glory?***

The quality of your stewardship (good or bad) reveals graphically the level of your spiritual relationship with God.