



# STEWARDSHIP

*A disciple's response*

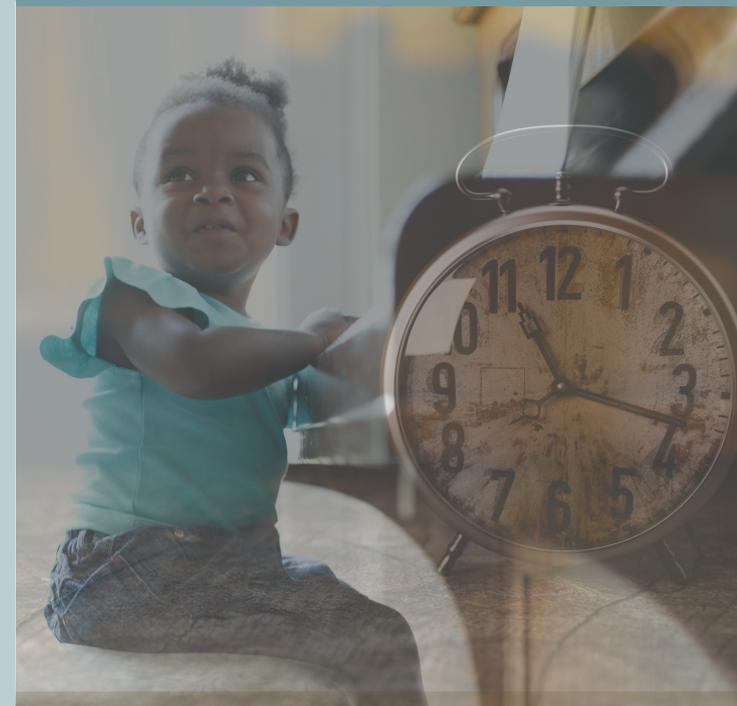


As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

**1 Peter 4:10**

You are blessed.

How is God **calling you** to **be a blessing** to others?



TIME | TALENT | TREASURE



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# What is Stewardship Really About?

"The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

To be a Christian steward is to take responsibility for the gifts that God has given us – *which is everything* – and use them well. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. Think about it. These gifts are only for our temporary use and primarily for helping our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewards gratefully receive everything from God. Because they recognize that God is the origin of all that they have, they develop these gifts and do not hoard them selfishly. Rather, they generously share them with God and others.

Stewardship calls each of us to make God the priority in all things. The *spirituality of stewardship* calls us to continually grow in our friendship with and service of Jesus Christ. It's being an **authentic disciple**. Stewardship is a way of *living*, not a program offered through a parish.

Stewardship is not about the needs of the parish, though there are certainly many needs. Instead, it's about our need to return to God with grateful hearts a proportionate share of the time, talent, and treasure He has entrusted to each of us.



## Stewardship of time

Time is the most limited resource we have. Once it has passed, we can't get it back and we can't make more. People often say that they "*don't have enough time*" - but God gives us all the time that we need. We must ask ourselves: How am I choosing to use my time? Does it reflect my priorities? Am I intentional about putting down technology to have an uninterrupted conversation with God in prayer? How about with my family? What is one thing I can do today to be more generous with the time with which God has blessed me?

## Stewardship of talent

Every skill, talent, and ability is a gift from God. He doesn't give them to us to keep for ourselves, but to bless others and build His kingdom. Our talents are God's gift to us, what we do with them is our gift to God.

Our call to practice Stewardship of Talent is an invitation to discern *where* and *how* the Spirit is calling us to serve. God has given each of us unique skills and abilities to share. As our talents develop and circumstances change, we listen to how God is calling us to use our gifts. But no matter what, He is calling each one of us!

## Stewardship of treasure

Treasure might be the word most often associated with stewardship. Unfortunately, many reduce this beautiful spirituality to just a "nice way to ask for money." It's important to remember that stewardship encompasses everything, so of course our finances are included! We don't get upset with stewardship in the context of time and talent, so why is it that feathers are often ruffled at the first mention of treasure?

Money has a way of taking hold of us, but Jesus warns that we cannot serve both God and wealth (Matthew 6:24). The giving of our money is a manifestation of our values and beliefs. God blesses us with the talents we use to earn our money. Out of *gratitude* for what we have been given, we give back to God. It's a sacrifice. When we make a sacrifice, we offer something of value to God, which makes it *holy*. Yes, when set apart for the work of God, our money is made holy! No one can serve two masters. Which do you serve?

## How do I know if I'm giving enough of my time, talent, and treasure?

We know it's enough when we can no longer make excuses about the size of our gift, how we spend our time, or the ways that we use our talents. It should be sacrificial. We must be sincere and able to say that we are being honest with God and with ourselves. Stewards are joyful people! Take time to reflect on God's blessings with gratitude and look for the presence of both peace and joy throughout the journey of stewardship.

## God always provides, but we must cooperate.

Like in the miracle of the multiplication of loaves, Jesus blesses the little bit we offer so that we can share it with those around us. What do **you** offer?