

ENTRUSTED

Understanding Stewardship

The big idea of this series is that everything belongs to God. Stewardship is faithfully managing and multiplying what He entrusts to us for His purposes, His glory and the good of others. We will explore what stewardship is. Then we will examine how to form the stewardship mindset; how stewards think. In this series we will also spend time applying stewardship to all aspects of life. Parenting, leadership, finances, knowledge, your body.... **What would change in your life if you were always conscious of the fact that you own nothing—you manage everything?**

The moment I believe I own something, I begin controlling it; the moment I remember I steward it, I begin serving God through it.

Understanding that God owns all things changes how you live

Psalm 24:1-2 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; ² for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Col 1:16 ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

What would change in your life if you were always conscious of this truth?

- **Your prayers would be full of more confidence.**
- **The fear of the Lord would increase.**
- **You would care more about the quality of what you do.**
- **You would revere Him more in worship.**
- **You would be less anxious knowing how much He loves people. They are His creation.**

Stewardship is entrusted and always for the benefit of a bigger cause.

1 Pet 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

You never give gifts just to boost someone's ego.

Luke 12:47-48 "The servant who knows the master's will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. 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.

This passage highlights three major things:

1. **Graduated Responsibility:** People who commit wrongs without knowing better (or having less spiritual understanding) are still held accountable, but receive a lesser penalty than those who knowingly violate clear instructions.
2. **The Principle of Stewardship:** "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required"—is a core principle of Christian stewardship. It means that if you have been blessed

with wealth, influence, education, talents, or spiritual knowledge, God expects you to use those resources to bless others and further His kingdom.

- 3. Cultural Impact:** This verse is the original philosophical basis behind the popular cultural idiom, *"With great power comes great responsibility."*

Jesus teaches that accountability and responsibility scale directly with the privileges, knowledge, and resources an individual is given.

Stewardship entails accountability

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. ² Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. ³ I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

From the beginning, man was called to be a steward

Genesis 2:15 ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Adam was placed in charge of a garden he did not create or own.

Faithfulness in stewardship is the key to enlargement, promotion and increase

- **What am I treating as mine that God only entrusted to me?**
- **What do I neglect because I don't technically own it?**
- **Would God describe me as trustworthy with another person's property?**
- **If promotion depended on how I steward what isn't mine, what would change tomorrow?**

Stewardship is revealed most clearly by how you treat what you cannot legally claim but have been entrusted to manage.

Promotion in the Kingdom often begins with how you treat what is not yours.

Here are examples. Check which ones you need to reassess in your life.

Things We Commonly Steward That Belong to Someone Else

Area	What We Forget	Stewardship Question
God's creation	This earth is not ours	Am I cultivating or consuming?
Children	These are God's children	Am I shaping or controlling?
Employees / team members	They belong to God, not me	Am I developing or using them?

Area	What We Forget	Stewardship Question
Church members	Christ purchased them	Am I pointing them to Jesus or myself?
A spouse	They belong first to God	Am I stewarding their flourishing?
Other people's time	Meetings cost people something	Do I honour their time?
Company resources	Budget, vehicles, devices	Do I treat them as carefully as my own?
A rented house	Temporary stewardship	Would the owner say I cared for it?
A borrowed car	Temporary entrustment	Do I return it better than received?
Public spaces	Shared stewardship	Do I leave places better?
Intellectual property	Someone else's work	Do I honour and credit?
Clients	They are not my possession	Am I serving their best interests?
Students	Learners entrusted to us	Am I developing capacity?
Leadership positions	Roles are assigned, not owned	Am I building dependency or maturity?
Family business	Inherited stewardship	Am I preserving and multiplying?
Church finances	Sacred trust	Am I transparent?
Opportunities	Opened by God	Am I maximizing or wasting them?
Spiritual gifts	Given by grace	Am I serving or performing?
Influence	Influence is entrusted	Am I building people or a platform?
Knowledge and revelation	Mysteries entrusted by God	Am I sharing faithfully?
The gospel	Not ours to edit	Am I transmitting faithfully?
Your body	Temple of the Holy Spirit	Am I honouring God with it?
Your children's future	Not yours to script	Am I guiding or controlling?
Your team's careers	Not yours to monopolize	Am I releasing people?
The anointing	Never owned	Am I carrying it humbly?