

THE STEWPOT

A POTPOURRI OF PRACTICAL IDEAS TO HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER STEWARD

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Have You Learned to “Taste and See?”

By Jason Williams

Since first reading it, I have loved this simple little statement found in *The Desire of Ages*, p. 824, “The very essence of the gospel is restoration...” That, to me, sums up the desire God has for each of our lives today. He wants to restore us - to bring us back to the state originally planned for us in His perfect Edenic creation.

This restoration does not happen all at once, nor is it a superficial repair job. This restoration work is accomplished through the process of discipleship in our lives. Our discipleship is all about being in a relationship with Jesus Christ and being wholistically surrendered to His rulership of our lives; it’s a journey in which we learn to trust God with each and every area of our lives and let Him do His work of restoration and re-creation in us day by day.

This work of restoration, through daily discipleship, means that the true essence of stewardship in practice is a discipleship experience, not just a financial one. Stewardship is about a partnership with God in our lives and is more about our hearts and spiritual growth than it is about our dollars and cents. Stewardship is a whole-life calling of faith and trust in God that we are privileged to live out every day.



STEWARDSHIP IS REVOLUTIONARY GENEROSITY. IT INVOLVES THE 7 T'S:
TIME, TEMPLE, TALENT, TREASURE, TRUST IN GOD, THEOLOGY, AND TESTIMONY.

For us as Seventh-day Adventists, wholistic stewardship is understood in the context of the T's of Stewardship - Time, Temple, Talents, Treasure, Trust, Theology, and Testimony. The principles of wholistic stewardship are interwoven throughout our theology, and practically, these principles touch all parts of our lives. We are reminded that our stewardship is intimately about Who we know, Who we have experienced, and Who we have learned to trust with our lives.

The Psalmist said, *"Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!"* (Psalm 34:8 NKJV)

So, let me ask you: Have you learned to taste and see that the Lord is good in each of the aforementioned areas of your

life? Have you chosen to live by the principles of heaven as given to you in the Scriptures, and then found that God has kept His Word to you? His promise is that blessing will accompany the faithful practice of His Word.

One of the very tangible areas of our whole-life stewardship in which God has called us to "taste and see" that He is good and faithful and true, is the area of personal finance. In

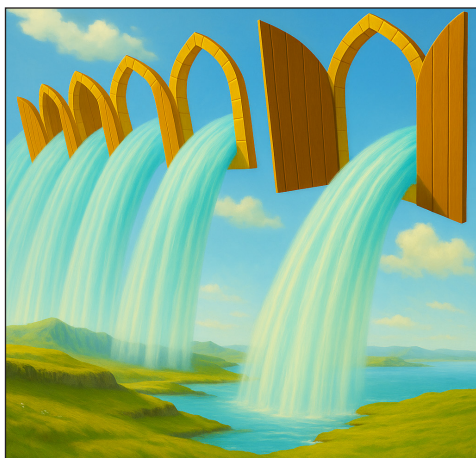
fact, regarding our financial faithfulness (and more specifically referring to "tithes and offerings"), our gracious Heavenly Father, the greatest Giver of all, has said *"...put Me to the test."* He then says that we will see Him *"...open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need"*

(Malachi 3:10 ESV). This is the only time in the Bible where God challenges us to "put Him to the test" and where He makes such a promise to "open the windows of heaven."

The following verse reminds us that the blessing promised by God is not something ethereal or intangible, but real and practical, *"I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of your soil, and your vine in the field shall not fail to bear, says the LORD of hosts"* (Malachi 3:11 ESV).

The wise man also echoes this promise of God, *"Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine"* (Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV).

The true essence of stewardship in practice is a discipleship experience.



What an opportunity that is!
Have you experienced it? Have
you found it to be true in your life?

Unfortunately, many have not.
Many are missing out on receiving
the abundant blessings of God
that can satisfy the needs of our
lives in this world and inspire
deeper faith and trust in God as
our Provider.

I have recently heard about
surveys done in mainstream
Christian churches which
produced some interesting and troubling statistics. Many
Christian churches report that large portions of their
congregation have yet to accept the Malachi 3 challenge of
faithfulness.

It appears that in most Christian circles less than one quarter
of regular churchgoers regularly return tithe. Generally, more
than half of churchgoers give less than 1% of their income
to the Lord by way of tithe and offerings combined. Today, in
2025, overall giving (as a percentage of one's income) is down
compared to what the average churchgoer was giving back
during the Great Depression.

When statistics like that are considered, we can all easily
think of basic functions of the church which are jeopardized
without sufficient funding. There are Sabbath School materials
to purchase, mission trips to fund, new AV equipment to acquire,
church mortgage or rent payments to be made, utilities to care
for, and other departmental budgets to satisfy. But, considering
that the way we understand and handle money will always
impact our relationship with God, we should be concerned with

more than just the budget
and the financial bottom
line.

Unfortunately, the
giving patterns in the
Adventist church are not
much different; more than
70% of the members are

not returning a faithful tithe. And less than 20% are giving local
church offerings. It is sad to see that these members' faith, their
trust relationship with God, and their discipleship is missing
something great. They are missing out on a major opportunity
that God provides for spiritual growth, an opportunity to "taste



**“Oh, taste
and see
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LORD is
good”
(Psalm 34:8).**

**What would your
life look like if the
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were open to you
right now?**



and see that the LORD is good,” and to know that the God who promised is able to fulfill His promise to them.

God wants each of us to be whole-life stewards, whole-life disciples. He wants us to learn to trust Him with all we are, and all we have in our lives. He calls us to trust Him so that we can give and live and love like Jesus. God doesn't want us to

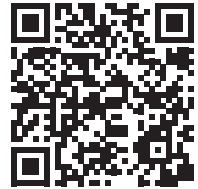


miss out on the major discipleship opportunity He is providing for our spiritual growth.

Have you taken God up on His Malachi 3 challenge? What would your life look like if the windows of heaven were open to you right now? What would finding God to be true to His promises do for your relationship with Him? If we trusted Him fully, how much more could our lives be restored?

Why not “taste and see” that the Lord is good to you, today? Take God up on His challenge and commit to being a dynamic and faithful steward of His many and varied gifts. And then, tell the story so others can learn to “taste and see” God’s blessings for them as well!

Do you already have a story about how God has blessed you? Tell it to us using [this link](#) or the QR Code:



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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