THE STEWPOT
A POTPOURRI OF PRACTICAL IDEAS TO HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER STEWARD
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My Life

A Sacred Trust

By Bob Moore



"For to me, to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21).

When most Christians hear the word stewardship, their thoughts turn toward money, tithing, offerings, or possessions. While these are expressions of stewardship, they are not its essence. Biblical stewardship reaches deeper. It begins with the recognition that my life itself is a sacred trust from God. His purpose in that trust is nothing less than the restoration of His image in us.

Nothing we possess is truly our own—not our time, talents, bodies, relationships, or even our next breath. Scripture reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness" (Psalm 24:1). We belong to the One who created, redeemed, and sustains us.

Stewardship, then, is not first about managing what God has entrusted to us. It is about becoming the people God created us to be.

MORE THAN PRESERVATION

Many people approach life with the goal of preservation: preserving their health, reputation, finances, and comfort. Yet God has something greater in mind.

The servant with one talent believed the safest course was preservation. He buried what had been entrusted to him so he could return it unchanged. But the Master expected growth. Stewardship is not merely protecting what God has given; it is allowing His gifts—and ultimately our lives—to fulfill His purpose.

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

Paul reminds us that God's purpose stretches far beyond forgiveness: "Whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29). The object of stewardship is not simply successful living. It is Christlike living.

Every experience, relationship, trial, blessing, and act of obedience can become part of God's gracious work of shaping His character within us.

THE HIGHEST EDUCATION

Ellen G. White captures this vision beautifully: "Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness—godlikeness—is the goal to be reached."

God's purpose is not merely that we become better people, but that His character be reproduced in us. This is sanctification. This is stewardship. Every choice either cooperates with or resists that divine work.



The question is no longer simply, "What should I do with my life?" The greater question is, "What is God doing in my life through everything He has entrusted to me?"

SITTING FOR THE PORTRAIT

Ellen White offers another striking image: "Christ is sitting for His portrait to be made in every disciple."

A portrait is not completed in a single sitting. The artist returns again and again, each stroke adding detail and likeness.

So, it is with the Holy Spirit. Day after day, He works upon the human heart through Scripture, prayer, service, work, family, success, failure, joy, and sorrow. Nothing is wasted.

Every circumstance becomes another brushstroke upon the canvas of the soul. The question each morning is not merely, "What must I accomplish today?" but, "What feature of Christ does the Master Artist desire to form in me today?" Patience? Humility? Generosity? Faith? Compassion? Trust?

Life itself becomes God's studio.

STEWARDING THE SOUL

If my life is God's trust, stewardship begins with stewarding my own soul—how I guard my mind, spend my time, shape my affections, and direct my attention.

Paul urges, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2). Transformation is neither accidental nor

instantaneous. It is cultivated through daily cooperation with the Holy Spirit.



Each morning we choose whether to begin with God's Word or the endless noise of our phones. We choose gratitude or complaint, forgiveness or resentment, faith or fear. Those ordinary choices become the workshop where God shapes character.

What we behold shapes what we become, and what we become is revealed in what we reflect.

Every day we steward our attention, affections, thoughts, desires, and ultimately our character. Long before God asks what we did with our possessions, He asks what His Spirit did within us.

GOD'S PART AND MY PART

Transformation is not accomplished through human effort alone. Paul joins divine power and human responsibility: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12–13).

God supplies the power; we supply the surrender. God transforms; we cooperate. We cannot produce Christlikeness, but like Zacchaeus, we can place ourselves where we can encounter Christ and His Spirit can do His transforming work.

LIVING WITH TRANSLATION IN VIEW

God's purpose is not merely to improve us for this world, but to prepare us for the world to come. The Christian steward lives with eternity in view, recognizing that translation is the culmination of a life transformed by grace.



Scripture promises that a generation will witness Christ's return and be transformed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye" (1 Corinthians 15:52). Translation, however, is not merely an event at the end of life. It is the culmination of a lifelong transformation. The God who will one day change our bodies is already changing our hearts.

Stewardship, then, is preparation for eternity. Jesus asks, "If you have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" (Luke 16:12). Faithfulness in the stewardship of this temporary life prepares us to receive the eternal life that will truly be our own.



FAITHFUL UNTIL THE MASTER COMES

One day, the Master returns. The deepest question will not be, "How much did you accumulate?" or even, "How much did you accomplish?" but, "What kind of person did you become while caring for what I entrusted to you?"

That is the true accounting of stewardship.

Time becomes an opportunity for holiness. Money becomes an opportunity for generosity. Relationships become opportunities for love. Trials become opportunities for trust. Success becomes an opportunity for humility. Everything serves the greater work of becoming like Christ.

One day, our stewardship here on this sin cursed earth will end. And as Adam and Eve were stewards before sin, we will return to that kind of stewardship in the new earth. Also, the trust will be complete. The portrait will be finished.

Then the words every steward longs to hear will become reality: "Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your Lord."

Until that day, may we remember that our greatest stewardship is not merely what passes through our hands. It is the life God has placed within them.

For my life is His sacred trust, and His purpose is that, through His grace, I might be transformed into His likeness and finally translated into His presence.



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