

People Builder's Network
Firm Foundation Series
Lesson Seven: **STEWARDSHIP**

Faithful stewardship of our time, talent and treasure is required in scripture. This is the key to a productive life. "Moreover it is _____ in _____, that a man be found _____". 1 Corinthians 4:2

AN ETERNAL PRINCIPLE

1. Basic to understanding stewardship is the concept of "sowing and reaping". The Bible teaches us that this is an "eternal principle". "While the earth remaineth, _____ and _____, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not _____". Genesis 8:22

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE KINGDOM

2. When Jesus was explaining the parable of the "sower" in Mark 4:14-20, He indicated that the principle of "sowing and reaping" was the principle that the whole kingdom of God operated on. Mark 4:13 says, "Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye _____ all parables". This is the foundational principle of the kingdom of God, just like seedtime and harvest is the foundational principle of life on earth. There is no reproduction without it.

3. In Mark 4:26-29 Jesus said, "So is the _____ of _____, as if a man should cast _____ into the ground". Then, in Matthew 6:33, He said, "But _____ ye _____ the kingdom of God, and all these _____ shall be _____ unto you". The way to "seek the kingdom" is to "sow seed". We could safely say that where there is no sowing, there is no seeking.

4. Being a "faithful steward" involves accountability for "everything" God has given us, seeing as we brought nothing into the world and can take nothing with us. "For we brought _____ into this world, and it is _____ we can _____ nothing out". I Timothy 6:7

This simply means "we own nothing", only use what belongs to another. God owns everything and has made us His stewards.

5. "So then _____ one of us shall give _____ of himself to God". Romans 14:12 There will be a day when we will be required to answer for the use of all God provided for us in every realm, including time, talent and treasure. The purpose of accountability is to prove "trustworthiness", which is a requirement for increase.

6. In the parable of the talents, when Jesus explained how the stewards used the money left with them, it was the one who was "faithful" that was given the increase. "His Lord said unto him, Well done thou _____ and _____ servant: thou hast been _____ over a _____ things, and I will make thee ruler over _____ things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord". Matthew 25:23

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

7. As we consider God's "financial plan", we must understand that God desires abundance in every area of our lives: spiritual, physical and financial. Psalm 23 describes the provision of the Lord in all areas, beginning with Psalm 23:1. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not _____". David knew that his Lord would provide all things.

8. 3 John 2 says, "Beloved, I _____ above all things that thou mayest _____ and be in _____, even as thy _____ prospers". This verse covers all three areas mentioned above.

9. Financial abundance or "wealth" has always been a part of God's Covenant provision, as well as healing and forgiveness of sin. You may ask: "Why then are not all of God's children prosperous?" The answer to this is in the "eternal principle of the kingdom". If a farmer wants to increase his crop, he must plant more seed. God's answer to our "need" is "seed". 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 says, "Now he that ministereth _____ to the _____, both minister bread for your food, and _____ your _____ sown, and _____ the fruits of your righteousness; being enriched in _____ thing to all _____, which causeth through us much thanksgiving to God".

10. Jesus taught His disciples to give in order to receive. Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and it shall be _____ unto _____: good measure, _____ down, and shaken together, and _____ over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same _____ that you mete, withal it shall be _____ to you again".

11. A desire to “get rich quick” is not a Christian attitude, and is not what we are implying in this lesson. However, the accumulation of wealth is God’s revealed will for His children. “_____ and _____ shall be in his _____ and his righteousness endureth forever”. Psalm 112: 3

12. Jesus taught that increase in the Kingdom was a gradual process, starting with the planting of seed. Read Mark 4: 26-28. Mark 4:28 says, “For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; _____ the blade, then the _____, after that the _____ corn in the ear”.

PRINCIPLE OF THE TITHE

13. The word “**tithe**” means “**a tenth**”, and is first mentioned in Genesis 7:1-10, where “Abraham gave Melchizedek a _____ of _____”.

14. Melchizedek was a type of Jesus Christ, as we read in Hebrews 7:1-10. Hebrews 7:2 says, “To whom also Abraham gave a _____ part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is King of Peace: Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life; but made like unto the _____ of _____’abideth a priest continually”.

15. Tithing was instituted by Abraham, the father of faith, hundreds of years before the law of commandments was given to Moses. Tithing was also practiced under the law of Moses and during New Testament times. Hebrews 7:8 says, “And here men that die receive _____: but there _____ receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that He _____”. Jesus is risen as our “great, eternal high priest” who continues to receive our tithes.

16. Leviticus 27:30 teaches us that “_____the _____of the land is the _____”.

17. In Malachi 3:8-10, we learn that we are to bring the “_____ tithe into the storehouse” (local church). The prophet was telling the people that the tithe actually belongs to God, and that withholding the tithe was to “_____ God”.
Malachi 3:8

18. The tithe is a non-negotiable amount set by God, to be used specifically for the operation of his house, “that there may be _____ in my _____”.
Malachi 3: 8-9

19. A person can know if they are a “tither” by looking at their tax statements at the year’s end to see if at least “one tenth” has been given to their local church. “Honor the Lord with thy _____, and with the _____ of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with _____, and thy presses shall _____ out with new wine”. Proverbs 3: 9-10

20. Remember that the tithe is “holy” or set apart unto God. Proverbs 20:25 says, “It is a snare tot he man who _____ that which is _____, and after vows to make inquiry”. Don’t eat the tithe, it is holy unto the Lord.

OFFERINGS

21. Malachi mentions “offerings”, as well as “tithe”. An offering is any amount you are led to give anywhere by The Holy Spirit. This is opposed to the “tithe”, which is designated by the Lord as “a tenth” given to the local church. Malachi 3:8, “In _____ and _____”.

22. Offerings are usually designated by the individual to “good ground”, projects or ministries that are furthering the gospel. Always sow your seed in “good ground”, ground known to be producing a harvest into God’s kingdom. Proverbs 22:29 says, “Seest thou a man _____ in his _____? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men”.

ALMS

23. Giving to the poor is highly favored by God, but must be done with discretion. For example, when giving to a “street person” it is better to give food or clothes and not cash which may be used for other than the purposes intended. “He that hat pity on the poor _____ to the Lord: and that which he hath _____ will be _____ him again”. Proverbs 19:17

24. Proverbs 22:9 says, “He that hath a _____ eye shall be _____; for he _____ of his bread to the _____”.

OBTAINING FINANCIAL MIRACLES

25. God has given us numerous examples in scripture of how giving has released miracles of provision. Read 1 Kings 17: 8-16. “And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou has said: but make me thereof a little cake _____, and _____ it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

For thus says the Lord God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth". 2 Kings 17: 13-14. One act of obedience in giving released provision to sustain the woman during the whole season of famine.

GIVING PROPORTIONATELY

26. God determines the size of our seed sown by what we have left over. Therefore, a person who has five dollars and gives three dollars in an offering has actually given a greater gift, than the one who has one thousand dollars and gives fifty. "But this I say, He which soweth _____ shall _____ sparingly; and he which soweth _____ shall reap also _____".
2 Corinthians 9:6

27. When giving bountifully becomes a joy and not a duty, we will be super blessed. "Every man according as he _____ in his heart, so let him _____; not _____, or of _____ for God _____ a _____ giver". 2 Corinthians 9:7