



## Celebrating The POWER of Stewardship

Scripture: I Chronicles 29:11-12

**Introduction: POWER!** What does that word mean to you? Immediately after the 9-11 attack in New York power meant an airplane loaded with fuel and a terrorist in command of the plane. Power is the best word to describe the space shuttle blasting into orbit. To many people, the word power reminds them of the many different “power drinks” that are available. They are really energy drinks, but the term “power drinks” sells the product. “Power drinks can include anything from sports beverages to vitamin waters to ‘high-energy’ supplement drinks. What they all have in common is added ingredients that say they ‘do’ something extra, whether its increase energy and alertness, boost nutrition, or even enhance athletic performance.”<sup>1</sup>

**POWER** – doing something extra. It can be used to bless or curse; to confirm or humiliate. The decision is up to the individual possessing the power.

One of the most powerful words is **STEWARDSHIP**. The principle of stewardship is so powerful that it is referenced more times in the Bible than heaven, hell, prayer or faith. Apparently God wanted to make sure we understood the meaning of being good stewards and the empowerment that goes with it. You are entrusted with a possession and given the privilege to make decisions on how the possession is managed.

Stewardship impacts every thing we do.

### I. A Steward Is:

- A. A manager not an owner. (Psalms 8:6)
- B. Biblical Principle: “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” Psalms 24:1 (NIV)
- C. One who manages God’s awesome blessings

### II. Four Major Areas of Stewardship:

- A. Time – What you have been allotted.
- B. Temple – Our physical body – uniquely designed
- C. Talent – What you have been given to use
- D. Treasure – What has been entrusted to you

### III. Powerful Results of Good Stewardship –Luke 16:10-12

- A. If proven good stewards in small matters – we will be trusted as stewards in larger areas. This is

true in both the secular and church world.

- B. If we are good stewards in material things – God will entrust spiritual things into our care.
- C. A good steward recognizes the provision of salvation and receives a new life.  
(I John 5:11-12)

**Conclusion:** Everything you have is a gift from God. “But I worked for it and it is mine,” is the response of the person who doesn’t understand that their physical and mental ability to do the job is a gift from God. Think about it – take a look around you – what do you see? You have the power to be the steward of all you have. What happens to it is up to you.

Good stewardship should be practiced daily and parents should teach their children the value of being a good steward.



## Celebrating the Power of Ten (Tithe) (Matthew 23:23)

**Introduction:** The world celebrates power. People of power usually are given preferential treatment. When purchasing a vehicle we want to know about its power. Oil producing countries have power and influence on the world economy.

Often, power and money are connected. The Bible has much to say about money and the misuse and proper use of it. In fact God has a “guaranteed financial plan” and God guarantees it to work. When God’s plan is followed it always works. In fact God said that, if need be, “He would open the floodgates of Heaven and pour out so much blessing that you would not have room enough for it.”

There is a teaching that tithing was Old Testament and didn’t apply today. However, consider:

### **I. Tithing – The Biblical Principle**

- A. The principle of tithing precedes the Old Testament Law – Genesis 14:18-20.
- B. Tithing principle under the law and prophets – Malachi 3:8-12
- C. Tithing principle endorsed by Jesus- Matthew 23:23
- D. Hebrew writer references the tithing principle – Hebrews 7:2; 7:8-9
- E. The Biblical principle is to bring **ALL** of the tithe into the storehouse (Malachi 3:10)

### **II. Tithing Releases Blessings**

- A. Non-tithers are cursed with a curse (Malachi 3:9). No promise of blessings.
- B. Tithing breaks the financial curse and releases blessings (Malachi 3:10)
  - 1. “I will open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing that there will not be room to receive it.”
  - 2. God challenges the individual to “test” him – the only place in the Bible God says, “Test me.”
  - 3. Question? How big of a blessing do you need? Tithing is the gateway.
- C. The blessing provides protection – Malachi 3:11
- D. All nations will call you blessed – you will be a delightful land- Malachi 3:12

**Conclusion:** Have two or three tithes give a short testimony of God’s blessings because of their faithfulness to tithe.



## Celebrating The Power of Ninety

Scripture: II Corinthians 9:7

**Introduction:** The tithe is a debt we owe God. When we tithe we acknowledge that everything belongs to God. God allows us to keep the ninety percent but requires that we be good stewards of the ninety percent.

**The Power of Ninety** is God's promised blessing to the person who honors Him by paying their tithe. It is impossible to calculate the Power of Ninety when the Power of Ten has been placed into action. The Power of Ten and the Power of Ninety represents God's financial plan that is **guaranteed** to work. Tithing is the **gateway** to the promised blessings. A person who does not pay tithes will not have the right to ask God to supply their needs. That person has decided that God's financial plan is not a good one. God's response to that prayer would be, "why ask for my help. You must think you have a better plan since you are not a tither."

A good steward does not horde the 90 % but looks for ways to give. Giving is a Biblical principle and an expression of what can happen through the power of the 90 percent that we manage. Let's explore this principle.

The word give, given, giver, givest, giveth, and giving is used over 600 times in the Bible. The text expresses God's feelings about a giver: "God loveth a cheerful giver." Actually the word "cheerful" means "hilarious" –very merry. This scripture not only supports the Biblical concept of giving, but also it tells us what the attitude of the giver should be.

### I. God Gave:

#### A. Old Testament Concept of God Giving

1. The creation story is an account of God's gift to man.
2. The giving of the "promise land" to Abraham's seed is an account of God's gift.
3. God restoring Israel to the promise land is an account of God's gift.
4. The constant reassuring by God of the coming Messiah was a gift.

#### B. The New Testament Concept of God Giving

1. John 3:16
  - a. God gave because of His love.
  - b. God gave that which was dear to Him
  - c. God gave, not one of many, but His "only Son."
2. God gave power to His followers – Acts 1:8; 2:1-4
3. God gave strength to the church to be over comers.
4. God gave the promise of complete victory to the saints.

### II. Following God's example of Giving:

- A. We give Him our life
- B. We give Him the first fruits (tithe)
- C. We give Him our talents

**Conclusion:** A person must first receive before he can give. God has given freely to us. It is our privilege and responsibility to give to Him our all. As we freely give, we find out that we cannot out give God. He will always give us more (the 90%) than we can give away. So, let's celebrate the power that God gives us through the management of the 90% by giving to the harvest instead of hoarding for our self.

## Practicing The Power Of Stewardship

**Introduction:** There is a common saying, “**practice what you preach.**” An individual on a daily basis should practice being a good steward. While being a good steward covers every area of your life, focus on the four (Time, Temple, Talents, Treasure) general areas.

This is not a sermon about what I should have done in the four areas. Rather, it is a sermon about what I am doing now and any changes I need to make in order to be a “Good Steward.” God will hold each of us accountable. Remember, it all belongs to God. We are God’s managers.

**(Suggestion:** If you do not normally have a handout with a place for people to make sermon notes, make sure they have one today. List a place for each of the four areas. As you cover the areas, give them time to make notes of their response to the questions you are going to give.)

### I. Stewardship of my Time

- a. Take a moment and mentally review a typical day and how you invest the time God has given you.
- b. If you had to give account to God today on how you “spend” you time, what changes would you want to make?

### II. Stewardship of Temple

- a. Your body is a gift from God. No one in the past, present or future was designed exactly like you.
- b. If you had to give account to God today on how you take care of the awesome, complex house (body) God designed for you to spend your time here on earth in, what changes would you make?

### III. Stewardship of Talent

- a. Every person has unique talents or gifts. List three gifts in which you excel?
- b. If you had to give account to God today as to how you use the gifts to share the love of God, what changes would you make?
- c.

### IV. Stewardship of Treasure

- a. Reflect on God’s financial blessings: food on the table, etc
- b. If you had to give account to God today on how you manage the treasure - paying debt in a timely fashion (tithe is a debt), being honest in all financial transactions, etc. what changes would you make.

**Conclusion:** Nine things God will not ask when we stand before Him<sup>1</sup>:

1. He will not ask what kind of car you drove. He’ll ask how many people you drove who didn’t have transportation.
2. He will not ask the square footage of your house. He’ll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. He will not ask about the clothes you had in your closet. He’ll ask how many you helped to clothe.

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1 Source unknown

4. He will not ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. He will not ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you preformed your job to the best of your ability.
6. He will not ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. He will not ask what neighborhood where you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
8. He will not ask about the color of your skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.
9. He will not ask why it took you so long to seek salvation. He'll lovingly take you to a mansion in Heaven and not to the gates of hell.

When you practice the power of Stewardship, you will have the correct answer to each of the above questions. As you review the areas of stewardship we have covered in this sermon, celebrate the areas where you excel. If you are short in any of the four areas, purpose today, with God's help, to become a better steward. Take this sermon home with you. Sit down as a family and discuss the areas – strengths and weakness. Determine to celebrate each day, God's gift of life, by being a good steward.