

Stewardship: A Lifestyle

**A Pastor's Resource Tool
International Pentecostal Holiness Church
Stewardship Ministries**

“Stewardship – A Lifestyle”

January 2003 will be a time of increase. Increase in attendance, increase in people accepting Christ as their Savior and an increase in finances to fund ministries. How is this going to happen? Each Sunday, throughout this emphasis, you will focus on an area of a person’s life that impacts them in a powerful way. As the congregation focuses on Stewardship of their life, time, talent and money, the Holy Spirit will bring a response. The goal is for the congregation (sinner and Christian) to understand that they are responsible for the life they live. A challenge, at the conclusion of the sermon each week should be given for the congregation to respond according to their need. **NOTE: January is the suggested month – select the month that is best for your church calendar.**

Emphasis:

First Sunday - “Stewardship of Life”

- A steward is a manager. Either intentionally or unintentionally every person is a manager of the God given blessings of life. The focus on the Stewardship Of Life on the first Sunday is to help every person in your congregation understand that the decisions they make every day shape their future and the future of their family, etc. Each individual is responsible as to how they live out their life.

Second Sunday - “Stewardship of Time”

- “If I only had more time,” is a common statement made by many people. Or, “If I had as much time as others have, I could accomplish a lot more.” God created us equal. Every person has the same amount of time per day. The rich cannot buy an extra second. Being good stewards of our time makes the difference. I decide how I will spend my day. I can give God time by reading my Bible and praying, or decide I am too busy to give God time. I cannot blame someone else for using up my time. I am personally responsible.

Third Sunday - “Stewardship of Talent”

- God has given every person special abilities. Many live their whole life with out realizing the potential they possess. The purpose of today’s emphasis is to cause every person to search their heart and determine what their special talents/giftings are. We have a tendency to focus on talents that place a person in front of a congregation or class. However, many talents are used behind the scenes. Some people have a talent for writing encouraging cards and letters, etc. The talent probably will never put the person on the church platform, but the talent is an extreme blessing to many. God doesn’t judge us by comparing us with others. He will judge us by our faithfulness or unfaithfulness in using the talents He has given us.

Fourth Sunday - “Stewardship of Money”

- The emphasis today is for every person to tithe. Encourage people who seldom tithe or who have never tithed, to put forth a special effort on this day to tithe. Talk about God’s promised blessings to those who honor Him with the first fruits. Place emphasis on the fact that an individual does not tithe just because the church needs the money. The main reason is to open avenues of blessings upon their own life and their family. As a result, the individual is blessed, the church is blessed and the ministries around the world are blessed. This could be a **record breaking day in tithe giving for your church**. Review the Power Of Ten material that you received last year for additional assistance. Use two or three people to give a testimonial of God’s blessings when they tithe.

Follow-up:

- The first Sunday of February, announce the results of every member tithing. Encourage the congregation to continue tithing. They did it once; they can do it every week. Take time to reaffirm with Biblical teaching/promises.
- To help us serve you better, please complete the survey on the back page. You may complete it on line at: <http://www.iphc.org/stew/tsurvey.html> or mail it to Stewardship Ministries IPHC, P O Box 12609, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73157

Suggestions:

- ✓ Meet with church leadership several weeks prior to Stewardship month and review the material with them. Discuss how you plan to present the emphasis and get their input.
- ✓ Promote the theme in your church bulletin, mail outs, announcements, etc.
- ✓ The very first Sunday, announce the emphasis for the next Sunday. Encourage the congregation to prepare for the “every person tithe Sunday.”
- ✓ Use the Power Of Ten material as a resource.
- ✓ Use the sermon outlines in this material. Build the outlines by focusing on the needs of your congregation.
- ✓ Plan to have two or three people give a testimonial connected with the week’s emphasis
- ✓ Use your prayer partners to seek God for tremendous results that will produce people being saved, better managers of their time, talent and money

Resources:

- The Power Of Ten materials – (Stewardship Ministries production)
- The attached sermons are outlines only. For a more complete version of the sermons, follow the links at: <http://www.iphc.org/stew>
- Breaking The Curse ... Releasing the Blessings article in the July-December 2002 *Insights For The STEWARD*.

STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

(Sermon outline by David L. Oxley, Sr., pastor of Calvary Christian Fellowship, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.)

Introduction:

What is stewardship? It is the office or position of a steward

What is a steward? A steward manages

What about the “stewardship of life?”

- What you do, with what you've got
- What are we going to do with what we have, while we are living?

Text: II. Chronicles - 34th Chapter

Located within this Old Testament chapter are some very interesting examples of individuals who “practiced” the “Stewardship of Life.” Some we will examine are:

1. **King Josiah** practiced the “Stewardship of Life”. Becoming King as a “mere” boy at age 8. This godly king, ruled in righteousness for 31 years.
 - Did what was right in the sight of the Lord
 - Walked (followed) in the ways of his father David
 - Was consistent; did not turn aside to the right or the left
 - When THE BOOK was discovered/recovered, as King, he repented, responded, and restored righteousness
 - **Note! Because Josiah “practiced the stewardship of Life” his stewardship opened the door and influenced the stewardship in other leaders.**
2. **Hilkiah the High Priest** practiced the “Stewardship of Life” in his priestly role.
 - Received and responsibly stewarded the money funded to repair the Temple and restore true worship
 - Hilkiah “found” THE BOOK of the Law of the Lord given by Moses
3. **Shaphan the Temple Secretary/Scribe** practiced the “Stewardship of Life”
 - Was entrusted to repair the house of the Lord his God V.8
 - Hilkiah entrusted THE BOOK to Shaphan who carried it to King Josiah
4. **Huldah the Prophetess** practiced the “Stewardship of Life”
 - Was faithful to give “the word of the Lord” to and for King Josiah and the people

Conclusion:

As King, Josiah the leader mentored and modeled, by and through his personal practice the “Stewardship of Life.” As a result, other leadership in his realm practiced the “Stewardship of Life” in their respective roles of leadership and ministry. Ultimately, the people personally practiced a lifestyle of stewardship that pleased the Lord!

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

(Sermon outline by Jim Whitfield, pastor of The First Pentecostal Holiness Church, Goldsboro, NC. for 23 years. Rev. Whitfield also serves as the Assistant Superintendent of the North Carolina Conference.)

Text: Ecclesiastes 3:1

“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” There is an opportune time to do things for everything on earth.” - The Message

INTRODUCTION:

Benjamin Franklin said, “Time is what life is made of.” When we give people or projects our time, we are giving them a portion of our life. People who value their life use their time wisely. The quality of our life will be influenced by the quality of our time management. Managing our time properly is the key to our future. The rest of this year will come and go whether we do anything with it or not.

I. TIME IS A STRANGE THING

- A. The better we use our time, the more time we seem to have.
 - 1. People who waste a lot of time never have enough time.
 - 2. Our time must be managed properly and wisely.
- B. We cannot save a day for another day.
 - 1. We cannot deposit 24 hours to be used later.
 - 2. Time is not a promise; it is a gift.

II. WAYS WE CAN USE OUR TIME WISELY.

- A. We should tithe a portion of time to God exclusively.
 - 1. At least 10% of our money and 14% of our time should go to God and His cause while all of our time and money should be used for good and God’s glory
 - 2. The thing that gives value to our gifts of tithe and time is the fact that both gifts cost us a portion of our life.
 - 3. We cannot use time or money in any better way than to give it to God’s cause and glory.

III. WAYS WE CAN GET THE MOST OUT OF TIME.

- A. Manage your time from a “To do list.”
 - 1. Focus on the task of highest value first.
 - 2. Tackle your most difficult or unpleasant task in your most productive hours.
 - 3. Be selective in what takes up your time.
- B. Learn to delegate.
 - 1. Do only what you alone can do.
 - 2. Turn it loose but check on it.
- C. Watch for time wasters – time consumers.
 - 1. Telephone: set aside a block of time for phone calls.
 - 2. People: Minister to people by appointments.

CONCLUSION:

Structuring our time increases our energy level and reduces our stress level. Lou Holtz said, “Preparation reduces pressure and lack of preparation increases pressure.”

We owe it to God, our families and ourselves to be organized and efficient. “There is an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on earth.” - The Message

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

(Sermon outline by Richard Goad, pastor of River of Life Church, Oklahoma City, OK Richard served as IPHC National Talent Director for nine years.)

Investing Our Talents

Matthew 25:14-30; I Peter 4:7-11; Eph. 2:10

Introduction: Christ's parable of the talents teaches us that wasting our talents can be devastating.

A. Discovery (Things you should find out about yourself)

1. God has a purpose for you (Destiny). Eph. 2:10
 - He created you (His workmanship) therefore you are not an accident nor are you junk!
 - He created you to do good works.
 - His plans for you were decided in advance.
2. According to His purpose, He has gifted you (I Cor. 12, I Peter 4) in advance.
 - Not everybody has the same gifts ("some teach, others serve").
3. We can discover our own gifts:
 - Some are easy and obvious; others are hidden (or dormant). Ask yourself these questions: What do I do well? What do I enjoy? What do others see in me?

B. Development (Turning our Potential into God's Reality)

1. Our **motivation** is essential - this parable teaches us to honor and glorify Jesus, our soon returning King!
 - Jesus is coming back. Therefore we should be both prepared and productive.
 - Pleasing him brings not only heavenly reward but also earthly joy. (Col. 3:23-24)
2. **Preparation** time is also essential
 - Every gifted athlete or performer or speaker has put in countless hours of *training* before he/she stood before the crowd.
3. Your **Determination** will determine your level of success.
 - Determine to strive to improve your gifts
 - Determine to do your very best for God (not from fear, but because that's what He deserves)

C. Deployment (Getting the Most from your Abilities by possessing the Abilities* that everybody can have and use)

1. **Availability** – the Master gave gifts to his **servants!**
2. **Accountability** - the Master required of them an **accounting.**
3. **Dependability** - the Master rewarded the two servants who had been **faithful.**

Conclusion: Every one of us can be used of God and fulfill God's plan - so that His kingdom shall increase until He comes!

* Nothing original about my list of Abilities in this section of the sermon, but I've heard and read these often enough from several sources that it's impossible for me to give proper credit to the first person with this idea. (RG)

STEWARDSHIP OF MONEY – God’s Financial System

(Sermon outline by the late Bishop B.E. Underwood.)

INTRODUCTION: Contrasting Attitudes

- A. Blessing or Burden?
 1. The world says tithes and offerings are burdens.
 2. Jesus says tithes and offerings are a blessing. Acts 20:35
- B. Divestment or Investment?
 1. The world says that tithes and offerings take from your wealth.
 2. Jesus says that tithes and offerings add to your wealth – they are indeed investments. Matthew 6:19-21
- C. Ownership or Stewardship?
 1. The world says that all we possess belongs to us.
 2. The Bible teaches that we are only stewards and that everything belongs to God.

God finances His kingdom on earth through tithes and offerings, but His children must adopt His philosophy for this financial plan to work.

I. THE BLESSINGS OF TITHING

- A. Tithing is an act of obedience to God. – Leviticus 27:30
- B. Tithing acknowledges God’s ownership and our stewardship. Psalms 24:1
- C. Tithing proves our love. II Corinthians 8:8-9

II. THE BREADTH OF TITHING

- A. Every Christian tithes into the local church.
- B. Every licensed and ordained minister tithes into his conference.
- C. Every local church tithes into the general tithe.
- D. Every conference tithes into the general treasury.

III. THE BIBLICAL METHOD OF TITHING

- A. “The Whole Tithe” – Jehovah was not pleased with the partial tithes of his people – He said, “Bring the WHOLE TITHES into the storehouse.”
- B. The Storehouse
 1. The church member’s storehouse is the local church.
 2. The local church’s storehouse is the General Treasury.
 3. The conference’s storehouse is the treasury that supports the General Leadership who minister to the conferences and the ministers.
- C. The Priority of the Tithe
 1. Tithes take precedence over offerings – God does expect both tithes AND offering but the tithe comes first.
 2. In the local church the tithe should come before the building fund or other additional offerings.
 3. In the conference, the minister’s tithe should be the priority. Pastors and evangelists may give offerings in addition to their tithe, but never instead of tithing.
 4. At every level the tithe should be the foundation for all other giving.

SURVEY

Part I: Church and Giving Questions

Conference: _____ Position: _____

- _____ 2002 average attendance.
- _____ Percentage of your congregation who pays full tithes on a regular basis.
- _____ Percentage of your congregation who pays tithes part of the time.
- _____ Percentage of your congregation (including children) who gives some money on a regular basis.

Part II: Power of 10 Questions

- YES, I have used the Power of Ten Material (if yes, check all that apply) .
- Reviewed the material with church leadership.
 - Showed the video to the church leadership.
 - Showed the video to the congregation.
 - Had congregation complete and turn in the brochure dealing with income/tithe.
- NO, I did not use the Power Of Ten Material. (if no, please check all that apply)
- Never heard of it.
 - Disagreed with content
 - It did not meet a need
 - Will do so at a later date
 - Other - _____

Part III: Other Information

I observe Stewardship Month Yes NO. If Yes, please complete the following:

- Observed in January
- Observed another Month (state month)_____

I would like information on a "Wills Clinic" for the local church. Yes NO.

Contact Info: Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____ Email Address: _____

We Have a Stewardship Ministry Director in my local church. Yes NO.

Contact Info: Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone Number:(____)_____ Email Address: _____