

# Inspirational Nuggets

(Archived posts from [www.discipleshipcenter.org](http://www.discipleshipcenter.org))

## **STEWARDSHIP:**

What is it that comes to your mind when you hear the word STEWARDSHIP? Gordon Wetmore, in the book entitled *Discipleship: Your New Life In Christ*, has a couple of helpful insights for us regarding stewardship:

*"God gave us all that we have. He asks us to manage these resources for Him. He thus works through each of us to bring blessing and aid to His children and to the world. We are partners with God. A steward is one who stands at the counter of the inexhaustible storehouse of God and dispenses that which is needed for the well-being of His children. The resources are endless because there is no way of exhausting God's supply."*

As a pastor who has a lot of work to do most Sundays, I understand the value of rest/naps on Sunday afternoon. It allows me to recharge my personal batteries. When I realize that most pastors value rest times on Sunday afternoons, I become more and more grateful for Rev. John Maxwell (not the famous author, but my pastor during seminary years). As a seminary student, I struggled to understand entire sanctification in the life of the Christian. One Sunday, I asked Rev. Maxwell if he could spend some time with me, to help me get a better grip on sanctification. That afternoon, I benefitted significantly from what he had to share with me. I am glad that he did not hoard that hour that day to himself, but as God's steward, used that time to assist a struggling seminarian.

**Who in your world was helped today because you were a faithful steward of the time, talents, and treasure that God entrusts to you?**

## **STEWARDSHIP - Time, Abilities, and Possessions:**

Congratulations! You have lots of abilities! And *abilities* is the focus of this "nugget" on STEWARDSHIP:

Stewardship is a word you hear often in church settings. Simply put, stewardship refers to using the *time, abilities, and possessions* God has entrusted to us, to help accomplish God's purposes.

Did you ever stop to think how many abilities you might have? One Christian author points out that "many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from 500-700 different skills." A listing of a few of these potential abilities is as easy as ABC:

Artistic

Baking

Computer Work

Decorating

Enlisting - getting others to help

Finding resources - for people in need, for the church, etc.

Graphics - layout, design and create displays, banners, etc.  
Hospitality  
Information gathering  
Journaling  
Kid care  
Listening  
Music  
Number counting - attendance, finances, etc.  
Organization  
Planning  
Quarrel Quelling (how about that? not just one "Q", but two!) - bring calmness to troubled conversations and relationships  
Repairing  
Supervising  
Transporting things or people  
Ushering  
Visiting with people  
Writing  
Xeroxing (thought I'd have trouble with finding an "X" ability, didn't I? . . . so did I!)  
Yardwork  
Zucchini bread maker (yeah, "Z" was actually a little tougher to do than "X" . . .)

There is no doubt that all of us have a good number of abilities. Some of those abilities may even be found in the A-Z list above.

**The big question is: In what ways am I putting these abilities to work in the church, and in my world, to help God accomplish His purposes?**

**STEWARDSHIP:**

One of the toughest tests of a person's faith in the lord, and love for Him, exists in how much of our finances we make available to Him. A disciple gets in trouble when his/her first thought about giving is: "How much do I **have** to give?" I wonder if this question reveals a mindset that "the money I have is mine, and I want to hold onto as much of my money as I can, for as long as I can." Perhaps one of the reasons we feel this way is because of fear - if I follow the teaching of my church and give 10% of my income (that's called "tithing"), I might not have enough money to pay all my bills, and I might even wind up in jail.

Honestly, though, how many tithers do you know who have had to go to prison? On the other hand, disciples who practice generous giving have been set free from financial fears. They understand that generous giving gets a response, not from bill collectors, but a generous God (II Corinthians 9:6-7).

As a teenager, one of the most godly men I knew was Glen Harvey. Glen had spent time as a missionary to Africa, and had the stores to prove it. One of his favorite

expressions, when it came to giving, went something like this: "When it comes to financial things, I have a shovel and God has a shovel. When I put my shovel into my finances to give to God's work, He shovels financial provision back to me - **and He has a bigger shovel than I do!**"

**Are you ready to put God's generosity to the test?**

**STEWARDSHIP:**

Some rather famous businessmen give us inspiration today as we think together about giving to the Lord, as a part of STEWARDSHIP:

"I have tithed every dollar God has entrusted to me: And I want to say, if I had not tithed the first dollar I made, I would not have tithed the first million dollars I made." -- *John D. Rockefeller, Sr.*

"I am totally dependent on God for help in everything I do. Otherwise I honestly believe I would start to fall apart in months." -- *Wallace Johnson, founder of Holiday Inn, and a Christian steward*

"The only investments I ever made which have paid constantly increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord." -- *J.L. Kraft, head of Kraft Cheese, who for many years gave 25% of his income to Christian causes*

"I have never gotten ahead of God. He has always been ahead of me in giving." -- *Henry Crowell, founder of the Quaker Oats Company, who gave as much as 60% of his income to God*

**Though I am not wealthy like these men, does my giving reflect a trust in God like they had?**

**STEWARDSHIP:**

And now, under the heading of "there's no way I could ever do that!", consider regarding TIME, as a part of STEWARDSHIP –

In his book, *Next Steps for New Christians*, author Kenneth Taylor makes a suggestion about how much time we might dedicate to the Lord each day, for time with Him, service for Him, and growth in Him:

*How does God want you to use your time? If you take 10% - a tithe of your time - that means 10% of the 15 hours you are awake each day; that is, one-and-a-half hours for God. Prayer, Bible reading, and study time are an important part of your time tithe.*

Taylor goes on to suggest that Christian service, inviting people to your home, taking on a ministry at the church, and reading Christian books are things we can include under the category of 10% of the day offered to God.

If this seems like too much to set aside in your schedule, try something smaller. In the spirit of tax season, deduct 8 hours in your day for sleep/rest, and 8 hours a day for work. Then, tithe the remaining 8 hours, which comes out to about 48 minutes a day for God.

Whatever time you set aside for relationship with God, Christian service and growth in Christ, remember that **time spent for God, and with God, is never a waste of time**