



# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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## Biblical Responsibilities as a Faithful Steward on Earth

The concept of stewardship is deeply rooted in the Bible, portraying humanity's role as caretakers of God's creation. This sacred responsibility encompasses various aspects of life, urging believers to act with wisdom, compassion, and diligence. As faithful stewards, individuals are called to manage the resources, relationships, and talents entrusted to them in ways that honor God and contribute to the flourishing of the world.

### Stewardship of Creation

The foundation of biblical stewardship begins in Genesis. God creates the heavens and the earth, filling them with abundant life and declaring them good. He then entrusts humanity with the responsibility of caring for this creation. Genesis 1:28 (NIV) states, "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" This directive establishes humans as caretakers, not exploiters, of the natural world. Caring for creation involves sustainable practices that preserve the environment for future generations. It calls for a balance between utilizing resources for human needs and ensuring that nature remains healthy and vibrant. Psalm 24:1 (NIV) reminds us, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." As stewards, believers are to respect and protect God's creation, recognizing its intrinsic value and the divine mandate to sustain it.

### Stewardship of Time and Talents

Another critical aspect of biblical stewardship is the management of time and talents. The New Testament frequently addresses the proper use of these gifts. In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), Jesus illustrates the importance of using God-given abilities for His glory. The servants who wisely invest their master's resources are rewarded, while the one who buries his talent in fear faces rebuke.

This parable underscores the principle that everyone has been given unique skills and opportunities. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) states, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Faithful stewards recognize their talents as divine gifts, using them to serve others and advance God's kingdom. This includes professional skills, creative abilities, and personal strengths, all of which should be cultivated and employed responsibly.

### Stewardship of Relationships

Relationships are another vital area where stewardship principles apply. The Bible teaches that believers should nurture and value their relationships with others, reflecting God's love and grace. This involves family, friends, colleagues, and even strangers. Romans 12:10 (NIV) exhorts, "Be devoted to one another in

love. Honor one another above yourselves."

Faithful stewards foster relationships built on mutual respect, compassion, and encouragement. They seek reconciliation where there is conflict and extend forgiveness as Christ has forgiven them (Colossians 3:13). Moreover, they are called to share the gospel, helping others to know and experience God's love.

### Stewardship of Finances

Financial stewardship is another significant responsibility highlighted in Scripture. Believers are encouraged to manage their resources wisely, recognizing that everything they possess ultimately belongs to God. Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV) advises, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Generosity is a hallmark of financial stewardship. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV), Paul writes, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Faithful stewards use their financial resources to support the church, aid the needy, and promote justice and mercy.

### Stewardship of the Gospel

Perhaps the most profound responsibility of a faithful steward is the stewardship of the gospel. Believers are entrusted with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and are called to share this good news with the world. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) states, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Biblical stewardship encompasses a broad range of responsibilities, all rooted in the recognition that everything belongs to God. Faithful stewards manage creation, time, talents, relationships, finances, and the gospel in ways that honor God and benefit others. By embracing these responsibilities, believers fulfill their

divine calling and contribute to the flourishing of God's kingdom on earth.



"The followers of Christ are not to despise wealth; they are to look upon wealth as the Lord's entrusted talent. By a wise use of His gifts, they may be eternally benefited, but we are to bear the fact in mind that God has not given us riches to use just as we shall fancy, to indulge impulse, to bestow or withhold as we shall please. We are not to use riches in a selfish way, devoting them simply to our own enjoyment. This course would not be doing right toward God or toward our fellow men and would bring at last only perplexity and trouble.

E. G. White. *Counsels on Stewardship*, P 133.1

