



# **Stewardship Concepts and Principles**

## **Why It Matters**

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## **Bible Study on Stewardship**

Stewardship is a foundational biblical principle that reflects our relationship with God. It is the understanding that everything we have – our time, talents, resources, and even the environment – belongs to God and is entrusted to us for responsible management. As stewards, we are accountable to God for how we use what He has given us.

Biblical stewardship is about acknowledging that everything we have belongs to God and should be used for His glory.

It's a lifestyle of partnership with God, faithfulness in managing resources, and commitment to living with purpose.

True stewardship results in spiritual growth, increased influence for the kingdom, and a deeper relationship with God.

Let's strive to be faithful stewards, trusting that God will provide, bless, and use us as vessels for His work on earth.

- True stewardship starts with a heart focused on God.
- Giving and serving begin when our hearts are surrendered.
- Early believers were generous because their hearts were set on eternal things.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How does your view of God affect your attitude toward giving and serving?
- What does it mean to 'store up treasures in heaven'?
- Are there any heart attitudes keeping you from being a stronger steward?

### **Application:**

- Journal about your attitudes toward material things and serving.
- Pray for a heart focused on eternity.
- Make one change this week to prioritize what matters most to God.

## 1. Stewardship of Time

Time is a gift from God. Scripture describes our lives as brief and urges us to use our time wisely.

Bible, emphasizing the responsibility we have to manage the resources God has entrusted to us. Among these resources, time is one of the most precious and often overlooked. The Bible teaches us that our lives are brief and that we should use our time wisely to honor God and fulfill His purposes.

This study will explore key scriptures that highlight the importance of stewardship and the use of time, providing practical insights and applications for living intentionally and wisely.

### **The Use of Time in Relation to Stewardship and Biblical Application**

#### **Introduction:**

In Scripture, time is presented as a gift from God—something entrusted to us, not owned by us. Therefore, how one uses time is a matter of stewardship.

Biblical stewardship involves managing all the resources God has given us—our talents, treasure, and time—for

His purposes and glory. Wise use of time is not merely about productivity, but about intentional living, which honors God through our daily choices and priorities.

#### **1. Time as a Gift from God**

Psalm 90:12 - 'So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.'

This verse reminds us that our time on earth is limited and precious. Stewardship of time begins with recognizing that we are not promised tomorrow, and that each day carries opportunities to live for God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.'

God ordains times and seasons in our lives, which means living faithfully is also about aligning our schedule with His purposes. When we submit our plans to His priority, we reflect biblically wise stewardship.

## **2. Accountability of Time**

Romans 14:12 - 'So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.'

Every believer will give an account of how they used their life, including their time.

Stewardship includes making choices for God's glory, not selfish pleasure or worldly values.

Ephesians 5:15-16 - 'See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.'

'Redeeming the time' emphasizes intentionality. Paul encourages believers to make the most of every opportunity for good, especially in a spiritually dark world.

## **3. Time and Priorities**

Matthew 6:33 - 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'

Jesus calls for His followers to place God's kingdom above all else, including personal plans and desires. How we spend our time shows what we value most.

Luke 10:41-42 - 'And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.'

This story highlights the contrast between being busy and being devoted. It cautions against letting busyness rob us of the better use of time—spending it with the Lord.

#### **4. Practical Applications**

- Begin each day in prayer and Scripture to align your plans with God's will.
- Use a journal or planner to intentionally schedule time for ministry, rest, and worship.
- Avoid timewasters and distractions that do not contribute to your spiritual growth.
- Incorporate Sabbath rest as a biblical model of trust that God's work continues even when we pause.
- Invest time in others—discipleship, service, encouragement—reflecting Christ's priority on people.

#### **5. Jesus as Our Example**

John 9:4 - 'I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.'

Jesus modeled a focused life. Despite many demands and distractions, He used His time intentionally to fulfill His Father's mission.

Managing our time is important biblically because time is a resource given by God for a purpose. The Bible teaches that we are stewards, not owners, of everything we have—including our time. Here are several biblical reasons why time management matters:

##### **1. Time is a gift from God**

God gives us life and the time we spend in it. Psalm 90:12 says, 'Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.' This verse emphasizes that our days are limited, and we are to live them wisely.

##### **2. We are accountable for how we use our time**

Romans 14:12 says, So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

One day, we will stand before God and give an account of how we invested the time He gave us, whether we used it for His glory or wasted it.

### **3. Wise use of time reflects godly wisdom**

Ephesians 5:15-16 tells us to 'walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.' Managing our time demonstrates wisdom and recognizes the urgency of living faithfully in a fallen world.

### **4. It helps us put God first**

Time management allows us to prioritize what truly matters. Matthew 6:33 encourages us to 'seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

By managing our time well, we can focus on spiritual growth, ministry, worship, and relationships, instead of being overwhelmed by the demands of the world.

### **5. It enables us to serve others effectively**

Galatians 6:10 says, 'As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.' Managing our time well frees us to be available when God presents opportunities to serve others and make a meaningful impact.

### **6. Jesus modeled intentional use of time**

Jesus used His limited time on earth purposefully, balancing His public ministry, private prayer, and time with His disciples. He said in John 9:4, 'I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day.'

Managing our time is biblically important because it allows us to glorify God, fulfill our calling, grow in faith, help others, and live with eternal purpose. It turns everyday moments into intentional acts of stewardship.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

This reminds us that God has appointed times for all aspects of our lives, and we should recognize and align with His timing.

Psalms 90:12 - Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.  
We don't know how much time we have, so we should live intentionally and wisely every day.

James 4:14 - Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.'

Life is short and unpredictable, which emphasizes the importance of using our time for eternal purposes.

Ephesians 5:15-16 - Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.'

This verse teaches believers to be alert and intentional, using their time to serve and honor God.

### **Things to Consider About how and what we invest our time in!**

- Time is a gift from God. It is limited, and we are called to use it wisely.
- The Bible says our time on earth is short; we must live intentionally.
- God encourages us to number our days so that we gain a heart of wisdom.
- How can we be more purposeful with our time?

### **Discussion Questions:**

- How do you currently prioritize your time?
- What activities steal time from what is truly important?
- What might God be calling you to spend more time doing?

### **Application:**

- Create a weekly schedule that includes prayer, Bible study, time with family, and service.
- Identify one time-wasting activity to cut and replace with something beneficial.
- Commit to using a quiet moment each day to listen for God's direction.

### **Prayer**

Ask God to help each participant be mindful of their time and use it for His purposes.