

the WELL

DEEP TRUTHS
LASTING
TRANSFORMATION



Devotional Cover Page

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“With joy shall I draw water from the well of salvation.” Isaiah 12:3

I heard John Maxwell say, *“The greatest day in a man’s life is the day he was born. The second greatest day in a man’s life is the day he finds out why.”* You are no accident my friend. God created you on purpose, with purpose and for a purpose. A God-designed destiny to impact the world in which we live. The greatest adventure we will ever live is the journey of following Jesus and discovering why He put us here. It is that great adventure that has brought us here to The Well.

The first step on this grand adventure happens when a person makes a decision to become a “follower of Christ.” For example, in Mark 1:17 Jesus is walking by the side of a sea and sees Peter in a boat and says to him - “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are 2 parts to this powerful statement - the first is simple “follow Me,” Jesus said. Every person alive at some point will have that same opportunity. To follow Jesus is to first decide that He alone is Lord of every facet of our life. It is to put our full faith and trust that what the Bible says about Jesus and the way in which I should live is absolute truth. It is a great journey into a personal relationship with this amazing God who created the world, everything and everyone in it. When I commit myself to this process I discover the latter half of the statement where Jesus said - “follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Following Him is the key to discovering purpose and fulfilling our God-given destiny.

Anyone who sets out on a grand adventure, must take stock of the necessary supplies and tools we need in order to succeed in our endeavor. According to the Bible, there are really about 5 things we need:

1. Make a quality decision, to be a life-long follower of Jesus Christ.
2. Develop a daily study of the Word of God.
3. Discover and develop a solid prayer life.
4. Become an active part of the Body of Christ.
5. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

The Well is simply a structure, a set of plans, to assist people who are hungry to grow in their personal relationship with Jesus and successfully fulfill this grand adventure. Each month we will look at a different theme and take us deeper into our understanding of the Scripture and how to apply Biblical principles to our daily lives. Thank you for joining us on this adventure of learning to draw the water of life, from the well of salvation.

Drawing water from - The Well

Different parts of this discipleship tool.

Exercising my Faith this month

- Each month I encourage you to have a faith goal. What are you believing God to do in your life? As you work through this early in the month. Learn to grab a hold of the promises of God by faith and join together with God to see His will fully accomplished in every area of your life. *(Example on p. 6)*

Weekly: Each Week there are 4 sections:

- **The Well - Daily Devotional thought written by multiple authors from The Father's House.**
 - Each day we will be looking at a small passage of Scripture and drawing truths up from the Word of God that will inspire the manner in which we live. Each month will have a theme we will be pursuing. Each day ends with a prompting for each reader to "put the Word to work." Remember it's not about how much we simply read, but how much of the Word we apply to our daily life that really matters.
- **Weekly Bible Reading Guide** (4 different options to choose from) *(See Page 9)*
 - Daily reading and study of the Scripture is essential for spiritual health. Here we provide 4 possible reading guides.
 - Option 1 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once in three years.
 - Option 2 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per year.
 - Option 3 - Follow this plan to read the entire Bible once per 3 months.
 - Option 4 - Follow this plan to read the New Testament once per month.
- **Weekly Prayer notes**
 - Recording prayer notes is essential both for remembering what the Holy Spirit is speaking and evaluating what we hear based upon the Word of God. It is also encouraging to look back and see how God has been moving in the areas of life we have been praying about. We encourage you to bring this with you to your prayer time and prayer meetings. Regularly visit and revisit your prayer notes sections and write down what God is doing in and through prayer in your life. *(example, see page 7)*
- **Sermon Notes**
 - Often in services there are many great things said that I want to remember. I have discovered what science has already proven to be correct - if I listen and write down thoughts my retention doubles. Included are pages for sermon notes available to be used for each Wednesday and Sunday of the month. *(Example see page 8)*

In addition, we encourage you to join one of our Growth Groups. Inside these groups of up to 5, people will connect and share insights we are learning and growing in. I highly encourage you to get connected and join one of these groups.

(Example) Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing God to do in your life this month?

1. I am believing God that He will surround me with His peace in the middle of a troubling time in the world.

2. I am believing God will heal my mother and renew her strength and vitality.

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these?

Isaiah 26:3 ~ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. John 14:27 ~ Peace I leave

with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Colossians 3:15 ~ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Philippians 4:6-7 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ

Jesus.

Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' Psalm 103:3 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread'

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Part of my daily prayer: *God You said, You will keep me in perfect peace when I bind You to my mind. I choose today to intentionally think about You and trust that You will keep me in perfect peace. You promised your peace you would give me, that it would remain with me. I choose to let your peace rule in my heart, I refuse to be anxious, but come to You with my prayers and needs with thanksgiving present my requests unto You, and in return I today receive Your supernatural peace.*

"God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, we were healed.' That according to Psalm 103 - You have 'healed us from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since my mother is a child of God, I thank you that healing is hers, I ask you to heal, and renew her strength this day and exercise my faith believing that you will in Jesus' name."

Weekly Prayer Notes (Example)

Week: _____

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Daily for God's protection over my wife and children - (Psalm 91 and Isaiah 54:17)</i> - <i>Daily to hear and know God's voice, to be led by His Spirit in all that I say and do. (John 10 and Romans 8)</i> - <i>To walk in His supernatural provision and wisdom, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge (Philippians 4, Ephesians 1 and 3).</i> 	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>That God would grant wisdom, protection and provision to our leaders.</i> - <i>Every week, I ask for people to come know and follow Christ, to encounter God's presence and to experience His goodness in every service.</i> - <i>That God would bring every person He has called to be a part of The Father's House here.</i> - <i>That God would heal and deliver those who are in need.</i> - <i>_____, the person who was in my row that told me of his desire to see his son come back to the Lord, I am praying for his son by name all week, that God would send someone across His path to lead Him back to Jesus.</i>
<p>Things I sensed from the Holy Spirit while I was praying this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>When I asked God if there was anything He wanted to say to me today, I heard Him simply say - "You are my son, and I love you."</i> - <i>I was talking to the Lord, and felt like He reminded me this morning of the story in the gospels when He came walking on the water, and said to Peter, "come out here with me." I felt like He was letting me know, sometimes when He leads it will be in areas I have never gone before, and didn't know I could - such as walking on water.</i> 	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Benjamin</i> - <i>Paul</i> - <i>Keith</i> - <i>Joel</i> - <i>Jordan</i>

Series (if applicable):

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further
Genesis 17:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God has more in store for me than I have yet discovered - If Abraham laughed when he first heard the promise of God, and could still find God's favor and believe, then I realize I'm not alone, when sometimes I find it almost "too good to be true." 	
2 Peter 1:5 - 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If I "add" these 7 areas to my faith in God - there is unstoppable fruit that will come in my life. - I can lead someone to Jesus - I can bear the fruit of the Spirit - I can discover and develop the call of God on my life - I can be fully assured of my salvation - I can live without stumbling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is Virtue? - What is knowledge referring to? - I think I understand self-control - Are perseverance and patience the same word here? - What is meant here by Godliness - What's the difference between brotherly love and love in 2 Peter 1:7

Versions of the Bible

There have been many arguments over the centuries about which version of the Bible is the best. Truth be told, I have many versions of the Bible and enjoy reading and studying most. The default version for this study will be the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. If a contributing author uses a different version it will be labeled as such. Other common versions of the Bible quoted from in The Well include, but are not limited to:

The Amplified Bible (AMP)
New International Version (NIV)
The Passion Translation (TPT)
Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

King James Version (KJV)
The Message Translation (MSG)
The New Living Translation (NLT)

Often people will ask, why is the language so much different from one version of the Bible to the next. Very important question. There are two basic distinctions to pay attention to as you are reading the Bible - is the version you are reading a "paraphrase" or is it a literal translation from original language into our language? The goal of a literal translation approach is to have a word-for-word literal translation from the original manuscripts into our modern day language. The goal of a paraphrase is to capture the idea as communicated in the original language and attempt to use modern language to communicate that same idea. For example when we look at the famous John 3:16

(NKJV) - ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

(AMP) - ¹⁶ "For God so [greatly] loved and dearly prized the world, that He [even] gave His [One and] only begotten Son, so that whoever believes and trusts in Him [as Savior] shall not perish, but have eternal life.

(YLT) - ¹⁶ for God did so love the world, that His Son -- the only begotten -- He gave, that every one who is believing in him may not perish, but may have life age-

(MSG) - ¹⁶ This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.

You can quickly see the different approaches in these versions of Bible translation. Some are focused on a direct word for word translation regardless of the difficulty in reading in current language. On the other end of the spectrum authors focus on taking the concept and making it easy to read in our current language.

I am not one that will mandate a single-specific version of the Bible. However, three things I would look to avoid in study of the Bible: 1) Any translation that eliminates the deity of Christ. 2) Some "woke" versions of the Bible being made, for example the "gender neutral" Bible. 3) If an author has attempted to "water" down absolute truths included in Scripture I pay no attention to those versions.

There are many websites that provide access to these translations and more such as biblegateway.com providing free easy access to those who want to compare various translations and paraphrases of the Bible.

Bible Reading Plan August

	3 year (1)	Once/year	Once Quarterly	New Testament in a month
1	Psalms 1-2	Proverbs 19-21	2 Chron. 6:37 - 22:6	Matt. 1-3; Rom. 1-4; Act 1; Rev. 1
2	Psalms 3-4	Proverbs 22-23	2 Chron. 22:7 - 34-26	Matt. 4-6; Rom. 5-8; Acts 2; Rev. 2
3	Psalms 5-6	Proverbs 24-26	2 Chron. 34:27 - Ezra	Matt 7-9; Rom. 9-12; Acts 3; Rev. 3
4	Psalms 7-8	Proverbs 27-29	Nehemiah 1 - 12:36	Matt. 10-12; Rom. 13-16; Acts 4; Rev. 5
5	Psalms 9-10	Proverbs 30-31	Neh. 12:37 - Job 6:15	Mat. 13-15; I Cor. 1-4; Acts 5; Rev. 5
6	Psalms 11-12	Job 1-4	Job 6:16 - 23:17	Matt. 16-18; I Cor. 5-8; Acts 6; Rev. 6
7	Psalms 13-14	Job 5-7	Job 24:1 - 40:18	Matt. 19-21; I Cor. 9-12; Acts 7; Rev. 7
8	Psalms 15-16	Job 8-10	Job 40:19 - Psalm 22	Mat. 22-24; 1 Cor. 13-16; Acts 8; Rev. 8
9	Psalms 17, 19	Job 11-13	Psalm 23 - 43	Matt. 25-28; 2 Cor. 1-4; Acts 9; Rev. 9
10	Psalms 18	Job 14-16	Psalm 44 - 68	Luke 1-2; 2 Cor. 5-8; Acts 10; Rev. 10
11	Psalms 20-21	Job 17-20	Psalm 69 - 87	Luke 3-4; 2 Cor. 9-13; Acts 11; Rev. 11
12	Psalms 22	Job 21-23	Psalm 88 - 107	Luke 5-7; Gal. 1-3; Acts 12; Rev. 12
13	Psalms 23-24	Job 24-28	Psalm 108-119	Luke 8-10; Gal. 4-6; Acts 13; Rev. 13
14	Psalms 25-26	Job 29-31	Psalm 120 -140	Luke 11-13; Eph. 1-3; Acts 14; Rev. 14
15	Psalms 27-28	Job 32-34	Psalm 141 - Prov. 5	Luke 14-16; Eph. 4-6; Acts 15; Rev. 15
16	Psalms 29-30	Job 35-38	Proverbs 6 - 19	Luke 17-19; Phil. 1-4; Acts 16; Rev. 16
17	Psalms 31-32	Job 39-42	Proverbs 20 - 31	Luke 20-22; Col. 1-4; Acts 17; Rev. 17
18	Psalms 33-34	Song of Solom.	Ecc. & Song of S.	Luke 23-24; I Thess. 1-5; Acts 18; Rev. 18
19	Psalms 35	Ruth	Isaiah 1 - 12	Mark. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-3; Acts 19; Rev. 19
20	Psalms 36, 38	Lam. 1-2	Isaiah 13 - 28	Mark 4-6; I Tim. 1-6; Acts 20; Rev. 20
21	Psalms 37	Lam. 3-5	Isaiah 29 - 41	Mark 7-9; 2 Tim. 1-4; Acts 21; Rev. 21
22	Psalms 38-39	Eccles. 1-3	Isaiah 42 - 51	Mark 10-12; Titus. 1-3; Philemon 1; Acts 22; Rev. 22
23	Psalms 40-41	Eccles. 4-6	Isaiah 52 - 66	Mark 13-16; Hebrews 1-4; Acts 23
24	Psalms 42, 45	Eccles. 7-9	Jeremiah 1 - 9	John 1-3; Hebrews 5-8; Acts 24
25	Psalms 43-44	Eccles. 20-12	Jeremiah 10 - 22	John 4-5; Hebrews 9-13; Acts 25
26	Psalms 45-46	Esther 1-5	Jeremiah 23 - 32	John 6-7; James 1-5; Acts 26
27	Psalms 47-48	Esther 6-10	Jeremiah 33 - 46	John 8-9; I Peter 1-5; Acts 27
28	Psalms 49-50	Daniel 1-2	Jer.47 - Lam 1	John 10-12; 2 Peter 1-3; Acts 28
29	Psalms 51-52	Daniel 3-4	Lam 2 - Ez. 1-10	John 13-15; I John 1-5
30	Psalms 53-55	Daniel 5-6	Ezekiel 11 - 22	John 16-18; Books of 2nd & 3rd John
31	Psalms 56-57	Daniel 7-8	Ezekiel 23-34	John 19-21 & Book of Jude

Exercising my Faith this Month

Hebrews 11:1-2, 6 - **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.... 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Q: What are 1 or 2 things you are believing in God to do in your life this month?

Q: Are there any Scriptures that directly deal with these things you are believing in God for?

Everyday, we take the Word of God that deals directly with situations we face, and lift up the promises in His Word that deal directly with these situations. We both remind ourselves that God has spoken and secondly, we take that promise and lift it up in prayer.

Example: "God You said in Your Word - I Peter 2:24 that 'By Your stripes, I was healed.' That in Psalm 103 - You have 'healed me from every disease.' In Matthew 15:26 that 'healing is the children's bread' and since I am a child of God, I thank you and receive healing in Jesus' name."

Week One

Week One Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

August 1

Principles of Stewardship: Taking Ownership

Genesis 2:15, 19

*15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it...
19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.*

Steward, keeper, caretaker, cultivator, these words define a person who has been given great responsibility to care for something or someone. In the very beginning God gave man something to steward. God created a beautiful garden where He and Adam would walk together and be close to one another. Adam was given the opportunity to tend to the garden, to keep it, cultivate it, and care for it. The Garden was important to both God and Adam, and in tending to the garden with excellence, Adam honored the Lord.

The Lord places many things in our lives and throughout our lifetime to steward. As the Creator of all things, He is invested in His creation, and gives us an opportunity to walk alongside Him and tend to and keep what is most important to Him. In stewarding with excellence we honor the Lord and we deepen our relationship with Him.

The Lord has given my husband and I, two wonderful and beautiful children to steward. They are His first and He has asked us to keep them, to tend to them, and to train them up to know and walk with Him. To teach them how to steward and honor the Lord with everything they put their hand to.

When we remind ourselves that God is the Creator, He has invited us to co-labor, and our efforts, heart, and attitude toward the opportunities to steward are opportunities to honor Him, bring Him glory, and to walk close with Him, we take ownership because He is important to us.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. What or who has God put in your life to steward?

Q. How can you honor Him today with those opportunities?

Let's remind ourselves, their His people and those are His plans. They are important to Him so, they are important to me because I love Him.

August 2

Principles of Stewardship - Humility

1Corinthians 4:2 NLT

Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.

Have you ever let someone borrow something special to you? Maybe your favorite book or tool? You hoped they'd treat it with care not because it was theirs, but because it meant something to you. That's exactly how stewardship works with God. Everything we have, our time, money, talents, energy, and influence is not something we truly own. It's something we've been entrusted with. And the Bible says that when we've been trusted with something, God is looking for faithfulness, not fame. Here's where humility comes in: Pride tells us, "I earned this. I deserve this. I control this." But humility whispers, "This belongs to God. I just get to manage it for a little while."

Good stewards or manager care about the results as if they were the owners, but are humble enough to keep in mind, it's not mine it's for His glory. Good stewards ask questions like:

- How can I use my resources to serve others?
- What would God want me to do with my time today?
- Is this purchase, post, or plan honoring to the One who gave me everything?

Humility leads us to open our hands ready to give, to serve, to share because deep down we care for the results as if it were our own, but we know it's His.

Putting the Word to Work

Pick one thing today. Your time, money, talent, or even your attitude, and ask yourself: "Am I stewarding this like it belongs to God? Then take one small step towards stewarding it with humility.

August 3

Principles of Stewardship - Diligence

Proverbs 12:27

“...But diligence is man’s precious possession.”

The term diligence is defined as, “careful and persistent work or effort.” The primary portion of this definition is the word persistent. A diligent person is one who is persistent in the things of God and will pursue the direction that God has appointed to them with tenacity. We are to be diligent about our pursuit of the Kingdom of God. We are not to let down nor to take a vacation from the things of God, but are to persist in our pursuit of those things.

Well-stewarded diligence has many rewards. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 7:11, spoke to the church at Corinth concerning a letter that he sent to them that caused them to be sorry, or sorrowful. They sorrowed in a Godly manner, and it produced diligence in them. Meaning they took what Paul wrote to heart and diligently pursued the things that needed corrective action. They immediately corrected the offender and took a stand against the offender and the offence. They were diligent from that point forward.

Paul in the next chapter says, “I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of our love by the diligence of others.” (2 Corinthians 8:8 NKJV) Paul used the diligence of other believers in Corinth to exhibit the love that the church had towards them. Love will make one diligent in his thoughts and actions. If we truly love the Lord, we will be diligent in our actions and responses to his Word.

Diligence is a learned process. We do not wake up one morning and find that the Holy Spirit has sprayed us with a dose of diligence, and from that point forward we are persistent in our efforts to learn and obey God’s Word. We must, (and I apologize for the language), be disciplined in our approach to our walk. Discipline produces the habit of diligence. Diligence in kind produces all kinds of benefits, such as, love, hope, faith, and many more. As we are diligent in our pursuit, we form habits that will later be beneficial to our ministry. Diligence in our prayer life will produce results in others and ourselves. Diligence in our study life will produce a better relationship with the Lord. The more you learn about Him the more you will love him.

Most of all we must steward our diligence when the skies are gray, and we don’t seem to be getting through them to the throne. Be diligent. Be persistent. As the saying goes, “Keep on Keeping on.”

Putting the Word to Work

Are there any areas in your life where your stewardship of your diligence has slipped, and you need a resurgence of energy in that area?

August 4

Principles of Stewardship: Planning

Ephesians 5:15

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise

I was fresh out of school when my friend and I decided to go visit family in Michigan. Oh, what a great time that was to be for us. Our parents were apprehensive and they prayed a lot and they helped us plan our trip. We had maps for each state we were to go through. Electronic devices weren't even thought of then. We left for our trip, went through a couple of states and made a few bad turns, but eventually we came back to the plan. When we got to Chicago things went really wrong. Looking at a map didn't help when we got on their highway system. There the roads went round and round and had many exits. If you missed your exit, you would go around again and keep going until you finally found your way. I can laugh now, but for two youngsters from a small country town in Oregon, it was chaos and terrifying. With a lot of prayer and crying, we found our way out.

God has given each of us the gift of life and depending on how we take care of that life affects how we live it out and how we will experience eternity. We position ourselves for a life of order, stability and loyalty. Even if chaos is ensuing from enforced restrictions, you keep yourself anchored. God has an order and from the beginning He has the plan. Do you live intentionally? Do you take time, to the best of your ability, to take the time to build a roadmap of where you feel like God is taking you? Those that do, tend to live more directionally and when they experience some unforeseen challenges and obstacles they are much more likely to get back on track than to live aimlessly.

You plug yourself into Him through prayer and reading the Word. The Bible becomes your road map. You follow the instructions; you become an effective steward of planning God's planning in this world of chaos and destruction. The point of all this is, having planned ahead, being connected to God and living according to the Word we may still see chaos, but if we are faithful and dependent on Him, He will see us through.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. It is His will being done in our lives that smooths the rough places. Write a testimony of the time God came through for you.

Q. Where do you find yourself in God's plan for you?

August 5

Principles of Stewardship - Accountability

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)

For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in the earthly body.

I'm reminded of the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. There was a rich man who was going on a trip; he gave three of his servants each a bag of money. The first two servants invested the money and did well with what they were given, so they were given more when the rich man returned. The third servant was scared and buried the money in the ground. When he returned his gift to the rich man, he was angry and called the servant wicked and lazy.

In this parable we see three principles of successfully stewarding accountability. These will shape how we live as faithful stewards of what God has given us.

1) The servants did not own the money; it was entrusted to them by the rich man and one day he would return with expectation. Everything we have is a gift from the Lord. Our kids, our jobs, our talents, our money, our platforms, it all belongs to the Lord. We have the responsibility to steward of them. Our choice is whether we will be faithful or not.

2) We will give an account. The third servant had to answer to the rich man upon his return. Unlike the first two, when he gave an account the Rich Man was displeased to receive back only what he had given. We will one day stand before Christ and give our account to Him. So keep in mind that every choice we make matters.

3) Accountability reveals the heart of the steward. The first two servants were not afraid to be held accountable because their hearts were right. When we welcome accountability, we will honor God and grow closer to him. In the end, we will stand before Christ and give an account for what we did with what he gave us. Accountability, however, should not be a daunting weight looming over our heads. It should inspire faithfulness.

Putting the Word to Work

What is one area of your life where earthly accountability can improve your stewardship?

Commit this to prayer and purpose to follow these three principles and establish a person you trust to hold you accountable.

August 6

Principles of Stewardship - Sacrifice

Matthew 5:13a

“You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned?”

The ideas of stewardship and sacrifice can be found in Scripture from Genesis through Revelation, and both involve more than just physical materials. It includes our time, talents, relationships, His creation, and all resources that have been provided by Him. If we look to God as our model and our Guide; God's greatest gift to us was Christ being crucified which brought us salvation, it is the gift of eternity and so much more. There is grace, forgiveness, peace, healing, freedom, and joy, (Isaiah 61:1-5). He left heaven (sacrifice) and he endured the cross sacrificing His human life for us. So how do we reflect His character and sacrifice? What does that look like for us? How about sacrificing our comfort? Our time? Our talents?

What do we do when we see a mom struggling with her groceries? Ever offer to help? Ever sacrifice your comfort just to tell someone Jesus loves them? As good stewards we should always be prepared to sacrifice our comfort, agenda, time, talent and treasure for the sake of God, for His grace, mercy, love, and salvation. We should never be silent about what it means.

In Matthew 5, Jesus calls His followers “the salt of the earth”, and talks about how salt is used. He tells them that if salt has lost its ability to season or preserve then its only real use is to be tossed out and be tread under foot. Season and preservation kind of sounds like salvation to me. Jesus also calls His disciples the light of the earth, and says that no one ever hides a light under a bushel. Sacrificial stewardship means, we are looking for opportunities to demonstrate and declare the greatness of God and our faith in Him.

The other day I was at an antique store and was lightly having a conversation with a lady. Basically two older people talking about the effects of age on our bodies (aches and pains). It was not really comfortable but I sacrificed my comfort and took the chance to tell her that soon we would get a new body and a new life. She kind of stared at me, and obviously wasn't ready for a big sermon. So I didn't push, but just that statement let her know what I believed and there was a seed planted. I'm sure she is going to think about what I said in the coming days and maybe reach out for the Lord. Trust me the more I step out and speak out and ask people if I can pray for them the less of a sacrifice it is. You also never know who is watching and how your actions on others behalf will affect those watching. Even when you're praying for a cancer patient in the waiting room of the local veterinary clinic.

Putting the Word to Work

What will it look like for you to be salt and light today? What opportunities do you know you will see today? How can you prepare and be ready to take advantage of the opportunity?

August 7

Principles of Stewardship - Generosity

Proverbs 3:27-28 (MSG)

Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God's hand for that person. Don't tell your neighbor "Maybe some other time" or "Try me tomorrow" when the money's right there in your pocket.

Generosity is a posture of the heart. When a person gives, he is walking in freedom. Generosity is an exercise modeled by Jesus! God's word has plenty of examples, such as above in Proverbs 3:27. This instruction calls for proactive kindness & justice reflecting God's character in human relationships." Galatians 6:10 in the Message say's, *"every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of others."* The Amplified say's, "So then as occasion and opportunity open up to us, do good to all people, being mindful to be a blessing." Hebrews 13:16 in the Amplified bible says, " Do not forget to do good and share with others for such sacrifices God is pleased."

A generous spirit is happy to give to people in need. He gives because he is grateful for what he has received. A willingness to share what he has whether abundant or meager with a cheerful heart knowing that his actions honor God and bless others. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:7b-9 in the Message: "God loves, He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things and is unwilling to do without a cheerful (joyous, prompt to do it) giver whose heart is in his giving. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

This is any act of obedience, whether God is asking for your time, talents or money; anyway God wants us to bless others. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done, as one Psalmist put it. He throws caution to the winds giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving ways never run out, never wear out." Proverbs 22:9 "He who has a bountiful eye shall be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor."

Putting the Word to Work

Q. When is one time, you saw and responded to an opportunity to demonstrate kindness?

Q. How was it received?

Week One Sermon Notes

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week One Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two

Week Two Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

August 8

Principles of Stewardship - Faithfulness

Matt. 25:23

“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord”

There are numerous examples of both good and bad stewards in the Holy Scriptures. The one attribute of stewards most highly favored by God is faithfulness. In his letter to believers in Corinth, the apostle Paul affirmed that faithfulness was the most important requirement for anyone called to be a steward of the mysteries of God (I Cor. 4:2). In fact, Paul confided to Timothy that God had called Paul into the ministry because He “counted me faithful (I Tim. 1:12).”

Our values rarely reach the heights that God values. We often place worth on place, or position, or personal accomplishments. God values faithfulness more. The wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon wrote about the confidence he placed in the person who could be trusted: “A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter (Prov. 11:13).” “A faithful witness does not lie (Prov. 14:5).” And “A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador brings health (Prov. 13:17).” Several times while He was speaking in parables, Jesus alluded to the value that God placed on a faithful steward: “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own (Luke 16:10-12)?

Jesus gave us a glimpse of the eternal reward that awaits His faithful servants when He spoke the parable of the talents to His disciples: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord” (Matt. 25:23).

Every follower of Jesus I have ever known longs to hear those six words: “Well done, good and faithful servant.” May those words be an incentive for each of us. “Well done” speaks of the work God has entrusted to each of us; “good” speaks of the intentions of our heart; “faithful” speaks of our loyalty to Him and His commandments; and “servant” speaks to our selfless role serving Him and others.

Putting the Word to work

Q: Describe what faithfulness means to you:

Q: Describe how you have been proven faithful in your relationship with God:

August 9
Stewarding Our Time
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

Time is one of the most precious resources we have. We all get the same 24 hours in a day, yet many of us feel like we never have enough. We rush from one thing to the next, rarely slowing down long enough to reflect, rest, or simply be present. But Scripture calls us to live wisely - not hurried - and to steward our time in a way that honors God.

Stewardship is about intentionality. It's understanding that time is a gift from God, and how we use it reveals what we value. Paul's words in Ephesians challenge us to "make the most of every opportunity." That doesn't mean we cram our calendars full. It means we live with purpose.

At the heart of wise time stewardship is the practice of Sabbath. In Genesis 2:2-3, God Himself rested on the seventh day. Not because He was tired but because He was setting a rhythm for creation. Sabbath is a gift, not a burden. It's a day to stop, to delight in God and His creation, and to be refreshed. When we honor Sabbath, we are reminded that the world keeps spinning without our constant effort- and that God is ultimately in control.

Jesus invites us into this unhurried life. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). Rest is not a luxury for the lazy; it's a necessity for the faithful. It is in rest that we are reminded of our identity not as human doings, but as human beings loved by God.

Putting the Word to Work

How can we steward our time more faithfully?

1. Begin with a Sabbath - Set aside one day a week to rest from work. Use this time for worship, family, enjoyment, and stillness. Protect it. Let it be holy.
2. Evaluate your schedule - What fills your calendar? What drains your soul? Make room for what matters most: time with God, family, rest, and service.
3. Say no with purpose - Stewardship means you won't say yes to everything. Learn to say no to hurry, even good opportunities, if they take you away from what matters most.
4. Invite God into your planning - Pray over your days and weeks. Ask Him to direct your steps. (Proverbs 16:9) You don't have to live rushed. You were made to walk with God in the cool of the day, not sprint through life breathless and burned out. Let's slow down, receive rest, and steward our time as a sacred gift.

August 10

Stewarding my Treasures - Money is not just physical but spiritual

Haggai 1:2-7

2 *"Thus speaks the Lord of hosts, saying: 'This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built." ' "* 3 *Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, 4 "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" 5 Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: **"Consider your ways!"** 6 "You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes." 7 Thus says the Lord of hosts: **"Consider your ways!"***

Contrary to popular belief, money is not evil. One of the most misquoted verses I hear is "money is the root of all evil" - wrong. Paul said, "The love of money, is the root of all kinds of evil." We must understand that money is amoral, neither good nor bad, it entirely depends on how a person uses it. When we have an unhealthy, unbiblical view and practices with money it produces a lot of stress. Money issues are always ranked in the top 3 of the statistical categories for why couples decided they needed to get a divorce. Haggai the prophet showed up at a time with a great statement, "consider your ways!" The people were working hard, but had little to nothing to show for it. Just like the children of Israel, we need to learn three important lessons regarding how we as believers treat money that are the keys to financial peace and success.

First, money is not simply about materials, it is connected to the spirit realm. If a person allows it, money can be seductive, manipulating and controlling. As believers we have to decide, who will we serve, the Almighty God or the less-than-almighty dollar. Jesus said, you cannot serve both God and mammon. You cannot serve God and be consumed with materialism at the same time, more on that later this week. Secondly, we must understand that financial peace and success is more predicated on applying Biblical principles of stewardship than it will ever be simply about our efforts and discipline. Yes, we need to be disciplined with our treasures, but the wrong disciplines do not produce the right results. The Bible talks a lot about financial stewardship. Thirdly, we must recognize that our handling of money is a spiritual test designed by God demonstrating to Him and us how submitted to His Lordship we really are. *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chron. 16:9).*

Putting the Word to Work

"Consider Your ways," as the prophet Haggai tells us.

Q. On a scale of 1 - 10 how much stress do you experience regarding finances?

Q. When is the last time you (and your spouse for those who are married) sat down and discussed your monthly budget?

Q. Do you typically have more money than month, or more month than money?

Q. Are you a tither?

August 11

Stewarding my Treasures - 3 Bible principles about money management?

Luke 16:11

If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

Yesterday we looked at the reality that money is not just about material items but has major spiritual ramifications. That money is really a test. Four quick areas we will look to see some of what the Bible has to say regarding, work of budgeting and indebtedness with money.

1st) God values work. Work is not the result of the fall because God had placed man to “work” in the Garden of Eden before the fall ever happened. Work is an important ingredient to our view of money. Consider the following Scriptures: Proverbs 10:4 “A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” (2 Thess. 3:10 - “if a man does not work, he should not eat.” (Eph. 4:28) Let him who stole, steal no more, but let him work with his hands that he may have something to give to him who has need...” we could go on, but for the sake of time, we will let these three verses carry weight of this truth, God values and rewards diligent work and so should we. When the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan river into the promised land in Joshua, the first day they ate of the fruit of the promised land, the Bible says, the manna ceased. For 40 years, they went out, and lived off the bread God gave them from heaven, no planting, no harvesting, no weeding the garden or tilling the ground. Everyday live off of God’s gift. When they entered the promised land, the first change was to move from a welfare mentality to a work mentality. I am not cursing anyone who uses living assistance, however, consider your ways. I know of young men and women, who are the third and fourth generation whose families have never worked but instead live off the system, this is not how it should be, more than robbing tax payers, avoidance of work is robbing one’s self of the blessing of God.

2nd) God values money management. Proverbs 27:23 says “Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds.” As believers, we need to be wise stewards of the financial resources we have. A budget is simply writing down how we will spend every dollar we earn before deposit our check. If we are not being intentional about telling our money where it will go, we often wake up wondering, where did it go? Consider this, unnecessarily spending \$10 a day may not seem like much on that given day, but at the end of the month \$310. That’s the same as a car payment on a nice used vehicle.

3rd) God warns about debt. Prov. 22:7 “the borrower is a slave to the lender.” Paul said in Romans 13:8 our goal should be to “Owe no one anything, except to love each other.” Those trapped by credit cards, and over-extended debts will tell you it is stressful. Do you have a plan to get out of and then avoid debt? I really appreciated “Dave Ramsey’s ‘7 baby steps.” The first three steps he advises in getting out of debt: Step 1) put \$1,000 into savings as an “emergency fund.” Step 2) build a “debt snowball.” The idea is to write down debt payments from least to greatest. Make the minimum payments on all of them. But at the end of the month, take every extra dollar you can squeeze from your budget and throw it at the smallest debt. Once it is paid off, take that money and every extra dollar you can squeeze from your budget and throw it at the next smallest one and so on. Each time one is paid off, you have more money to apply to the next one until you become debt free. After that go to step 3) set aside 3-6 months of expenses into a “full-funded” emergency fund. These three are great practical steps towards freedom from debt and experiencing financial peace and success.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. Do you have at least \$1,000 set aside as an “emergency fund”

Q. Do you have a practical plan for getting and staying out of debt?

August 12

Stewarding my Treasures - Tithes

Matthew 6:24; Malachi 3:10-12

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

*Malachai 3:10 **Bring** all the **tithes** into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not **open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing** That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And **I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes**, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, **Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field**," Says the Lord of hosts; 12 "And **all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land**," Says the Lord of hosts.*

In the middle of Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount," made a powerful 1 verse statement that we would be wise to take heed to - "You cannot serve, God and mammon." What is mammon? As I understand it, it is when a person elevates wealth and riches as his or her source in place of God. It is visible in the man who thinks more money will elevate his social status, bring him happiness and make his problems disappear. Because economic principles such as scarcity, supply and demand etc., have a real impact on our lives, money and be a seductive and controlling force in our lives if we ever allow money to be the determining factor on the type of life we will live and experience. Jesus warns his followers, that you cannot say you acknowledge God as your source, and then live like money is your source. You have to make a decision and then discipline your lifestyle as to who your source is.

Throughout the Bible you can find Jesus providing "tests" for his people in regards to how they view and treat money. Urging them, trust God as your source, not simply your own strength and resources. The primary test we see when it comes to money is in the area of tithing. The word "tithe" literally translated is the word "tenth." The idea behind the principle of tithing is that the first tenth of whatever income we earn belongs to God. For those who say that it was only something that existed under the Law given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, then you have to look at the example of Abraham (see Genesis 14) and Jacob for example tithed (see Genesis 28) and that was 500 years before the Mosaic Law where God instructed the nation of Israel to tithe (See. Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-32; Deut. 14:22-29). If those who think "tithing" does not exist in the New Testament, were to do a word search, they would find 7 instances of the concept of "tithing" being referred to in the New Testament, and in Matthew 23:23, while Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees, he talks of them thinking because they tithe they will be saved, He corrects them sharply, but also says "These things (talking of the tithe) you ought to do, without leaving the weightier things undone. Does tithing guarantee my salvation? No. Is it an important part of how I interact with God? Yes. Does it affect how God will deal with me? I believe so. Notice a few things about the famous Malachai 3 passage. First it says about tithing: "bring" not "give." You do not have the right to "give" a tithe because it already belongs to God. You are simply charged with bringing to Him, what is rightfully His. Look at the four promises God declares over those who bring all the tithe to the storehouse: 1) The windows of heaven opened over your life. 2) The devourer rebuked. 3) Never failing to bear fruit on the vine. 4) Nations (people groups) will call you blessed for you will be a delightful land.

Putting the Word to Work

Are you a tither? If so, ask God to fulfill these 4 promises over your life. If not I challenge you in this, commit to the Lord to bring His tithe in. Take Him at His offer to test Him in this, and then record what happens. You will never go back.

August 13

Stewarding my Treasures - Offerings

Malachi 3:8-12

*8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In **tithes** and **offerings**. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it. 11 "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the Lord of hosts; 12 "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the Lord of hosts.*

Yesterday, we dealt with the Stewardship principle of "tithing," today we will take a look at the principle of the "offering." We understand from yesterday that the "tithe" is a word that literally means 10th, and does not belong to the person but belongs to God. Our "tithe" is when we bring to God, that which belongs to Him already. Offerings is a completely different word, it comes from a Hebrew word "*terumah*" which can be translated as a: contribution, a present, a gift, and most commonly an offering. It is different from the tithe, in that the tithe never belonged to the person, it was and always will be God's property. He has simply been testing if you will the heart of His people to see who would be a good steward and who would according to this passage be a "thief." Offerings, different from the tithe, are the property of the giver and are willingly given as the giver so desires. Here are some examples of where we see offerings in the Bible

- Included in the instructions of how to build of the tabernacle, God instructed Moses in Exodus 35:5 'Take from among you an **offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart**, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord...
- In Deuteronomy 16:10 Then you shall keep the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of **a freewill offering from your hand**, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you.
- When David was setting materials aside for the building of the Temple in 1 Chronicles 29 it says in verse 9, "Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly."
- Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver."

To make it simple, tithes (the first tenth) belong to God and we bring it back to Him while offerings are gifts originating from a person's willing heart. Offerings can be labeled for specific works or ministries, tithes belonging to God are to go into the local church for the work of the ministry. Offerings cannot be coerced or forced or manipulated. Offerings are not given to buy favor or influence (See Acts 5). Offerings must come from a heart of wanting to bless God and advance His work.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. What is the most impactful gift you have ever received?

Most likely that gift was so impactful because of the heart behind it, not the monetary value it held nor the physiological impact it may have had on your life. Not the impact was due to the sacrificial nature of the gift from the loving heart of someone who desired to bless you. How do you think God is impacted by your heart to willingly bless Him?

August 14

Stewarding my Treasures - Alms

Proverbs 19:17

“He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, And He will pay back what he has given.”

As we continue with the theme of “Stewarding our Treasures” today we will look at the giving of “alms.” These are what I have heard called “gifts of compassion.” It is when an offering is given, whether it be money, materials, food, etc., but is done from the heart of seeing a person’s need and giving to help that person. We at The Father’s House have participated in many such needs in the last year alone. From providing a meal for the hungry, twice a month ministering at the Samaritan Inn women’s shelter, to helping single-mother needs, to digging a well in Uganda for a village so that they will have clean water, providing a small cooking stove for nearly 20 families in the war-torn Ukraine. The list goes on, we believe in helping those who are in need.

What we need to understand is God’s view of when we help those in need. Our verse above looks at a “gift of compassion” as if we made a personal loan unto the Lord. When we give even “a cup of cold water in His name, we will not lose our reward” (See Matt. 10:42). Some other verses throughout the Bible that deal with our heart towards the needs we see in our world:

- **Proverbs 14:31** - “Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God.”
- **Proverbs 14:21** - “It is a sin to despise one’s neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy.”
- **James 1:27** - “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”
- **Luke 14:13-14** - “But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Our heart posture towards those who have needs should be one of lovingkindness not contempt. Sure there are situations where “helping” would not really be helping but enabling. It is wisdom and discernment to know the difference. But you cannot escape the perspective we must maintain and carry towards the needs of those we see.

It is also reasonable to realize that when you give a gift of compassion, do it in the name of Jesus as an offering unto the Lord. Do it with a willing heart not grudgingly. Not like the man I heard about one time, who rolled down his window to hand a homeless man a \$1 bill and said as he gave it to him, “I’m not giving you this because you deserve it, but I’m giving it to you because the Bible tells me to and giving makes me feel good.” to which the man smile as he took the \$1 and said, “why don’t you give me a \$20 then and really enjoy yourself.” As we give to the needs we see, do it joyfully and unto the Lord and know this - you can never outgive God.

Putting the Word to Work

Keep your eyes open today - is there an opportunity for you to show compassion and meet a need you see today?

Week Two Sermon Notes

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Two Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three

Week Three Prayer Notes

Specific things I am praying about for my family.

Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.

Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.

People I am praying for their salvation.

August 15

Stewarding my Treasures - Sowing Seeds

2 Cor. 9:6-11

*6 But this I say: He who **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and he who **sows** bountifully will also **reap** bountifully. 7 So let each one **give** as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." 10 Now may He who supplies **seed to the sower**, and bread for food, **supply and multiply the seed you have sown** and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.*

The tithe is an obligation. Offerings and Alms are sacrificial. Today I want us to look at a different aspect of stewarding our treasures and that is the idea of "investing" in the kingdom of heaven or as some call it, "sowing seed." The law of sowing and reaping is accepted in so many aspects of life. When Joe Frazier said, "Champions aren't made in the ring, they are simply discovered there" he was describing the law of sowing and reaping. In the sports world, championships don't happen by accident. In the business world, success is not an accident. Bachelor's and Master's Degrees don't happen without intention. Even in the financial world we understand the principle of sowing in reaping which is why we live with budgets, have investment and retirement accounts, etc. When we hear the term "sowing a seed" I want you to think of it like an investment account. An investment account is different than a savings account. I am investing something, with the idea that something will come back and bring with it an additional harvest larger than the one I invested.

A great question for us to consider is to what extent does our giving financially to the kingdom of God affect our reaping of material possessions? I want to propose to you the idea that practicing these principles of Bible financial stewardship demonstrates to God that He can entrust us with more. Consider the following stories: Isaac sows seed in a famine, a drought, God blesses Him and he reaps 100 fold in that year. Abraham followed God, tithed and the Bible says God made Abraham very rich in silver, cattle and gold (Gen. 13:2). When Jesus told the rich young ruler, to give everything he had to the poor, take up his cross and follow Him; the young man went away sad. Jesus made the famous statement - "How hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of heaven." Peter said who then can be saved. Jesus responded that no one who has left houses, family, materials, etc., for Jesus' sake and the gospels, but that he should receive now in this life 100 fold, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life (See Mark 10). God seemed to reward faithful stewardship with additional resources.

Putting the Word to Work

Do you look at the giving of your time, talents and treasures to God as a sacrifice or as an investment? The truth is, this is not an either or answer but both. I would encourage you to intentionally serve the Lord as a sacrificial act of worship but also to have an investment plan in the kingdom of God with the anticipation that it is going to pay off dividends both now and in the life to come.

Q. What is one investment you will make into the kingdom of God this week of your time, talents and/or treasures.

August 16

Stewarding my Divine Deposits - My Calling

Jeremiah 1:5; Romans 1:1

*Jer. 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I **ordained** thee a prophet unto the nations.*

*Rom. 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, **called to be** an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God*

How well do you know you? We serve an amazing God. A creative God. A deeply intentional and strategic God. Coming to terms with the creative strategy of God when we look at the outside world always seems to be easier for people than taking that same thought and applying it towards ourselves. Here we notice that God says to Jeremiah, God knew, sanctified and ordained Jeremiah and then He formed him in His mother's womb. Knowing that God is outside of time, this implies that God looked at the world and saw it's state and decided to form, set apart, and establish Jeremiah on the earth. We know that in Romans 11:29 Paul wrote the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable, meaning you can't run from, escape from, get away from them. Wherever you go, they are yours to steward. Just like Jeremiah, God personally created you on purpose with purpose and for purpose. We refer to this purpose-created life as the "calling of God."

Notice in Romans 1:1, Paul said He was called to "be" an apostle, not to "do" apostolic stuff. Calling is about "being," not doing. Lance Wallnau described the "calling" that exists in people is the result of every decision God ever made about you without bothering to ask your opinion about it. It is every decision He made about you when He was knitting you together. The era in which you live. Your birth family and birth order. Your body type; the color of your hair, eyes and skin. Your temperament, your drive, IQ, EQ and SQ are all hand-crafted by God. As I see it there are three very important decisions we must make regarding the call of God that exists on our life. 1) Accepting the call. 2) Developing and walking in the call. 3) Realizing the call is who we are, not what we do.

First, in accepting the call begins with discovering the call. If the call of God is truly all the decisions God made about us, then begin with the accepting as a part of who you are the easy decisions regarding God's pre-determined formulation of your life. Don't waste another moment rejecting the call of God in even the smallest things, like wishing you looked like someone else, thought like someone else, lived in a different era or had a different family etc., Make up your mind, God is always right, accept that He created you on purpose.

Secondly, develop the call. Make up your mind, to steward who God created you to be not just letting yourself go in any way you want. You are His, bought with a price the precious blood of Jesus. He has given you a life, and just like the parable of the talents, your responsibility is to invest yourself and develop the talents He has given you. If you are two talent man, that's great, rejoice that you won't be judged like a 5 or a 10 talent man.

Thirdly, your performance is not synonymous with your calling. This is why, trying to do the things someone else does because you want to be who they are will never produce satisfaction. You cannot call yourself into something God has not called you into. You can only be, who He created you to be. As I have heard it said one time, If God created you to be a masterpiece, why settle for being a cheap imitation?

Putting the Word to Work

Declare it out loud. My God knew me, sanctified me, called me and formed me from my mother's womb. I am who I am because of His design. I am called.

August 17

Stewarding my Divine Deposits - My Gifting

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Yesterday I described calling to be about who we are today, we will see that gifting is about what we do. I Corinthians 12 describes various “gifts of the Holy Spirit,” when you read those, you will notice that those are all connected to actions. When we see someone who is naturally talented in a certain way they are often described as being for example a “gifted musician,” a “gifted athlete” a “gifted speaker” a “gifted craftsman.” The list goes on, but understand that gift is always associated with actions. While a calling is either yours or it’s not, gifting is also yours, but must be stewarded in a different way.

Gifting = Talents + Knowledge + Skills + Abilities

The sum total of all your talents, knowledge, skills and abilities equals your gifting. Stewarding your calling was about stewarding your identity while Stewarding your gifting is really about stewarding your abilities and opportunities. Talent must be trained. Knowledge must be gained. Skills must be sharpened. Abilities must be effective. What you do with your gifting is determined by your discipline, efforts and willingness to grow.

First discipline is the greatest key to developing gifts. No one comes out of the womb fully developed. We all have to grow in our gifting. The key to developing gifts is exercising them. Just like the muscles or the senses are trained by exercising them over and over again, the development of your talents, skills, knowledge and abilities grows by exercise. If playing baseball taught me one thing, it was that consistency and effort over time, produced greater gifting.

Secondly, if exercise and discipline are keys to developing gifting then know that it will take effort. Your gifting does not grow without intentional exercise. Many people love high quality musicianship when we see it, but it has been said that it takes 10,000 hours or practice to produce a concert level pianist. Apply this principle to every gift and recognise the effort it takes to develop your gift.

Lastly, developing your gift requires a willingness to grow. Many people are honestly unwilling to put in the time and effort necessary to grow. A growth mentality in regards to gifting requires us to stay hungry and humble. Jesus deserves to receive our talent back with fruit.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. To what extent are you putting your talents to work in the Kingdom of God?

August 18th

Stewarding my Divine Deposits - My Talents

Matthew 25:15

to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability

I have known a lot of talented people, and each of them were uniquely gifted in some arena, art, music, drama, oratory, athletics, science, etc. Some of them worked hard to develop their talents while others did not apply perspiration to their inspiration. Some were successful in their pursuits while others seemed to languish in their efforts to utilize their God-given skills.

In one of His longest parables, Jesus spoke about the responsibility of stewards (Matt. 25:14-30). He included that parable in His answer to His disciples' question regarding His second coming and the end of the age. Obviously, He wanted His disciples to understand the gravity of their responsibility to steward the resources God distributed to each of them individually. He indicated that those God-given gifts were distributed uniquely: "to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability" (Matt. 25:15)

The apostle Peter identified the purpose for God-given talents: "If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 4:11). God does not give talents to people for their own selfish ambitions or satisfaction, He gives people talents in the hope that people will use their talents to glorify Him. While providing direction to the believers in Corinth, the apostle Paul wrote about his own personal development of the talents God had given him: "And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight not as one who beats the air" (I Cor. 9:24-26). In other words, it takes discipline, self-control, and hard work to develop God-given talent. In that same letter, he also gave testimony to his humility and hard work: "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." Thus, Paul described the blessed partnership with God he employed and enjoyed as he applied real perspiration to the inspiration he received from the Holy Spirit.

Putting the Word to work

Q: Describe the talents that God has given you

Q: Describe how you are developing those talents

Q: Describe how the Lord is using your talents to glorify God

August 19
Stewarding the Anointing
Isaiah 61:1-2

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted; to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

What does it mean to be anointed? Literally, anointing was when oil was poured over a person's head to the extent that it ran down to the hem of your garment. Spiritually anointed means: To consecrate someone as special or marking them for a cause or purpose. You have been anointed into service for God and His Kingdom. You have been set apart for God's use. You have become part of God's family, a peculiar people, a holy nation.

There are numerous instances in the Bible where people were anointed by God, or by someone sent by God. A prime example is King David. The prophet Samuel was sent by God to anoint the replacement for King Saul. He was not told who the person was but was instructed by God to seek out the sons of Jesse. He was told that the Lord would show him the one to be anointed. Samuel went through all of Jesse's sons, and God did not respond to any of them. Finally, Samuel asked Jesse if there were any others, and Jesse replied well there is David, but he is out in the field with the sheep. David was called and God instructed Samuel to anoint him the next king of Israel.

Pastor Billy Sanders had many sayings that we have dubbed “Bill-isms”. One of his favorites was, “The anointing comes at a price, pay it.” What did he mean by that? The anointing comes through prayer, fasting and diligence to the things of the Kingdom of God. We must steward the anointing of God in our lives. We must pay diligent attention to the way we act, speak and think. We must be attentive to the voice of the Lord.

Each of us has been anointed by God to the purposes of the Kingdom of God. We must steward that anointing in two ways. First, seek God's face for the area of application that your anointing is for. It might be the Children's Ministry, Helps Ministry, Hospitality or

An anointing is different from the calling (identity, gifting ability) the anointing is what energizes and drives the gift. A position without an anointing is just a title. Second, we must steward our anointing by actually using it. It doesn't do any good to be anointed and just sit in a pew and wait for others to meet the need.

Putting the Word to Work

Want the anointing? Psalm 133 says the anointing flows where brethren dwell together in unity.

1. Make up your mind to join yourself to the local body of Christ in unity.
2. Commit to serve with your calling, gifting, talents and ask the Holy Spirit to anoint you.

August 20
Stewarding my knowledge
John 17:3

This is eternal life: that they may know (ginosko) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

We've heard it said, "knowledge is power"—and in Scripture, that truth runs deep. But not all knowledge is the same. The Bible calls us to move beyond simply learning about God to truly knowing Him through relationship and experience. In the New Testament there are two Greek words translated as "know": Oida — factual or intellectual knowledge and Ginosko — relational, experiential knowledge gained through interaction and intimacy. Many stop at oida—they know verses, theology, and can explain who God is. But eternal life isn't found in knowing facts—it's found in knowing God Himself.

Jesus said in John 17:3: "This is eternal life: that they may know (ginosko) You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." This pursuit of true knowledge is part of our royal calling. Proverbs 25:2 says: "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings." God hides treasures of wisdom in His Word, in creation, and in daily life—not to keep us from truth, but to draw us closer through the seeking. A godly steward of knowledge honors the pursuit, treats truth as sacred, and seeks to apply and share it with others. But when we neglect truth, the consequences are real. In Hosea 4:6, God declares: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Not because knowledge wasn't available—but because they didn't treasure or live it. Head knowledge without heart transformation leads to ruin.

To be a good steward of knowledge, then, means: We seek the hidden things of God, humbly and persistently. It is our glory to pursue what He reveals. We apply what we've learned. We don't settle for oida when God invites us into "ginosko"—true relationship. We share truth with others, using knowledge not to boast, but to build. The knowledge of God isn't just information—it's an invitation to communion, transformation, and purpose. That kind of knowledge is powerful. And to steward it well is one of the greatest honors we've been given.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. Have you viewed knowledge of God as something to collect—or as a sacred invitation to deeper relationship?

Q. Is there any area of life you realize you have been content with head knowledge (oida) when God is calling you to deeper, lived knowledge (ginosko)?

August 21

Principles of Stewardship - My learning-growing

Matthew 11:29

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

We are all given the gift of being able to grow and learn in our understanding of the world around us. God gives us time, ability, and resources to learn and grow. We have to choose to steward what we learn and what we put into practice. In the world right now, we are constantly taking in content. The opportunity to learn is unhindered. There are more resources and more information available to us today than there has ever been. But what are we choosing to learn, what are we choosing to grow in and practice in our lives?

In his book *Practicing The Way*, John Mark Comer talks about Jesus the Rabbi, the teacher. He shares that in that time all Rabbi's had a style and interpretation they would read scripture in and a "yoke" of teaching about how to live and walk through life. The picture is of a yoke that oxen carry that helps spread out the weight of the load, but what Jesus is talking about is a teaching and a way of life to learn and grow in that will allow rest and refreshment for our souls. Learning from Jesus, how He lived, how He interacted with the world around Him, how He leaned on the Father, how He looked and thought about life, meditating on these things and putting them into practice will rest and refresh our souls.

What we learn we put into practice. What we learn affects how we perceive life, deal with challenges, and walk through life's circumstances. We have to choose daily what content we are learning from, who we are allowing to teach and influence us, and then what we will put into practice. It's time for us all to take inventory. Let's steward the gift of learning well.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. What are the three most common sources you have been turning to for information in the last few months?

Q. Are these sources promoting growth in your walk with Christ.

Week Three Sermon Notes

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (if applicable): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Three Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series *(if applicable)*: _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Four to the end of the Month

Week Four to the End of the Month Prayer Notes

<p>Specific things I am praying about for my family.</p>	<p>Specific things I am praying about for people in my church.</p>
<p>Things I sense from the Holy Spirit while I pray.</p>	<p>People I am praying for their salvation.</p>

August 22

Stewarding my Relationships - Marriage

Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

I have always considered my natural competitiveness to be a great attribute to my personality. Student athletes are taught respect and awareness at a young age, and that has always helped me manage in the workplace and in life. Until I got married that is.

In marriage my natural competitiveness meant instead of it being my husband and I against this world, it was me against my husband. Even when I said I wasn't, I naturally "kept score" so to speak in my head. Each slight, each hurt feeling, even gifts were stacked against each other in my mind so that I always came out on top. Instead of lifting my spouse up, I made sure I was elevated, that "I won." Only it never occurred to me that I wasn't winning anything, because God didn't design marriage to be a competition, he designed it to be a partnership, a safe place in this world, a picture of His love for the church.

Marriage is about mutual service, two people choosing day after day, to put each other first in love. In the world's eyes that kind of love looks weak. But in God's Kingdom, it's the most powerful kind of stewardship. God didn't give you your spouse to fix them, control them, or outshine them. He entrusted you with their heart so you could serve them faithfully, humbly, and with joy.

Stewardship in marriage means seeing your spouse through the eyes of grace, not judgment. It means laying down selfishness and picking up a towel, just like Jesus did when He washed His disciples' feet. Not because they deserved it, but because love serves.

Putting the Word to Work

To those who have a spouse: do one intentional act of service for your spouse today, with no strings attached. Not because they asked, not because they deserve it, but simply because love gives. Let it be an act of worship to the God who entrusted you with their heart.

August 23

Stewarding my marriage - My Sex Life

I Corinthians 7:2b-5

*2 **let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.** 3 **Let the husband render** to his wife the **affection due her**, and likewise also the **wife to her husband**. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 **Do not deprive one another except with consent** for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and **come together again** so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

Sex. It's a big deal. If there was ever a time for Christians to know what the Bible says about stewarding God's gift sex it would be in today's culture. One day's devotional is not nearly enough room to exhaust what the Bible says about sex. But, if you view sex as a dirty word, an off limits conversation, or only to be used in the procreation of children you are missing out on so much of God's idea of sex. If you are a victim of sexual abuse which statistically at least 20% of the population, sex may even be a word that evokes great fear and horrible memories. For anyone who has suffered terrible experiences at the hands of abusers, I want you to know there is healing. For anyone who has willfully engaged in sexual acts outside of marriage from pornography to adultery, there is forgiveness and cleansing. Today we are going to see some really good news, sex is actually a beautiful God-given gift to a husband and wife.

Here Paul describes four truths about sex inside of marriage. First, wisely stewarding your sex life begins with husbands and wives viewing sex as an opportunity to serve one another. If both husband and wife approach sex from the heart to love, serve and bring their spouse pleasure it will radically affect their sex life. You will want to discover what your spouse likes because sex becomes what you can give, not get. Secondly, notice the apostle Paul says first to "Let the husband render due affection to his wife." Men, understand that to a woman, affection does not equal sex. Affection can include the attention to her other needs like taking out the trash, bringing her flowers, speaking to her affectionately from the heart, holding her hand, rubbing her feet, etc. One relational expert said wives need at least 8 hugs a day from their husbands to be healthy. Other-than-sex affection matters to the wife. Notice it says after the instruction to men to render affection due their wives that he then said, and "likewise also the wife to her husband." Women need to realize that in most men, affection equals sex. Typically men have a higher sex drive than women. Wives need to understand the damage done to their husbands when they reject and refuse to serve their husbands with God's gift of sex. This does not mean you have to engage in sex every time he wants, but your heart should be to serve one another, not just when you "feel like it" or when he has "earned it." Thirdly Paul God's gift of sex as helping to guard against sexual immorality. Plainly stated, a healthy marital sex-life helps keep one another's hearts from roaming. Lastly, Paul outlines **the** one time to not be sexually active within the context of marriage, and that is during agreed upon times of prayer and fasting, then to come back together and not give any place to the devil. Meaning outside of times of prayer and fasting, it is healthy, necessary, expected that husbands and wives have an active, healthy, enjoyable sex-life.

Putting the Word to Work

For those who are not currently married, save yourself and know that sex is a beautiful gift to be enjoyed inside of marriage. For those who have made mistakes, repent and commit to save yourself for marriage. Talk to your pastor about breaking any soul ties. For those who have been abused, and have never gone through healing, come talk to our pastoral team. For those who are married, go enjoy, serve one another the affection due one another.

August 24

Stewarding My Relationships - My Family

Genesis 2:18a; Psalm 68:5-6

18a And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone..."

*5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 **God sets the solitary in families**; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

In Genesis 1, we see that every time God looked at what He created He said, "It is good." Until Genesis 2:18 where God looked at man, and said, this isn't good, He needs help. "It's not good for man to be alone." Family was God's idea. Families are so important in the kingdom of God. Here are some things we see about God's idea of family.

1. It's not good for man to spend life alone, so God created marriage, before sin ever existed and declared it would be between one man, and one woman (Genesis 2).
2. That a man should leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife (Genesis 2). God's declaration here implies that husband and wife, will ultimately become mothers and fathers as they steward their sex-life which will lead to the procreation of sons and daughters.
3. Sons have an assignment be trained up and raised up to know how to be men. That they will one day leave their father's house and take a wife for themselves and the cycle continues.

It is important to note that these roles: for the males: son, man, husband, father and for females of daughter, woman, wife, mother are roles created by God. God creates people and determines what that role looks like, you and I do not have the ability to usurp God's authority and alter how we were designed to try and cross over into the other lane.

Secondly, this demonstrates the idea of monogamy. God intended for one man to marry one woman, and for the two to come together in a marriage. Not to sleep around or have casual sexual relationships. Marriage covenants are important in the eyes of God.

Thirdly the implication of raising and training up sons and daughters who will one day be ready to stand up on their own two feet and enter into healthy marriage covenants themselves and reproduce more children who will be trained up in the ways of God and healthy families.

Putting the Word to Work

Think of someone who has a great family and ask them about their family experiences. See what you have in common, what looks Biblical and areas where there could have been improvement.

Ask God to help you see how family is supposed to work from His perspective. More people in the U.S. today do not experience God's idea of family but instead have to draw their conclusions from somewhere or something else. If that has been your experience, or if your upbringing was a bad experience, ask God to help you see His family from His point of view and to help you understand how it is supposed to work. If you had a relatively good experience with imperfect parents, ask the Lord to help you see how it is supposed to work.

August 25

Stewarding my relationships - My Circle

Matthew 4:19 & 21

19 “Then He said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Simon Peter and Andrew immediately responded and followed... 21 He saw two brothers, James and John, and called them. Immediately, they left and followed Him.”

Jesus had His circle and it was composed of twelve men as described in Luke 6:12-16, but the first four He called out in Matthew 4:19 & 21. Jesus knew something about these men that they didn't know about themselves. These men were to be the closest to Jesus, and acted as an 'inner circle' to Him. These had been with Him the longest. They witnessed Jesus' Transfiguration (Mark 9:2-3). They witnessed Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead (Luke 8:49-56). And they were present with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:26-38). They witnessed Jesus' greatest moments of glory and His darkest trials. They were His closest friends.

In our own circles, we have the greatest influence. What we say and do can make a huge difference in their lives as well as our own. We can influence them to the good or to the bad. It is within us to affect others and we have to guard ourselves and realize the degree of influence we carry. When we get saved and have been truly born again, we change, our world changes. Being faithful to Jesus and walking like Him will qualify your circle of friends.

I am so blessed to have a circle friends both in the church and those out of the church. I have one friend who has been with me through it all. We met when we were nine years old, and now 67 years later, our friendship just gets sweeter and richer as the days go by. We don't see each other often, but we talk on the phone. When we need encouragement or feel lonely, we pick up the phone and talk, pray and speak life into each other. I feel she was chosen by God to be my friend.

The Holy Spirit will help you with your circle of friends. It is up to us to nurture, guide and protect it.

Putting the Word to Work

1. Do you recognize the circle of friends God has placed you beside?

2. Is your "inner circle" like what Jesus had? If not, pray for it.

August 26

Stewarding my Relationships -My church family -Those God placed over me

Hebrews 13:17

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”

We are often told that as Christians, we are to be good stewards of our time or money, but it is also important that we are good stewards of the relationships that God has given us, especially within the Church. We are not meant to do life alone; that is why God places us in spiritual families. And just like earthly families, spiritual families have leaders. In this Scripture, we are given two commands: submit to authority, and do this in a way that brings joy.

1) Honor and Submit to Spiritual Authority: Our leaders are in their positions because God put them there. (Romans 13:1) So, how can we steward our relationships with those God has placed over us? By honoring them! The best way to do this is through obedience and submission. Obedience deals with our actions; you're asked to clean the toilets at church, and you do it, good job, that's obedience. But take that a step further and look at submission, which deals with our hearts. What if you clean the toilets, but you complain about it, and speak poorly of your leader for asking you to do it? This displays a heart that is not submitted, and can lead to bitterness and division. So do everything with a happy heart that is fully submitted.

2) Support Your Leaders with Joyful Cooperation: This is the happy heart part. Attitudes are contagious. When you have a good one, it will rub off on others, even your leaders. They are human and will thrive when they're supported, encouraged, and met with happy hearts. This also helps carry the load of ministry and will benefit the entire church body.

Putting the Word to Work

What is one way can intentionally support and encourage the leaders God has placed in your life this week through obedience, submission, and joyful cooperation?

August 27

Stewarding my Relationships - My Church Family (II)

Psalm 68:5-6

*5 A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. 6 **God sets the solitary in families**; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

As we continue to look at stewarding our relationships and specifically our church family, it is important to recognize we should always have 3 types of relationships. There are those who are out in front of us, or over us. Yesterday we looked at the relationship to those who God has placed over us. We also have relationships with people who are our comrades in arms, in the same space and situation we are currently in. Then we have those we are out in front of, those we are pulling up to the level we are. It is healthy to have all three kinds of relationships. Consider the impact of having real relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ.

- Proverbs 17:17 - *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.*
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*
- 1 Thess. 5:11 - *Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.*
- Proverbs 27:9 - *Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.*
- Proverbs 27:10 - *Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.*

We were not made to walk through life alone, we need one another, we need the body of Christ. I heard one pastor say it this way, "It's the banana that leaves the bunch that gets eaten." When hard times arrive, it is so good to have strong healthy relationships established.

Putting the Word to Work

Who are the two or three people you know you can count on no matter what comes?

The Bible says if a man wants friends, he must first show himself friendly. What are you doing to build those relationships?

August 28

Stewarding my relationships - those I am lifting up

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

A very well known quote goes like this. *"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care"* The first time I heard that quote was at a conference with John Maxwell. He was teaching from his book "Developing the leader within you" and it had an effect on me that carries on to this day.

A few years after that when I became a supervisor and leader at a military hospital lab I made sure my crew always knew that I cared. They could depend on me; they knew I had their back and that they could come to me with anything. Even personal things outside of work in fact since I worked nights at the hospital where they got their care I was sometimes one of the first visitors when they had children. They became my "kids" and I have contact with several of them to this day. There are several whom I care about, those I talk with and give encouragement and insight to. I do this not thinking I have some awe inspiring wisdom or wealth of knowledge, I do so out of love and true caring.

I have no special abilities and in fact I still have my own struggles. Just as Paul wrote in Philippians three twelve I have not yet obtained the goal or been made perfect. I do know this, I know I would never have arrived to where I am without others pulling me (sometimes dragging me) along by speaking into my life.

Encouragement, understanding, love, and even correction have come my way from brothers and sisters that cared enough to believe in me and God's plan for my life.

So I say that when stewarding the relationships we have with our brothers (or sisters) it is important to lift up and encourage each other. Everything we do and say should be out of love and concern. Never haughty or proud but rather as one who knows how much he has been forgiven. We should also be willing to give of our time and energy (laying down our lives for our brother) . We can and should be willing to put our wishes aside for our brothers at times as the word says.

Putting the Word to Work

Consider how you can apply the following Scriptures for those you love want to see grow this week.

1 Thess. 5:11 - "Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing." List 2 or 3 people you can encourage in their walk with God this week, make a plan to reach out to them and do so.

Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Who can you sharpen this week (in love and humility, not from an elevated status)

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some." Who could you spur on toward good deeds today?

August 29

Stewarding My Body:

I Cor. 6:19, 20

“Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who lives within you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. You were bought with a price. So then, honor God and bring glory to Him in your body.”

Stewarding our body, includes nourishing our physical health, but is also much more. Consider some of the following Scriptures about our body:

Matt. 4:4 “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes out of the mouth of God.”

Psalms 103:1 “Bless the Lord, oh my soul and all that is within me.”

Romans 8:16 “The spirit Himself testifies together with our own spirit that we are the children of God”.

Psalms 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Romans 12:1 (AMP) “I appeal to you brethren, and beg of you in view of the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service and spiritual worship.”

Luke 114 (AMP) “Your eye is the lamp of the body; when your eye (your conscience) is sound and fulfilling its office, your whole body is full of light; but when it is not sound and is not fulfilling its office, your body is full of darkness.”

James 3:8 “But the human tongue can be tamed by no man. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.”

Psalms 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name.

Psalms 127:2b ...” For so He gives His beloved sleep.”

Matthew 11:28&29 (AMP) “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.] Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your soul.”

Psalms 37:23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.”

Our relationship with God is not just about stewarding our spiritual man, but also in how we take care of our physical body. Do you view your body as a living sacrifice unto the Lord? As belonging to Christ, it is important that we think about what we take in through our mouth, our ears, our eyes, our hands our nose. The things we allow in will affect our life and our lifestyle. Dedicate your body to the Lord, make up your mind that the things that you take in, are going to be for His glory.

Putting the Word to Work

Q. Are you pleased with how you are stewarding your body?

August 30, 2025
Stewarding Opportunities
2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (KJV)

6 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

I for one, do not want to reap sparingly! After my experience of physically dying on the hospital bed, and then by God's grace experiencing heaven and then returning back fully restored to life I instinctively knew one important thing: We are all supposed to actively serve God. Afterall, if you love, honor or are passionate about anyone, or anything, you will want to serve towards its betterment. Jesus clearly instructs us on how we should act after we accept Him as our personal Lord and Savior, in Mark 12:30-31, when He says:

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: This is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like it you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

In the first verse's context, the word "love" signifies in a social, as well as, a moral sense. You will notice that in these verses Jesus did not say we only act lovingly if it's something we really want to do. Oftentimes, the things we ought to do are the most difficult and uncomfortable things to do, just as the apostle Paul said in Romans 7:19. Like never before, I wanted to know what my true calling was when I returned from Heaven. Simply, I knew that to discover this, I would have to try serving in various areas within my church. So when any ministry opportunity came from The Father's House, I cheerfully accepted!

The way we handle these opportunities is extremely important, as well. Colossians 3:23-24 clearly says how we are to perform in all our tasks: *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."* Amen. Eventually after proving myself a good steward of opportunities, my calling became clear to me. It wasn't immediate, though, and sometimes I thought I was called into different areas. Even still, I continually prayed for God's will to be done, and in that, He did not allow me to waste much time. Today, I strongly urge you to make the most of every opportunity that God allows you to come across. If you do this, I can guarantee blessings will chase after you!

Putting the Word to work

Q. What are one or two opportunities the Lord has placed in front of you right now?

Q. How are you going to steward these opportunities?

August 31
Stewarding My Influence
Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

We often think of influence as something reserved for leaders with large platforms or social followings. But the truth is, every believer has influence — whether in our families, workplaces, churches, or communities. Influence is a gift entrusted to us by God, and like any gift, it must be stewarded wisely.

Jesus is our perfect example. Though He had all authority in heaven and on earth, He chose to wield His influence through humility and service. In John 13, we see Him kneel to wash His disciples’ feet — a task reserved for the lowest servant. He tells them, *“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”* (John 13:15). True influence in God’s Kingdom is never about power or prestige; it’s about pointing others to Christ through our love, humility, and service.

Paul writes in Philippians 2:3-4, *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”* Stewarding your influence begins with a heart posture that puts others before yourself and seeks God’s glory above your own.

Ask yourself: How am I using my words, my actions, and my choices to impact others for Christ? Am I motivated by self-promotion, or by a genuine desire to serve and uplift?

Your influence might look like mentoring a coworker, encouraging a friend, raising children in the faith, or being a light in a dark place. It’s not always grand gestures; it’s often quiet faithfulness that impacts lives the most.

Putting the Word to Work

1. **Pray for Humility** — Regularly ask God to search your heart and remove any pride. Invite Him to help you see opportunities to serve rather than to be served.
2. **Serve Where You Are** — Look for simple, practical ways to serve others daily. Hold the door, offer a kind word, volunteer your time, or lend a listening ear.
3. **Speak Life** — Use your words to encourage, build up, and point people to the hope you have in Christ (Ephesians 4:29).
4. **Stay Rooted in Christ** — True, lasting influence flows from abiding in Him (John 15:5). Spend time in His Word and prayer so that your life reflects His character.

May we remember that our influence is not about making our name known but about making Jesus known. As you steward the influence God has given you, do it with humility, joy, and a servant’s heart. Let your light shine — not to elevate yourself, but to glorify your Father in heaven.

Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes

Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Week Four to the end of the Month Sermon Notes

Date: _____

Sermon Title: _____

Series (*if applicable*): _____

Scripture(s)	Things I want to remember	Things I want to study further

Acknowledgements

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For more information about The Father's House, you can check out our website:

thefathershouseint.org or on Facebook or our YouTube channel. Weekly we gather:

Sunday	9 am & 11 am - Sunday Worship Experience
Tuesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Wednesday	9 am - Prayer meeting
	5:30 pm - Dollar Diner at 5:30
	6:30 pm - Wednesday Worship Experience
Thursday	9 am - Prayer meeting
Friday	7 pm - Prayer meeting
Saturday	6 pm - Prayer Meeting

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