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Spiritual Disciplines: Stewardship (General)

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**HANDOUT NOTES**

* **Introduction**

**1 Timothy 4:7** (NASB)… discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness

**Philippians 2:12-13** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed … work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Colossians 1:15-16** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

**Romans 11:36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen

**Q15. Why did God make us?** God made us to glorify Him, so His glory would be known and praised.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

* **Stewardship Defined**

The spiritual discipline of stewardship is our privileged opportunity to be faithful managers of God’s provisions and God’s purposes for God’s glory and the good of His creation!

**1 Chronicles 29:14** (NIV) “… Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

**Romans 1:6** ... you who are called ... belong to Jesus Christ

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** ... You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Hebrews 13:12-16**

**1 Timothy 6:17** (NIV) Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

Stewardship is about management.

* **Our privilege!**

**Deuteronomy 8:17-18** (NIV) You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth …

**1 Corinthians 4:7** For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

**John 3:30** “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

**Philippians 3:4-11**

* **God’s provisions**

**1 Chronicles 29:13-17**

* **God’s Purposes**

**Daniel 4:35** all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”

For some, He purposes them to be rich and for some to be poor:

**Proverbs 22:2** The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the Maker of them all.

For some, He purposes for marriage and for some singleness:

**1 Corinthians 7:7** ... But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

For some, He purposes to be healthy and strong and for some, He purposes to be stricken with impairment and/or physical suffering:

**John 9:1-3** As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”

For some, He purposes them to have children and for others not.

Scripture says that Children are a gift of God:

**Psalm 127:3** (NASB) Behold, children are a gift of the Lord ...

Scripture also shows us that God purposes some not to have children:

**1 Samuel 1:5** But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb.

For some, He purposes to elect them to saving faith and for some, He purposes to reveal His wrath and power though them unto their deserved judgment due sin:

**Romans 9:10-23**

**Romans 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose

**1 Peter 4:16** ... if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

* **God’s glory and the good of His creation**

**1 Peter 4:10-11** (NIV) Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ ...

* **How Are You Doing at Managing the Time God Entrusts to You?**

**Ephesians 5:16** Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

**Ecclesiastes 1:3** What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?

**Matthew 16:26** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? ...

**James 4:13-15** Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

* **How Are You Doing at Managing the Skills God Entrusts to You?**

**Ephesians 2:10** (NIV1984) For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

What is it that you are doing with your skills, your abilities?

Are they good works that honor God?

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men

* **How Are You Doing at Managing the Body God Has Entrusted to You?**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

**Hebrews 13:12-16**

* **Conclusion**

Christian, what are you doing with what God has entrusted to you?

How are your stewarding the life He gives you every day you wake up?