

## “Stewardship Success – Getting Ready for Christmas”

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### Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship

“Biblical stewardship is managing God’s blessings God’s ways for God’s glory.” – Chris Brown

#### 1 – The Principle of [OWNERSHIP](#)

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.” – Psalm 24:1

“Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” – Genesis 1:28

“Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful [NIV – “build wealth”].” – Deuteronomy 8:18

- God is the owner, we are the managers acting on His behalf
- Stewardship is an expression of our obedience
- Stewardship is a commitment of one’s self and possessions to God

#### 2 – The Principle of [RESPONSIBILITY](#)

“Although God gives us ‘all things richly to enjoy,’ nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we’re responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, ‘What about your responsibilities?’ Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities.” – Bill Peel, [Leadership Is Stewardship](#)

“Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.” – Proverbs 3:9

“One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy.” – Leviticus 27:30

“‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse ... If you do,’ says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, ‘I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!’” – Malachi 3:10

The Bible makes a distinction between tithes and offerings

- Tithe = the first 10% of your income
- Offerings = any money you choose to give above and beyond the tithe

#### 3 – The Principle of [ACCOUNTABILITY](#)

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.” – Hebrews 4:3

“A person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.” – 1 Corinthians 4:2

“Biblical stewardship is a whole-person response to the Gospel.”

- Time
- Money
- Abilities/Gifts
- Information
- Wisdom
- Relationships
- Authority
- Leadership

#### 4 – The Principle of [REWARDS](#)

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” – Colossians 3:23-24

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!” – Matthew 25:21

- Biblical stewardship connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world

### Stewardship Success this Christmas

“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. ‘For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.’” – 2 Corinthians 9:7

When it comes to GIVING and SPENDING:

- Stewardship is a [REMINDER](#) of where God is in our lives
- Stewardship is our [RESPONSE](#) to the generosity of God
- Setting and living by a budget allows us to [PRIORITIZE](#) being faithful stewards of all that God has blessed us with