



FIND JOY IN GIVING

Stewardship is defined by Merriam-Webster as the duties and obligations of a steward...managing of something: especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

Think of the tangible and intangible resources that have been entrusted to our care—time, talents, and assets. The list goes on. So many of the daily routines in life are taken for granted. Yet, God is so good and He continues to bless us in so many ways...

As a child of God, we should give with a willing heart. There are and will be challenges along the way. It is during these times that it's helpful to be reminded of God's gift to humanity—His only Son. This is truly a sacrifice that goes beyond our imagination. Consider Jesus Christ as a partner. Despite our weaknesses and uncertainties, He is capable of taking each of us by the hand, leading and lifting us to be better stewards of our specific gifts. These gifts may be praying, visiting, encouraging, teaching, caring, serving, or sharing. As we attempt great things for God and His kingdom we can expect great things from God. Remember the story of the boy with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread? Jesus multiplied the small lunch to feed over 5,000 people. Often we feel that our contribution is insufficient, but God can use whatever we have to offer including our time, talent, and treasures.

Do we give willingly and enthusiastically because we believe that giving is important in spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ? If we will take the first step in making ourselves available to God, He will use those efforts to advance the work of His kingdom. Whatever our status in life, our work should reflect the abilities God has given us. Our churches and communities require individual and team commitments working together in order to fulfill the commission of Jesus to go and make disciples.

The words of the hymn Give of Your Best to the Master come to mind. "Give Him the best that you have". What an opportunity we have to make a difference when we use our resources for Him. Friends, let's use our God given gifts to enhance others for His glory.

"Remember this whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Pat Core ~ Bethesda Friends Meeting

