

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

February 2026

To what is your life committed? For a multitude of people today it could be summed up in one word: money. People are bowing before the god, mammon. We do this even though we know we can't take it with us.

Chuck Swindoll in his book *Strengthening Your Grip*, gives a delightful illustration of the truth. He tells about a friend of his who was in need of a dark suit to wear to a funeral. He had very little money, so he went to the local thrift shop in search of a bargain. Much to his amazement, they had a solid black suit that fit him exactly ... at a very reasonable price. As he paid for the suit, he inquired how they could possibly sell such nice suits so cheaply. The thrift shop manager smiled and said that the suits had once been owned by the local mortuary. They had used them on deceased people for funerals, then removed them before the burial.

The man felt a little uncomfortable wearing a suit that had been on a corpse, but since no one else would know, and he really did need a suit badly, why not? Everything went fine until he casually started to put his hands in the pockets of his new suit. It was then that he discovered that his pants had no pockets! And the truth came home to him. Why would a dead man need pockets? We leave it all behind.

To what or to whom is your life committed? We have been called to be committed to something that is eternal, that is ennobling, that is earth-shaking. How about a commitment to the stewardship way of life? The person who takes this



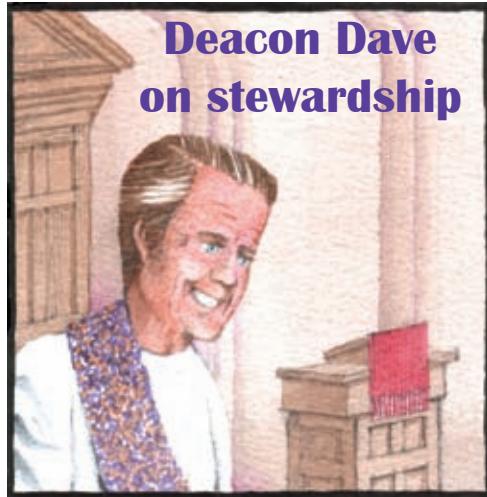
step will find other commitments flowing naturally into his or her life. That person will want to give generously of his or her time in Christian service. He or she will look upon the giving of material substance as a privilege.

The question of how much time should be given to Christian service must be thought through. Guidance must be offered concerning the amount or percentage of one's money that should be given for the Lord's work. But the basic step is taken when commitment to the stewardship way of life is made. This means receptivity, open-mindedness, earnestness, and a desire to serve. With such an attitude, the Christian can grow in grace as the means of grace are offered.

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As we live from day to day, we are investing our time and talents in various things. Whatever we are doing had better be important. It costs us a day of our lives. As Christian stewards, do we willingly volunteer some of our time and talent to the work of our church?





Deacon Dave on stewardship

It is one thing to say that we are committed to serving God, and quite another thing to demonstrate that with our pocketbooks. But the extent to which we are willing to do that, reveals whether we are offering to God that which costs nothing, or that which is truly sacrificial.

A challenging issue modern Christians face is our financial obligation to the work of God's church. How much is enough? How much can we afford? How much do we want to give? What about tithing? Can we do that?

Abraham's descendants gave their first fruits ... their best ... to God. They

gave one-tenth (10%) right off the top. They honored God first. I want to honor and thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon me. But does God expect the same of me as of them? The answer will differ for each of us. I know that God wants me to give willingly, with an open heart. I have no grain, lambs or bulls to offer. I have limited resources as a single, working, semi-senior citizen. What can I do?

I can support church activities near and dear to my heart. I can share my talents and resources helping others meet their challenges. I can look upon tithing as a goal, contributing a little more to the church each year. I may not make 10% this year or next year, or maybe never, but a goal is something for which to strive.

How can we show God that we are truly thankful for His gifts to us? Think about it. 

Steward of the Month

Send in the Clowns

Submitted by: Gene, Boynton Beach, FL

Madeleine Ehrhardt is one of many volunteers at our church in Boynton Beach, Florida. Yet she is unique in several ways. Now that illness has forced her into retirement from her numerous commitments, it is time to take stock of all that she has done. Over the years she has faithfully blazed a trail of service to our congregation.

Publicly, from her role in our Clown Ministry to her behind-the-scenes work as a volunteer in the church office, Madeleine was always willing to pitch in. Among the many, many hats she wore in her involvement in our church activities and committees and projects were her leadership of the Tellers Committee and her service on the Finance Committee. Those who have worked with her during these years are quick to mention her smile, her laughter and her great sense of humor. (I think that she took Philippians 4 as her motto in life: *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice.*) We are extremely grateful to Our Lord who sent the gift of Madeleine to us, and grateful to Madeleine also who for years has shared her time and her many gifts with us and who is still quick to share a smile or a laugh. 

Juggling

Have you ever seen a juggler? They're fun to watch. My husband has been juggling for several years. Learning how wasn't easy. At first he practiced with rolled up socks or bean bags instead of balls because they don't roll away when they're dropped. But after many hours of practice, he's become good enough to talk as he juggles. He doesn't drop things if he's distracted, either.

Jugglers generally start learning this skill by tossing one bean bag from hand to hand. They go on from there to two, and then three bean bags.

In a way, stewardship is like juggling. Some people think that giving time, talent, and treasure is too difficult. They may know of others in their church who do, but think, "Oh, they're so organized and generous and talented. I'm not like that, so I can't help as much."

It's true that some people are good at giving, just as some people are naturally well-coordinated. They start out with an advantage when they begin to practice stewardship or learn to juggle. But giving is a skill that can be developed, just like juggling. It's up to us to become the best givers we can be. 



The Good Steward

I am *Steward over my life*. My purpose is to use God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure that others can come to know God through my life. In other words, I live my religion.

I am Steward to my family, my relatives, my neighbors and my fellow human everywhere. I give them my love and share my life and bounty with them.

I am Steward to my church. I give it my time, my best thought and talents. I support it financially. I extend to all the warmth of my love of God, whether members, or strangers. I pray that my church can be the conscience of the community, encouraging brotherhood, curbing inhumanity.

I am Steward to my community and any of the agencies that serve it. I serve to ensure that the authority it wields is inspired by God.

I am Steward over my corner of God's Earth. I seek to preserve its productivity and beauty for this and future generations.

First and last, I am a steward. I am dedicated to a life of service to both God and humankind, for all of my days, in everything I do or say. And I thank God that this is my lot and portion. 



A steward is defined as: An administrator or supervisor; a manager. As people of faith, we manage what God has given us. We are accountable to God for how we use his gifts. We have both an individual and community obligation as stewards. We need to personally decide how to develop and commit the abilities and possessions we have. We must also respond to our faith community, the church, which provides us with opportunities to heighten the effect of our stewardship.



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To what is your life...

Something tragic goes on in the lives of most of us. It is failure to fulfill life's greatest possibilities. And something grand and glorious could be happening day by day. It would be the joining of life to high Christian purposes, which enrich both those who serve and those who are blessed with the service rendered.

Real religious faith has to do with

all of life and not with just a fragment of it. Christianity is more than a creed to be embraced ... it is a way of life to be lived. And the living of that life; the awakening of a person to a world beyond the world of sense; response of his or her mind and his or her spirit to God; this is a part of what we call a person's stewardship ... a person's best way to fulfillment.

