



## Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life

### Unit 8 -Stewardship

**God calls us to be disciplined in the use of our time, our money, and our resources. Godliness is the result of a disciplined spiritual life, but how we steward the Blessings of God are at the heart of a disciplined spiritual life that leads to Christlikeness.**

#### 1. The Disciplined Use of Time

- Use time wisely “because the days are evil” - Ephesians 5:15–16.
- Wise use of time is the preparation for eternity – 2 Corinthians 6:2
- Time is short - James 4:14
- Time is passing – 1 John 2:17
- The remaining time is uncertain - Proverbs 27:1
- Time lost cannot be regained - John 9:4
- You are accountable to God for your time - Romans 14:12
- Time is so easily lost – Proverbs 26:13-14
- We value time at death – Proverbs 5:11-13
- Time’s value in eternity - Luke 16:25

#### 2. The Disciplined Use of Money

- God owns everything you own - Psalm 24:1
- Giving is an act of worship - Philippians 4:18
- Giving reflects faith in God’s provision – Mark 12:41-44
- Giving should be sacrificial and generous – 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Giving reflects spiritual trustworthiness - Luke 16:10–13

#### 3. The Disciplined Use of Resources

- Stewardship is about love, not legalism 2 Corinthians 8:7-8
- Stewarding, an Appropriate Response to Real Needs – Acts 4:32-35
- Steward - willing, thankful, and cheerful - 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Stewardship is planned and systematic - 1 Corinthians 16:1–2
- Stewarding with generosity results in bountiful blessing - Luke 6:38

## Homework – Reflections

1. Why do you think people have difficulty managing their money? Which cultural and personal factors contribute to this difficulty?
2. Do you often feel that “there aren’t enough hours in the day”? What are some of the reasons why people feel so much time pressure?
3. When someone mentions your need to be a better steward of money and time, how do you typically respond?
4. Read John 17:4. What work do you believe God has given you to do? How well are you completing it?
5. According to Ephesians 5:15–16, “the days are evil.” Why, therefore, are we to make the most of our time? How do we do this?
6. Which things hinder you from using your time the way God would have you use it? Be honest.
7. What must you do to obey the command found in Colossians 3:2?
8. How strongly do you believe in the existence of evil spirits today? In what ways does a person’s view of evil influence the time he or she spends in the Christian Disciplines?

9. Read 2 Corinthians 6:2 and James 4:14. If you knew you'd be in eternity tomorrow, how would you live life differently today?
  
10. What circumstances have reminded you that time is passing and death might be near? (See Psalm 31:15.)
  
11. Consider ways in which you've misused time. What are your most effective means of minimizing the misuse of time.
  
12. Read Philippians 3:13–14. What is the will of God for us, despite the ways in which we've misused time?
  
13. What does Hebrews 5:12 say about using our time to gain spiritual maturity?
  
14. Look up Matthew 12:36, 25:14–30. What do they say about God's judgment of our actions?
  
15. What does Proverbs 5:11–13, 24:33–34 say about lost time and opportunity?
  
16. Is it easy to grasp that God owns everything we possess? Why, or why not?
  
17. What does Luke 16:10–13 say about who God can trust?
  - a. Why do you think Luke likens money to a “master”?

18. In what ways can you excel in love by giving? (See 2 Corinthians 8:7)
  
19. Why should you give to God willingly, thankfully, and cheerfully?
  
20. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–8, consider the meaning of each phrase in this passage. What do you think this passage has meaning for in regards to how you steward the blessings of God?
  
21. What are the benefits of a systematic giving plan?
  
22. What specific steps are you willing to take to implement needed changes in your giving?
  
23. Are you preparing, through your stewardship of time and money, to stand before God and give an account of your use of time and money? Explain your answer.
  
24. In light of many people's burnout-prone lifestyle, what can you learn from Ecclesiastes 3:1? In which areas of your life are you too rushed and becoming emotionally and physically drained?
  
25. Spend some time in prayer. Thank God for His love, faithfulness, provision, and—most important of all—for giving His Son as a sacrifice for your sins. Ask Him to reveal ways in which you can better use time and money for the purpose of Godliness.