

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.* (The Tithe - Malachi 3:10-12; freewill offerings - 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)

1. Who's is it?

- God is the Owner of all things; I'm the manager over what He has given.
- Stewardship first deals with the person, not the purse.
- Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Psalm 24:1; Luke 6:46-49

2. Who's (really) number 1?

- When we give the "first-fruit," or first ten percent, we are declaring that He is the Source of everything. In fact, God is the fountain of Life itself. (Psalm 36:9)
- Proverbs 3:9; Haggai 1:3-2:9; Malachi 3:10-12

3. Our giving reveals the heart.

- Where our treasure/heart is there our heart/treasure is.
- Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34

4. When we give we grow.

- Practicing stewardship produces growth. By using our faith, our faith grows. By using our spiritual gifts, we grow and mature spiritually.
- Luke 17:5-6; Matthew 25:19-23; 2 Corinthians 9:10-15

5. Joyous giving.

- God loves a cheerful giver. The word, cheerful, is the Greek word, "hilaros," meaning prompt, attractive, gracious, ecstatic, etc.
- John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Romans 12:1

6. When we are faithful in little, we are faithful in much.

- Stewardship in our tithing and giving deals with our current resources.
- To increase, we must be a faithful steward over what we have today.
- Luke 16:10-12; Matthew 25:21

7. Are we a reservoir or a river?

- We must be a river of resources, not a reservoir collecting resources.
- God will give to us what He knows will flow through us.
- Proverbs 11:25; 22:9

8. God has a "big shovel."

- We cannot out give God!
- 2 Corinthians 9:6, 10-11

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROVISION

When Israel was led by Moses out of Egypt, there was a tremendous demonstration of God's willingness to use His power in the actual day-to-day activities of the people.

There they stood, 3 million people at the Red Sea. God's people, encamped in the wilderness, was two-thirds the size of Rhode Island, or about 750 square miles.

God sent food (manna, which means, "What is it?") from heaven every day to feed the people. That would have been 1,500 tons of food each day just to keep them from starvation. If they ate as much as we do today, it would have taken one freight train two miles long every day and would cost 6 million dollars a day!

Moses struck the rock and water gushed out of the Rock. To sustain the people and animals, it took 11 million gallons of water per day.

Hauling it would have taken one freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long each day!

God took care of them 14,600 days (40 years). The total amount would have been 58,400,000 tons of food and 160 billion gallons of water! Our God is a mighty God! (Ephesians 3:20-21)

God ALWAYS provides. In fact, God even provided for Israel in the wilderness after He had rejected them from going into Canaan! One thing, however, keeps God from providing: when we stop giving to God and to others. Obedient and generous Biblical stewardship brings provision.

