

LIVING INTENTIONALLY

GIVING AN ACCOUNT

Being a Good & Faithful Steward



'So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.' Romans 14:12

The Lord has appointed us as stewards over several things on this side of eternity and as good stewards, one of the critical things we need to always bear in mind is that there will come a time when we will be called to give an account of ourselves to God. I'm sure one of the questions this brings to our minds will be, "what are those things we will have to give an account of so we can start aligning ourselves?"

There are 5 key areas we will dig into over the next few days and as we go into these areas, our prayer is that the Lord will grant us spiritual wisdom and understanding to know what to do and the grace to consistently put what needs to be done into practice.

Stay connected.



Day 1

Time

'For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.' Ecclesiastes 3:1

We will give an account of how we use time. Time is meant to be a tool that will help guide our actions. God works with times and seasons, not just for the earth but for our personal lives as well. There is a time appointed for every season we will experience in our lives and activities allocated to those seasons, so we need to be sensitive to how we use time.

'Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.' Psalms 90:12 NLT

'making the very most of your time [on earth, recognizing and taking advantage of each opportunity and using it with wisdom and diligence] ...' Ephesians 5:16 AMP

One of the strategies of the enemy is to make us think we have more time at our disposal than we really do. This mindset then makes us think we can postpone critical things because we believe there will always be time to do them later. Moses understood that we need to appreciate that time for us is a finite commodity which must be used with wisdom. Life is meant to be lived intentionally, with a sense of purpose and understanding of the season of life we're in and what that season calls for.

'But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.' Matthew 6:33

Imagine standing before God today to give an account of how you used time this year alone. How much time did you spend on the things that have eternal relevance? How much time did you spend getting to know God better? How much time did you devote to impacting the lives of those around you? Did you pursue understanding the spiritual seasons of your life so you know what to do per time? Now compare your answer with time you've spent on other things. However we choose to define 'other things' and in spite of how legitimate they are, we shouldn't lose sight of the fact that we will one day give an account of whatever we're choosing to spend time on.

Prayer: Lord, give me an understanding of how short time is in the context of eternity and give me wisdom and grace to live intentionally in a manner that aligns with Your times and seasons for my life.



Day 2

Talent

'As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace' 1 Peter 4:10

None of us came to earth empty, we have all been endowed with one gift/talent or the other with which we can serve the body of Christ and the world at large. Our talents aren't restricted to the pulpit as God in His wisdom has uniquely gifted each and every one of us in a manner that will bring Him glory. Even though we've all been blessed with some form of talent, it's only when we start nurturing that talent that we can see the results that will bring God glory.

"Look, I have specifically chosen Bezalel ... I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working with gold, silver, and bronze' Exodus 31:2-4 NLT

Bezalel was an artisan whom the Bible notes was an expert at his craft. Which means outside of the God-given talent he received, Bezalel took the time to develop his talents to the point where he was noted as an expert in that area and so God could trust him with the work of the temple. The extent of the impact of our talent is the extent to which we have been disciplined in developing it.

'And the Lord has given both him and Oholiab ... the ability to teach their skills to others.'
Exodus 35:34

Bezalel and Oholiab didn't hoard their gift but invested in teaching others. As these men used their talents in service to the Lord to build the temple and develop other artisans, we all have a role we can play in using our talents for the expansion of God's kingdom. Imagine watching a playback video of your life, what would it say about how you've used whatever gifts the Lord has given you? How have you developed it/them? How much of it has been invested in building others up?

Prayer: Lord, help me identify and develop my talents. And even if I don't know specifically what it is, help me be committed to doing whatever I can to expand the frontiers of Your kingdom.



Day 3

Treasures

'Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.' Matthew 6:19

There's no earthly treasure (money, assets, etc.) that will be useful to us on the other side of eternity. Yet we spend a significant amount of our time and efforts acquiring these treasures and benchmarking our success against them. Let's ponder on something though, when the time comes to give an account of our treasures, will the Lord be impressed with our net worth, account balance or number of assets we've acquired?

'but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.' Matthew 6:20

'...you gave Me food; ...you gave Me drink;... a stranger and you took Me in;... naked and you clothed Me; ... sick and you visited Me; ... in prison and you came to Me.' Matthew 25:35-36

'Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.' Matthew 6:4

When we see whatever treasure we have as belonging to Jesus, we start asking Him first what He would have us do with what we're managing for Him. We start asking, "How would you have me use this asset?"

Investing our earthly assets in things that have eternal value will always lead us to being unselfish and looking beyond our personal desires alone. In Matthew 25:35-36 Jesus gives us insight into just some of the areas we can invest in at whatever level we're able to do so. It's important to remember that it's not just what we give but How we give that's important to God – not for show or the accolades of people. In fact, Jesus says our giving should be as private as possible.

How have you been deploying your treasure? What do you think your 'heavenly account' looks like now? Are there needs you have the capacity to meet in your environment that you're neglecting? Are there people you can assist with no expectation of a return from them? Are there kingdom projects you can support?

Prayer: Lord, help me to remember that all I have is yours and I must give an account of whatever treasures I have.



Day 4

Temple

'Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price...' 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

The concept of giving an account of our bodies may seem strange but when we as believers accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we accept Him as Lord over not just our spirits but our bodies as well. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and as stewards of the temple, we have a responsibility to keep it in a way that pleases and gives the Holy Spirit the freedom to express Himself fully through us.

'Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ?...' 1 Corinthians 6:15

As believers we're automatically engrafted into Christ and are meant to be His extensions/representatives, so what we do with our bodies shouldn't be in opposition to what Jesus would do. Oftentimes our bodies are only talked about in the context of sexual purity, but it goes far beyond that. Imagine Jesus was physically joined to you, what adjustments would you have to make to the places you go, the things you do, the words you speak? Would Jesus cringe or encourage you to do more of these?

'But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other...' Colossians 3:8-9 NLT

We're all on in the process of growing spiritually, and our goal should be not to remain wherever we were when we started the journey. Living with the daily consciousness that we are extensions of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit helps us realize how much help we need from the Holy Spirit to be Christlike in what we do, say, think. Remember, we will give an account of our temple.

Prayer: Lord I recognize that my body belongs to you and is your temple. I acknowledge that I'm not yet where I need to be and I trust you to help me live in a way that brings you honour.



Day 5

Relationships

'Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.' John 13:35

One critical way to demonstrate who Jesus is, is to show love. Everything Jesus did was on the foundation of love. He healed, taught, preached, admonished and died for all because He loves us. When we walk in the love of Jesus, looking for the best for others starts becoming second nature to us. We start thinking of how to partner with the Holy Spirit to make wherever we find ourselves better so God's name can be glorified.

'Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.' Philippians 2:4

When we pour out our time, treasures and ourselves from the foundation of the love of Jesus, our lives become a testimony. We don't look for friends or relationships based on what we can get, but what we can give. We start becoming more patient and forgiving of others because we realize just how patient the Holy Spirit is with us. And we start paying attention to sharing the gift of the gospel no matter how inconvenient it may appear because we understand it's power to transform the lives of others.

'If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.' Galatians 6:3 NLT

Realizing that we are part of the body of Christ and that all parts need each other helps us put aside any sense of self-importance. This helps us engage with people and start asking ourselves, "What would Jesus do?". However, it would be impossible to answer that question if we don't have a personal relationship with Jesus to begin with. So, as we do a personal audit of the relationships we have, let's ask ourselves if Jesus would approve of what motivates us to draw others close to us, how we choose to engage people (especially those from whom we won't readily benefit) and how concerned we are about the souls of those connected to us.

Prayer: Lord I recognize that loving people like you will be impossible to do without the help of the Holy Spirit, so I ask that you help me recognize the depth of your love for me and let that love fill me as I engage others around me.



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