

Stewardship and The Kingdom of God

Dr. Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan

Nedhy E. Sawyer
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“Stewardship and the Kingdom of God” starts with an observation on how the church in North America has reduced its calling to a series of creeds and list of prayers to pray for.. The main point they bring up is **repentance** and “change your life for God’s Kingdom is here.” **The Message** by Eugene Peterson, describes. “You can enter into the Kingdom of God only if you are willing to let go of the “apparent” control you have over your own life.”¹ The article presents two concepts of stewardship one in the Old Testament and another in the New Testament. In the Old Testament we learned how Abram brings a tenth to Melchizedek declaring that everything he owned belongs to God. In Deuteronomy God gave specific instructions to the Israelites when they moved to the promised land and assured that everything belonged to Him.²

The concept of stewardship in the New Testament, Jesus taught to understand the fullness of the Kingdom of God that is “now” and “not yet.” Every follower of Him must live a life of faithfulness, responsibility and being an accountable steward of what God has entrusted to each individual. It is also fundamental to know that we are not only stewards of money, we are also responsible for all the mysteries of God. There are seven practical Christian living realities built upon a Biblical basis: “1) Good stewardship begins with the recognition that God is the owner of all things; I found deep and profound the lines that states ‘we can not give God ownership of what He already owns, we can only recognize and submit to His ownership.’ 2) As stewards we are “Entrusted” with “Goods” to care for as part of Kingdom Discipleship until the return of the Master Jesus Christ, God has entrusted each one of us with different responsibilities according to our apt abilities. God expects us to bear fruit in His Kingdom. He is only concerned with what He has given us and we don’t need to compare with others. 3) Earthly resources can be used for ‘Eternal Purposes; focus on eternal purposes rather than earthly fortunes. 4) Our Stewardship must serve not our own purposes, but the purpose of the Master

¹ Ronal Walborn and Fran Chan, “Stewardship and The Kingdom of God, 1,2

² Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, “Stewardship and The Kingdom of God, 8,11,12

Jesus Christ. 5) As steward, we need a Balanced Picture of hardship; let's face hardship and liberate ourselves through the leadership of Jesus for the influence of the culture standard of living. 6) We will be held accountable for our stewardship; one day we will have to be accountable to Him and He will reward us or we will enter the kingdom smelling smoke. 7) Our stewardship embraces the spiritual and the material; God expects not only to take care of the gospel, the church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. God also requires us to include our stewardship in everything we have and do in life.”³

Excellence in a life of Christian Stewardship is based in a spiritual battle that we must win through the redemption of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit that lives in us. The authors suggest an interesting way to face spiritual warfare -live out the opposite spirit- in every circumstance.⁴ Such as to wrath-gentleness, pride-humble spirit, curse-blessing, greed-generosity, wealth and pride-generosity and love, Jesus was rich-He became poor for our sake. Jesus desires that we follow his example. The authors also talked about the health and wealth gospel. They recommend that we have to learn how to own things without treasuring them, we need to learn disciplines that allow us to live simply, managing wealth and power as stewards in the Kingdom of God. When the authors talked about tithing I agree with them in the sense that even though we can tithe a ten percent. Jesus is not looking for a percentage, he is looking for the heart. A heart that knows how to give offerings to Him, his church and as others need. When the authors talked about the debts that we face as members in the church, I find it hard to totally agree with them; especially because I was born in a culture where you couldn't obtain a loan to go to school. I found a blessing to be able to borrow money and return to school, becoming a teacher, teaching English as a Second Language to students like myself who decided to immigrate. But of course I highly agree with their point of view on handling God's resources with integrity and stewardship in everything we do because Christ is our master.

³ Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, “Stewardship and the Kingdom of God”, 13 - 17

⁴ Ronald Walborn and Frank Chan, “Stewardship and the Kingdom of God”, 21

Bibliography

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