



Expanding the mission and ministry of A.W. Spalding Elementary School, . . .

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The Stewardship Way of Life

by Pastor John Nixon

Is stewardship of our resources – our time, our money, our talents – a Biblical principle?

Absolutely! Before there were any great civilizations built by man, God created a system of economics that is in keeping with His nature and His order for the world. Our God is a giving God; everything we have is from Him, including our very lives (Acts 17:28). In His love, God gives to us for the sheer pleasure of creating happiness for the one who receives. God gives because it is His nature and our natures are made to respond in kind, in a spontaneous outpouring of love and appreciation. We are never more happy and fulfilled in this life than when we learn to live as givers.

"Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name." Psalm 100:3,4

As the recipients of God's wonderful gifts, gratitude is part of our natural state of being. Gratitude is the appropriate response of those who have received the world as a gift and is the foundational principle of God's economics. It is at the base of stewardship as a way of life. Gratitude is defined as "the quality of being thankful", but it also means, "readiness to show a response in kind." It results therefore, in a life of generosity and service for the one who knows they are the object of God's grace. When we live our lives in benevolence and generosity to others, we are being like God.

The test of stewardship is part of creating a restored relationship with God. It tests not just the stewardship of our possessions, but of our entire lives – our talents, our time, our influence. Everything we have is to be used for God's glory and the completion of Christ's mission in the earth. *"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."* Psalm 24:1

In the beginning before the entrance of sin, the pride of personal ego and ownership did not exist. Instead, there was the joy of boundless gratitude, out of which flowed giving endless praise to the Creator. God, in Christ, is trying to bring us back to the place from which we fell to fulfill the glorious purpose of our existence. His blessing awaits our faithful obedience; may it be unto us and to our children.

"I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed." Psalm 37:25,26

I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider how God is leading you into a deeper understanding of generosity and stewardship in all areas of your life. Seek God's direction and ask for His guidance as we participate together in this historic moment in the life of our church, as we move forward with the project for A.W. Spalding.