

Series: Stewardship...It's a Matter of Trust
THE TRUST TEST (PART 1)

Proverbs 3:1-10

T--Take an inventory.

R--Recognize God as your source.

U--Understand God's principles.

S--Surrender everything to God.

T--Test God's promises.

1. TAKE AN INVENTORY

Proverbs 3:5-10 (NIV)

Psalm 139:23, 24 (HCSB)

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

Observations:

- Only God knows everything about us.
- Only God can lead me correctly.
- Taking inventory and trusting God begins with me.

2. RECOGNIZE GOD AS YOUR SOURCE

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)

But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Understand God's Principles

Three reasons why Christians don't give more to God:

1. They don't think they can give and meet their own needs.
2. They don't know how to give.
3. They don't plan to give.

Stewardship principles that make a difference:

1. The Who's in Charge Principle

God's the Owner - I'm the Manager

Psalm 24:1 (HCSB)

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD;

2. The Give and Grow Principle.

Practicing Stewardship Produces Growth.

"Some say dedicate the heart and the money will follow; but our Lord put it the other way around. 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart will be also.' If your treasure is dedicated, your heart will be dedicated. If it is not, it simply won't. It is as simple as that."

Stewardship, Timothy Johnson

3. The Do it Now Principle.

Stewardship Deals with our Present Resources.

"The person who waits to do a great deal of good at once will never do anything." Samuel Johnson

4. The I'm in Debt Principle.

The Moment We're Born ... We're in Debt.

Romans 1:14-15 (NKJV)

I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. ¹⁵So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

"Whatever you have received more than others -- in health, in talents, in ability, in success, in a pleasant childhood, in harmonious conditions of home life -- all this you must not take to yourself as a matter of course. In gratitude for your good fortune, you must render some sacrifice of your own life for another life."

-Albert Schweitzer

Our indebtedness is two-fold...

1. To God.
2. To the previous generation.

5. The Fountain of Youth Principle.

We Live Forever Through Our Giving.

"We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give." Douglas M. Lawson

"No enterprise can exist for itself alone. It ministers to some great need, it performs some great service, not for itself, but for others; or failing therein it ceases to be profitable and ceases to exist."

-Calvin Coolidge