Stewardship

Seek First | Week 2

Hayden | November 5th & November 8th 2026 | Gabe Cleave

BIG IDEA: God owns everything. We are called to faithfully manage what He entrusts to us.

What is stewardship?

Steward (oikonomos): manager | 1 Corinthians 4:2 — A steward must be faithful.

Before we can be faithful stewards or managers we first have to understand and accept this truth… **God owns everything.**

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)
"The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

1 Chronicles 29:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22.

What we steward: our bodies, families, gifts, time, opportunities, influence, possessions, and money.

How should I steward God's money?

1. PROVIDE FOR YOUR FAMILY—1 Timothy 5:8

Live within your means, avoid debt—Proverbs 21:20, Proverbs 22:7

- Care for needs, not simply wants. Provide spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally as well as financially.

2. HELP THE POOR, NEEDY, ORPHANS & WIDOWS—Proverbs 19:17; 1 John 3:17–18; James 1:27

Show compassion through action

- Adopt needy families in our church and through Open Arms

3. TITHE TO YOUR CHURCH

Tithe means one-tenth; one-tenth of what we earn.

Three reasons NOT to tithe:

1) To try to earn salvation
2) To appease a guilty conscience
3) To try to buy God's blessings

Notes: _____

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Five reasons TO tithe

1. IT DECLARES THAT GOD IS FIRST

Give God the first and best, not the leftovers. (Genesis 1; John 1; First Commandment)

2. IT EXPRESSES TRUST IN GOD—Proverbs 3:5–6

Trust God to provide rather than relying only on our own understanding.

3. IT BREAKS FEAR AND BUILDS FAITH

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Giving becomes a practical expression of dependence on God, not a prosperity-gospel formula.

4. IT PROVIDES FOR THE LOCAL CHURCH

Giving supports ministry spaces, hospitality, equipment, utilities, and staff.

5. IT CONNECTS MY MONEY TO KINGDOM PURPOSE

Giving supports discipleship, Next Gen, groups, missions, outreach, baptisms, and the Legacy Project.

- 250 kids in kid's ministry; 200 students in youth ministry; 71 students in intentional development.
- 122 discipleship groups with 950 participants; men's, women's, moms', seniors', Bible study and prayer ministries.
- Jamaica partnership; Legacy Project; 160 baptisms in the last 12 months.

Across all of Real Life Ministries

- 5,000 families assisted; 300 people in weekly recovery groups.
- 28 pastors supported in 17 countries, impacting 45 countries and 45,000 churches.
- Bible university initiative in Uganda; City on a Hill counseling center; 650 baptisms in the last 12 months.

"I don't tithe because I have to … I tithe because I get to."

We give in response to God's grace, provision, forgiveness, and the gift of Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:8)

I tithe not out of obligation, but out of adoration. I give because I love and worship Him.

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