



MAIN SCRIPTURES

- 1 Peter 4:10
- Malachi 3:8-18
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Ephesians 2:1-10; 4:1-16
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-31
- Romans 12:4-8

SURRENDER MY GIVING:

GOD'S TALENTS

- Review: God's Resources
- Plan & Purpose for Everyone
- God's Purpose for Your Life
- Gifts & Talents for Everyone
- God's Talents on Loan to You

FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:

"As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, **"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

"Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 WEBUS

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them." Ephesians 2:10 WEBUS

“Now there are various kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are various kinds of service, and the same Lord. There are various kinds of workings, but the same God who works all things in all. **But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all.**” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 WEBUS

“For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don’t have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, **having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us...**” Romans 12:4-6 WEBUS

“For this cause, **I remind you that you should stir up the gift of God which is in you** through the laying on of my hands.” 2 Timothy 1:6 WEBUS

INTRODUCTION:

Every resource you have at your disposal comes from Yahweh and is Yahweh’s; thus, you own nothing. You are, however, commissioned to steward everything. And that is why the thought of giving anything at all to the causes of God and His people is an absurd assertion. It’s already all His, but that’s easy to forget, so inserted into the fabric of creation is this program: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap. For the level of

generosity you display will be used to measure what resources God allows you to manage.” In other words, God’s generosity is inextricably linked to your faithfulness in deploying His resources in the service of others.

If you remain your own greatest charitable cause, when you face God, instead of hearing, “Well done, good and faithful servant...” you might rather be rebuffed, “I hope you enjoyed all your stuff; that was your whole reward.” And let’s not restrict the management of resources to your commission to faithfully share God’s money and assets, but equally important is the wise stewardship of God’s plan and purpose for your life, as well as the gifts and talents He so generously placed within you.

SURRENDER MY GIVING

1. Review: [God’s Resources](#)

A. Sharing Resources

(1) The Truth about Tithing

(a) {Malachi 3:8-12} Hoarding resources; stealing from God

1. You rob God!

a) By withholding tithes and offerings.

1) Tithe: a tenth of all your increase.

2) Offerings: additional giving above your tithe.

b) Test God!

- 1) Bring your entire tithe to God.
 - 2) Observe Yahweh's prosperity from heaven so abundant you can't contain it.
 - 3) He will also rebuke the enemy on your behalf; prevent him from destroying your fruit.
 - 4) And... everyone will see your blessings and know they come from Yahweh.
2. Bring your First Fruits not your leftovers...
- a) First Fruits: the first portion of your harvest; the first part of your profit.
 - b) {Deut. 8:18} "***Yahweh gives you power to get wealth.***" 100% comes from God:
 - c) Foundation of faithful stewardship: the first 10% goes to God!
3. Able gave his First Fruits; Cain gave his leftovers...
1. {Genesis 4:3-5} Cain became envious, jealous, and hateful of Able and his blessing; he murdered Able and attempted to bury the evidence.
- (b) {Malachi 3:13-15} Some claim that there is no profit in obeying God's instructions on giving!
1. ...but instead, the proud and wicked are the ones who prosper!
- (c) {Malachi 3:16-18} Long term benefits of giving!

1. God sees all and remembers. In the end...
 - a) God separates the righteous from the wicked—those who serve Him from those who don't.

(2) The Proper Perspective about Your Giving

- (a) {2 Corinthians 9:6-8} Give from the heart!
 1. Give from the heart with this in mind...
 - a) Don't restrict your giving, or give infrequently, nor be stingy; if you are, that is how your relationship with God will feel—**restricted & stingy**
 - 1) Give freely & abundantly, not reluctantly or resentfully.
 - 2) Don't feel pressured or forced; don't give with a sense of involuntary obligation.
 - b) When your giving comes from joyful willingness...
 - 1) God's grace will abound; you will have everything you need; your life's work will be meaningful and satisfying.
- (b) {Philippians 4:15-20} Giving is for **your** benefit!
 1. Know toward what you are giving... and give because it is critical for you.
 - a) That's how God supplies all your needs according to His will & for His glory.
- (c) {Luke 6:38} The benefits of giving are immeasurable!

1. It's a law, like gravity!
 - a) Imagine giving as a raging river leading to a roaring waterfall pouring into a bottomless ocean.
 - 1) The more generously you supply the river, the more powerful the waterfall, and the more churning in the water below.
 - 2) Your life can be like a **majestic waterfall** or a **dripping faucet**—you choose!
 - (d) {Galatians 6:8-10} Already sowing into something!
 1. Are you your own charitable cause?
 - a) “For self or for God?” That is the question.
 - b) Don't think that giving to the things of God is a financial investment with guaranteed returns in a promised timeframe.
 - 1) Unfortunately, many preachers fleece their flocks and promise “results”; use it to extract resources from their abused followers.
 - c) The right perspective: give from the heart; give to God's cause and to His people; be patient for the harvest!

(3) Every Believer has Ministry Duties

- (a) {Acts 6:1-4} Some disciples are called to work ministry as a full-time vocation.

1. Help is needed so those called to ministry can attend fully to the needs of God's work.

(4) Supplying for the Needs of Workers who Labor for the Gospel

- (a) {1 Tim. 5:17-18} Worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching;
 1. *"You shall not muzzle the ox..."* And, *"The laborer is worthy of his wages."*
 - a) Analogy: he who labors in the word and in teaching is worthy of having his needs met (should eat from the field in which he works).
 - b) Respect and honor them for their work...
 - c) If you receive godly instruction from godly teachers, support their work...

(5) Deriving Your Living from the Gospel is Biblical

- (a) {1 Corinthians 9:1-13} permitted and even encouraged!
 1. First determine if the ministry work is legit!
 - a) If so, the minister has a right to derive at least their basic needs from their work in ministry.
 - 1) No different than with any other profession.
 - 2) If the work of ministry bears fruit spiritual in nature, **it is appropriate for that worker to reap**

natural benefits (provide for daily living) (even as the priest ate from the offerings).

- 3) ***“the Lord ordained that those who proclaim the Good News should live from the Good News.”*** 1 Corinthians 9:14

- b) {1 Corinthians 9:15-18} Paul chose not to use this right because he feared that in his circumstances it would interfere with his effectiveness.

B. Difficulty Giving

(1) Don't Make Money Your God

(a) The Diagnosis of Idolatry!

1. Symptoms of Idolatry: where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... {Matthew 6:19-21}
 - a) **Possessionitis:** obsession with gaining things or a hyper-focus on worldly acquisitions. {1 Tim 6:9-10}
 - b) **Mammon Mania:** the love of money; when wealth becomes an evil influence or false object of worship. {Matthew 6:24}
 - c) **Pagan Anxiety Syndrome:** constant worry and attention over personal satisfaction and needs. {Matthew 6:31-33}

(2) The Rich Ruler

(a) {Matthew 19:16-26} You must break the stronghold of possessions...

1. He went away sad, for he had great possessions.

a) You will either chase after the things of the world or the things of God; you can't do both!

(3) A Fabulous New Perspective on Your Possessions!

(a) {Acts 2:44-45; Acts 4:32-35} (all in Common)

1. What is "mine" is the Lord's to use for His purpose and how He wishes.

a) I release my possessions; I end my striving to acquire more!

b) Warning: Give from your heart & Be honest about your giving! *"Ananias & Sapphira..."* {Acts 5:1-11}

(4) A proper perspective how much giving is enough!

(a) {Mark 12:41-44} Y'shua witnessed the rich disparaging the poor for their inability to make "significant contributions."

1. God sees the sacrificial giving of those "less fortunate" as of greater value than the larger donations of the affluent, who make no sacrifice.

a) You are charged to give sacrificially, regardless of your financial status.

(b) {1 Peter 5:2-3} warning to pastors who fleece the flock!

1. Shepherd; don't use the flock to extract resources!

a) **Dishonest gain attained by abusing the message of sacrificial giving is an abomination to Yahweh!**

1) *...harsher judgment.*" {James 3:1}

(c) Assignment: Contemplate beliefs & practices on giving.

1. *"...faith apart from works is dead?"* James 2:20

a) What have been your beliefs and practices?

b) Has anything changed?

c) What are those differences and why?

d) What will you do about it?

e) Who will hold you accountable?

f) **[END]** [Surrender My Giving: God's Resources](#)

2. God's Plans & Purpose for Your Life

A. God has a plan and a purpose for EVERYONE!

(1) God's Plan God's Purpose

(a) We are saved for a reason...

1. **"You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. We also all once lived among them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and**

were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

But God, being rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— **by grace you have been saved— and raised us up** with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus; for by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God**, not of works, that no one would boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before that we would walk in them.”**

Ephesians 2:1-10 WEBUS

- a) We once walked according to the course of this world...
- b) We once lived in the lusts of our flesh...
- c) We once were children of wrath...
- d) But God...made us alive...
- e) By grace (a gift from God) we have been saved and raised up!

- f) We have been recreated in Christ Jesus to be His workmanship.
 - g) We have good works to do, which God has prepared us to walk in!
- (b) There is both a universal calling for every Christian (Unity of the Faith) and an individual calling (for a specific plan and purpose for your life).
1. “I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to **walk worthily of the calling with which you were called**, with all lowliness and humility, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is **one** body and **one** Spirit, even as **you also were called in one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in us all. But to each one of us, the grace was given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.** Therefore he says, “When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to people.” Now this, “He ascended”, what is it but that he also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the one who also

ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.” Ephesians 4:1-10 WEBUS

a) Both universally and individually: you are to walk worthily of the calling.

b) Universally

1) Be humble, patient, loving, eager to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

2) There is... one body, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God.

c) Individually

1) Each one of us, by grace, was given a measure of the gift of Christ.

(c) The purpose of the Church (ALL CHRISTIANS)

1. “**He gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, shepherds and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,** that we may no longer be children, tossed back and forth and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in craftiness, after

the wiles of error; **but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him who is the head, Christ**, from whom all the body, **being fitted and knit together** through that which every joint supplies, **according to the working in measure of each individual part, makes the body increase** to the building up of itself in love.” Ephesians 4:11-16

WEBUS

a) Offices

1) Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Shepherd, Teacher

b) Purpose

1) Mature God’s people so they can serve effectively.

2) Build up of the body of Christ, so they can attain unity of the faith.

3) Build up of the body of Christ, so they have the knowledge of the Son of God.

4) Build up of the body of Christ from infant Christians (born-again children) to adult Christians (mature disciples).

5) Keep building until they reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

- 6) Build a unified Body of Christ that cannot be fooled by false doctrines.
- 7) And do it all by speaking the truth in love!
- c) Christlikeness is the destination of the Body.
 - 1) Can not happen by individuals working alone.
 - 2) Different parts of the Body of Christ must be fit together like the patches on a quilt.
 - 3) And each individual part must fulfill its purpose to grow the Body into the image of Christ.
- (d) What if you don't want to do your part?
 - 1. "To him therefore who **knows to** do good **and doesn't** do it, to him **it is sin.**" James 4:17 WEBUS

B. Let's Get Personal: God's plans and purpose for your life!

- (1) God's Plan God's Purpose
 - (a) Nothing is random...
 - 1. "But **when** it was the good pleasure of God, **who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through his grace,**" Galatians 1:15 WEBUS
 - a) God created you with a specific calling.
 - b) In His perfect timing He reveals His plan for you!
 - (b) You must, however, explore your heart to discover His plan and purpose for you life. How?

1. “Also delight yourself in Yahweh, and **he will give you the desires of your heart.** Commit your way to Yahweh. Trust also in him, and he will do this:”

Psalms 37:4-5 WEBUS

- a) First acknowledge that you want what God wants.
 - b) Then realize that He has crafted you with certain desires in your heart that will point you toward His plan and purpose.
 - c) Finally, commit to submit your decisions to God’s will and trust the process and He will fulfill your heart’s desires.
- (c) Trusting God is your secret weapon!

1. “**Trust in Yahweh** with all your heart, and don’t lean on your own understanding. **In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.**” Proverbs 3:5-6 WEBUS

- a) When you place your trust in God’s plan and purpose for your life, you will concurrently abandon your own plans.
- b) If you give God all the credit and abdicate your rights to choose your own path, He will lead you directly into His calling for your life.

(d) You need not have any concern that His plan will not satisfy you!

1. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you [**the plans I have for you**],” says Yahweh, “thoughts of peace [**plans to prosper you**], and not of evil [**not to harm you**], [**plans**] to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11 WEBUS

- a) Yahweh is not negligent in any way about what He has in store for your life.
 - b) His plan and purpose ALWAYS lead to prosperity.
 - 1) Note: God’s definition of prosperity far exceeds material wealth.
 - c) A future submitted to the Lord is filled with hope.
- (e) What can you hope for when you align with God’s purpose for your life?

1. “We know that **all things work together for good** for those who love God, for those who are called according to **his purpose**.” Romans 8:28 WEBUS

- a) Everything good!
 - b) No matter what it looks like at the moment, you can be assured that what God has as His end in mind will be thoroughly satisfying.
- (f) It’s all a walk of faith.

1. **“Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him,** for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that **he is a rewarder of those who seek him.”** Hebrews 11:6 WEBUS
 - a) Trusting God and submitting to His will for your life and not your own takes a walk of faith.
 - b) God ALWAYS rewards those who live by faith and not sight— *“...him who calls the things that are not, as though they were.”* Romans 4:17 WEBUS
 - 1) *“Faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of **things not seen.**”* Hebrews 11:1 WEBUS
- (g) Be assured of this one thing... God will not hide from you His plans for you!
 1. **““Don’t let your heart be troubled.** Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many homes. If it weren’t so, I would have told you. **I am going to prepare a place for you.** If I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and will receive you to myself; that where I am, you may be there also. You know where I go, and you know the way.””**
John 14:1-4 WEBUS
 - a) You KNOW the way!

- 1) *“that where I am, you may be there also. You know where I go, and **you know the way.**”*

3. God's Gifts & Talents on Loan to You

A. God gives gifts and talents are for EVERYONE!

(1) One Body many parts...

(a) God gives gifts and talents to EVERYONE, but not everyone has the same gift and talent.

1. “For even as **we have many members in one body, and all the members don't have the same function,** so we, who are many, are **one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, having gifts differing according to the grace** that was given to us: if prophecy, let's **prophesy** according to the proportion of our faith; or service, let's give ourselves to **service**; or he who teaches, to his **teaching**; or he who exhorts, to his **exhorting**; he who **gives**, let him do it with **generosity**; he who **rules**, with diligence; he who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness.” Romans 12:4-8 WEBUS

- a) The body of Christ has many members, but all members don't have the same function.
- b) There are various talents assigned to each member according to God's grace, for instance...

c) Samples:

- 1) Prophecy
- 2) Serving
- 3) Teaching
- 4) Exhorting
- 5) Giving
- 6) Leading
- 7) Mercy

(b) Each gift and talent comes from the same Holy Spirit via God's grace...

1. "Now **there are various kinds of gifts**, but the same Spirit. There are **various kinds of service**, and the same Lord. There are **various kinds of workings**, but the same God who works all things in all. But **to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the profit of all**." 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 WEBUS

a) And each is imparted to its recipient for a singular purpose—to share for the benefit of everyone!

B. Let's Get Personal: God's gifts and talents on loan to you!

(1) There are many gifts and talents—all imparted by God!

(a) As we review these gifts and talents, try to connect those which make you feel you are "Delighting in the Lord" (Ps. 37:4).

1. “For to one is given through the Spirit the **word of wisdom**, and to another the **word of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, and to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, and to another **workings of miracles**, and to another **prophecy**, and to another **discerning of spirits**, to another different **kinds of languages**, and to another the **interpretation of languages**. But the one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires.” 1

Corinthians 12:8-11 WEBUS

- a) It is especially important to acknowledge that this is not a definitive list but a small sampling...
 - 1) The word of wisdom
 - 2) The word of knowledge
 - 3) Faith
 - 4) The gift of healings
 - 5) The workings of miracles
 - 6) Prophecy
 - 7) The discerning of spirits
 - 8) Speaking in tongues
 - 9) The interpretation of tongues

- b) Now pay attention closely: The Holy Spirit distributes gifts and talents to each one of us separately, as God desires. Sound familiar?
 - 1) *“Delight yourself in Yahweh, and **he will give you the desires of your heart.**”* Psalms 37:4
- c) When the desires of your heart align with the desires of God’s heart, you are delighting in the Lord.
 - 1) You will connect to God’s plan and purpose for your life.
 - 2) You will understand your unique gifts and talents.
- d) And most importantly...
 - 1) Because the *“same Spirit produces all of these, distributing to each one separately as he desires.”* 1 Corinthians 12:11
- e) You will acknowledge and participate because...
 - 1) *“to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the profit of all.**”* 1 Corinthians 12:4
 - 2) Hence **“Surrender My Giving: God’s Talents”**
- (b) When each member of the Body of Christ recognizes his role and takes responsibility to fulfill that role, the Body functions like a healthy human body!

1. **“For as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ.** For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; and were all given to drink into one Spirit. **For the body is not one member, but many.** If the foot would say, “Because I’m not the hand, I’m not part of the body,” it is not therefore not part of the body. If the ear would say, “Because I’m not the eye, I’m not part of the body,” it’s not therefore not part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the smelling be? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body, just as he desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? **But now they are many members, but one body.** The eye can’t tell the hand, “I have no need for you,” or again the head to the feet, “I have no need for you.” No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. **Those parts of the body which we think to be less honorable, on those we bestow more abundant honor;** and our unpresentable parts have

more abundant modesty, while our presentable parts have no such need. But **God composed the body together, giving more abundant honor to the inferior part, that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.** When one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. When one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” 1

Corinthians 12:12-26 WEBUS

- a) Think of human body as the analogue of the Body of Christ.
 - 1) The human body has many varying parts: organs and systems; limbs and appendages; sensory and motor functions; cells and physiology, etc.
 - 2) For the human body to be healthy, all those parts must be healthy individually and working in perfect coordination with one another.
 - 3) And in a real sense, no one part is more important than any other, even though seemingly some parts are more vital.
 - 4) As a whole, the body just can't be healthy if every part is not doing what it was created to do perfectly.

- 5) And thus, each part is equally important, no matter how its job description appears on the surface.
 - 6) And this is exactly as it is in the Body of Christ; each one of us must both acknowledge and perform the task that we were created for in order for the Body of Christ to function perfectly (to look like Christ).
 - 7) Therefore, no one job is more critical than any other.
- b) What is critical is that you know who you are and for what God created you, and then get to it!
- 1) *“to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the profit of all.**”* 1 Corinthians 12:4
 - 2) Hence ***“Surrender My Giving: God’s Talents”***
- (c) The best place to be in life...
1. **“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.** God has set some in the assembly: first **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracle workers**, then **gifts of healings, helps, governments**, and various kinds of **languages**. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all miracle workers? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all

speak with various languages? Do all interpret? **But earnestly desire the best gifts.** Moreover, I show a most excellent way to you." 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

WEBUS

a) Desire and be content with the plan and purpose God has for you and the gifts and talents God has bestowed on you!

1) *"to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the profit of all.**"* 1 Corinthians 12:4

2) Hence ***"Surrender My Giving: God's Talents"***

(d) The Apostle Paul implored Timothy to discover his gift!

1. "For this cause, **I remind you that you should stir up the gift of God which is in** you through the laying on of my hands. For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. Therefore don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but endure hardship for the Good News according to the power of God, **who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace,** which was given to us in Christ Jesus before times eternal," 2 Timothy 1:6-9 WEBUS

a) That is why I am reminding you to seek, with all your heart, to discover God's plan and purpose for your life and then to share with the Body of Christ your unique gifts and talents!

1) ***As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms.*** 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

(2) The worst place to be in life...

(a) ...to a waste the plan and purpose God has for you and to squander gifts and talents God has bestowed on you!

1. God's generosity is inextricably linked to your faithfulness in deploying His resources in the service of others. If you remain your own greatest charitable cause, when you face God, instead of hearing, "Well done, good and faithful servant..." you might rather be rebuffed, "I hope you enjoyed all your stuff; that was your whole reward." And let's not restrict the management of resources to your commission to faithfully share God's money and assets, but equally important is the wise stewardship of God's plan and purpose for your life, as well as the gifts and talents He so generously placed within you.

(b) An Unfaithful Steward

1. "He also said to his disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager. An accusation was made to him that this **man was wasting his possessions**. He called him, and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'"

Luke 16:1-2 WEBUS

- a) The accusation... **"You are wasting God's possessions!"**
- (c) A pastoral dissection of the life of an unfaithful steward and where it all ends!
 1. ""The manager said within himself, 'What will I do, seeing that my Lord is taking away the management position from me? I don't have strength to dig. I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from management, they may receive me into their houses.' Calling each one of his Lord's debtors to him, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe to my Lord?' He said, 'A hundred batos of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'How much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred cors of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write

eighty.' "His Lord commended the dishonest manager because he had done wisely, for the children of this world are, in their own generation, wiser than the children of the light. **I tell you**, make for yourselves friends by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when you fail, they may receive you into the eternal tents. He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much. He who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If therefore you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, **who will commit to your trust the true riches?** If you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to one and despise the other. You aren't able to serve God and Mammon.'"

Luke 16:3-13 WEBUS

- a) Consequences for poor stewardship of God's plan and purpose, gifts and talents...
 - 1) The Lord will remove your call to manage His resources.
 - 2) You won't find true success or satisfaction anywhere else.

- 3) You will resort to shady activities and a constant pursuit of anything that will fill the hole in your heart (because you have not delighted in the Lord's desires for you) and you will rationalize that they are acceptable.
- b) Externally it will appear that you have achieved a modicum of success.
 - 1) It might even appear that you beat the system, that you were able to sidestep God's plan and yet still be satisfied.
 - 2) You might even make those who have adhered to God's calling second guess their approach...
 - 3) But that is all very temporary!
- c) In the end, this is the final analysis; this is where it all leads (and it's not worth it!)
 - 1) If you have been faithful in the little things God assigned, you will be faithful with great things.
 - 2) If you have been dishonest in the little things God assigned, you will also be dishonest in great things.
 - 3) In the end, if you could not even faithfully manage temporary things here on earth, how

can God trust you with true eternal riches? He can't and won't!

- 4) In other words, if you can't be faithful with what is God's (remember: every resource you have, every gift and talent is God's), He won't be able to give you that which is your own!

d) There are two masters at war here:

- 1) One: serve your own plan and purpose, and use your gifts and talents to serve your own selfish desires. (You are your own greatest charitable cause!)
- 2) Two: delight in God by discovering His plan and purpose for your life and use the gifts and talents He imparted to you to serve Him and His people.
- 3) You can't choose both!

4. A Life Lesson on Plans & Purpose, Gifts & Talents

A. Parable of the Talents: a Pastoral View (Matthew 25:14-30)

(1) Adapted as a lesson on God's plans & purpose for your life and stewardship of your personal gifts and talents.

(a) [14-15 Plans & Purpose, Gifts & Talents]

1. **[Y'shua] was [here for a short time and then went away to prepare a place for us];** He called three of

his own servants and **[He told them that He had a specific plan and purpose for each of their lives; He left them with gifts and talents to steward]**. To one he gave **[the gift of prophecy and the talent to teach]**, to another **[the gift of discernment and talent to exhort]**, and to a third **[the gift of generosity and the talent to serve]**, to each according to his own ability **[to properly steward]**. Then **[Christ departed and left His servants to complete His mission]**.

- a) *“Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many homes. If it weren’t so, I would have told you. **I am going to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will receive you to myself;** that where I am, you may be there also. **You know where I go, and you know the way.**”* John 14:1-4 WEBUS
- b) *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future.**”* Jeremiah 29:11 NIV
- c) *“For **we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared before***

that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

WEBUS

- d) *“For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don’t have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, **having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us...**”* Romans 12:4-6 WEBUS

(b) **[16-18 Stewardship of your Gifts and Talents]**

1. Immediately he who received **[the gift of prophecy and the talent to teach]** went and **[prophesied and taught]**, and **[he was fruitful and glorified God with his calling]**. In the same way, he who **[had the gift of discernment and talent to exhort used them to counsel and encourage and so many of God’s people benefited]**. But he who received **[the gift of generosity and the talent to serve hoarded his resources and worked only to build his own wealth]**.
- a) *“As each has received a gift, employ it in serving one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

- b) *“For this cause, I remind you that you should stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” 2 Timothy 1:6 WEBUS*
- c) *“...it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” 1 Corinthians 4:2*

(c) [19-24 Rewards for Wise Stewardship]

1. “Now after a long time the Lord of those servants came, and settled accounts with them. He who received [the gift of prophecy and the talent to teach] came and [testified to the fruit of his ministry], saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me [these gifts and talents]. Behold, I have [used them for to glorify You].’ “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ “He also who [had the gift of discernment and talent to exhort] came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me [these gifts and talents]. Behold, I have [used them to counsel and encourage and so many of Your people were blessed].’ “His Lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things. I

will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.'

a) *"We know that all things **work together for good** for those who love God, for those who are called according to **his purpose**."* Romans 8:28 WEBUS

b) *"Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that **he is a rewarder of those who seek him**."* Hebrews 11:6 WEBUS

(d) [24-25 Poor Stewardship]

1. "He also who had received **[the gift of generosity and the talent to serve]** came and said, 'Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man, reaping where you didn't sow, and gathering where you didn't scatter. **I was [wasteful and unfaithful]**, and went away and **[hoarded Your resources as if they were my own, and worked only to build my own wealth and I did only what benefited me]**. Behold, you have what is yours.'

a) *"**You know where I go, and you know the way.**"*
John 14:1-4 WEBUS

b) *"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not **know his master's business**. Instead, I call*

*you friends, **for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.***" John 15:15

- c) *"He also said to his disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a manager. **An accusation was made to him that this man was wasting his possessions.** He called him, and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? **Give an accounting of your management, for you can no longer be manager.'**"* Luke 16:1-2 WEBUS

(e) **[26-30 Consequences for Poor Stewardship]**

1. "But the Lord answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant [**"You lust, and don't have... because you made yourself your greatest charitable cause!"**]. You knew that I reap where I didn't sow, and gather where I didn't scatter. You ought therefore to have [**shared those resources and served others**] Take away therefore [**the resources he thought were his and ban him from providing any service**] and assign them to someone who has [**proved faithful and wise with the gifts and talents bestowed upon him**]. For to everyone who has will be given, and he will have abundance, but from him who doesn't have, even that which he has will be taken away. Throw out the

unprofitable servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

- a) ***“You lust, and don’t have. You murder and covet, and can’t obtain. You fight and make war. You don’t have, because you don’t ask. You ask, and don’t receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. You adulterers and adulteresses, don’t you know that **friendship with the world is hostility toward God?** Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who lives in us yearns jealously”? **But he gives more grace.** Therefore it says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Be subject therefore to God. **Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.** Cleanse your hands, you sinners. Purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament, mourn, and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you.” James 4:2-10 WEBUS***

b) ***“To him therefore who knows to do good and doesn’t do it, to him it is sin.”*** James 4:17 WEBUS

(f) **...to do good**

1. “For we are **his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared before **that we would walk in them.**” Ephesians 2:10 WEBUS

a) The only thing that is good is to walk in God’s plan and purpose and to exercise your God-given gifts and talents...

b) All else is vanity...chasing the wind!

1) ***““Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher. “All is vanity!”*** Further, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge. Yes, he pondered, sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written blamelessly, words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads; and like nails well fastened are words from the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. Furthermore, my son, be admonished: ***of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.***” Ecclesiastes 12:8-12 WEBUS

2) *“This is the end of the matter. All has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it is good, or whether it is evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 WEBUS*

c) What Paul calls in (Ephesians 4:11-16) unity of the faith, and that each Christian is fitted and knit together, all working as individual parts to make the body increase... he calls many members in one body, all with different functions, but making up one body, as is Christ in (1 Corinthians 12:4-31).

2. But what happens when parts of the body don't contribute to plan and purpose of the whole body? It's called CANCER.

a) Cancer to your calling, to your divine purpose and to your God-given gifts and talents is unfaithful stewardship that does its own thing with wrong motives, seeking your own pleasures and to be your own greatest charitable cause (James 4:2-10). A man wasting the possessions that came from His Master. (Luke 16:1-2)

ASSIGNMENT

1. Contemplate your beliefs and practices around giving your gifts and talents to the work of the Gospel.

- A. What have been your beliefs and practices up until this time?
- B. Has anything changed after hearing this message? If so, what are those differences and why?
- C. If there have been changes in your perspective, what will you do about it?

- 1) *“Also delight yourself in Yahweh, and **he will give you the desires of your heart.** Commit your way to Yahweh. Trust also in him, and he will do this:”* Psalms 37:4-5 WEBUS

2. Contemplate the God-given gifts and talents you have that you can give back to God.

- A. Everyone has some; what are your gifts and talents?
 - 1) *“For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members don’t have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another, **having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us...**”* Romans 12:4-6 WEBUS
 - 2) *“As **each has received a gift, employ it in serving** one another, as good managers of the grace of God in its various forms.”* 1 Peter 4:10 WEBUS

B. Who will you inform about your new beliefs that can hold you accountable to take action in a way that is obedient to the Scriptures?