



Biblical Foundations

You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” 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 ancestors, as it is today.

— Deuteronomy 8:17–18 (NIV)

When God was preparing Israel for entrance into the Promised Land, He gave the people a stern warning. He understood their sinful nature and their tendency to become possessive of that which He had entrusted to them. So God warned them against the dangers of a self-sufficient and self-serving attitude.

We can fall into the same trap. We may verbally acknowledge God’s ownership of everything. But, when it comes to our day-to-day lives, our actions may reflect an entirely different mindset. Stewardship is knowing that all that we have is God’s. And, because it is His, we have the responsibility—and the privilege—to manage it for His glory.

For example, it’s easy for me to look at “my” paycheck and reflect on how much I deserve it because of all of my hard work, as well as my education, experience, and other qualifications that landed me the job. I’m tempted to think, “This is my paycheck, and my power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me!”

But God wants us to remember that “it is he who gives [us] the ability to produce wealth”

James tells us, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17). Everything that we possess has been made by God and has been placed into our hands as a gracious gift from Him.

God chooses **what** He places in our hands and the **manner** in which that takes place. No matter how much it may feel like “my” paycheck, I need to remember that it came from God, and it belongs to God.

How should we respond to this realization? With gratitude. With humility. With faith. And with faithful stewardship of God’s resources.