

A Study Guide to

Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship

God's Love in Action

By Christopher N. Sealey

God is love. If He ever ceases to love us, then He would cease to be God. His very nature is love. Everything we do for God and with God must be motivated by our love for Him and for others. Jesus said that in addition to loving Him, we must also love our neighbor. Stewardship is love in action.

God loves us, so He gave His son to die in our place. If we love God and our neighbor, we would return God's portion to Him, which He uses to bless our neighbor; when our neighbor, who loves God and us, returns His portion, He uses it to bless us. This completes the circle of love.

— *Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship, p. 41*

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The numbers in parentheses at the end of each question in a lesson refer to the page(s) and the paragraph in the book, *Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship*, where the answers may be found. The number before the colon is the page of the book on which the answer is found; the number following the colon gives the paragraph.

Lesson 1: Stewardship – It’s Origin in Human History

Date: _____

A. Read pages 15-27.

B. Check your knowledge:

1. Before they were thrown out of Eden, why were Adam and Eve close to God? (16:1)
2. Where did God first introduce the human race to His principles of Stewardship? (16:3)
3. What three fundamental principles of stewardship did God introduce to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? (16:3)
4. Complete:
 - a) During their abode in the Garden of Eden, God introduced Adam and Eve to _____
_____. (16:3)
 - b) The tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil was the one tree that they were to reserve for God, since _____. (16:3)
 - c) Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate of the fruit from the forbidden tree. They failed to _____. (17:1)
 - d) Once sin entered into the world, the system of stewardship took on new spiritual significance; it provided a _____
_____. (18:4)

e) Because of His great love for us, God desires that we come close to Him; _____
_____. (20:2)

f) Whenever we bring our gifts to the altar, they should _____
_____. (21:3)

g) God Implemented Stewardship as a _____ (21: Heading)

h) The system of stewardship was implemented for _____
_____. (22:4)

5. Who were the first stewards? (21:4)

6. God has blessed us with lots of things, what has He asked of us in return? (22:3)

C. Discuss with others (*Others may be your companion, other relatives, neighbors or church members.*)

1. In what ways were the sacrifices of the Israelites to act as a visual deterrent to sinful living? (24:1)

2. How does our sacrifice to God help us to understand His love for us but His dislike for our sins?
(24-26)

3. How does adhering to the principles of stewardship help us to better understand and love God?
(24-26)

D. Think on these things:

1. In what ways have the human race demonstrated disregard for God's principles of stewardship, a tendency inherited from Adam and Eve? (16-18)

2. How does stewardship help me to better understand God's role in my life and my responsibilities to Him? (16:2, 3)

3) How does stewardship help me to better understand my relationship with God? (16:2, 3)

4) How do my acts of stewardship take on true spiritual significance in my Christian experience?
(26:3-6)

E. Name one thing you can do today, an act of stewardship, that would demonstrate your love for God and for someone you encounter.

Answers to Lesson 1:

1. There was no sin in their lives.
2. In the Garden of Eden.
3. i) the principle of the sovereignty of God; ii) human beings are stewards or managers of God's property; iii) reserving for God a portion of what we have being given.
4. Complete:
 - a) The fundamental principles of stewardship.
 - b) It was His portion.
 - c) return to God the portion that was due to Him.
 - d) mechanism to allow the human race to come close to God.
 - e) He went to great lengths to implement His system of stewardship to reinforce that in our minds.
 - f) remind us that we are in need of being close to God.
 - g) Test of Our Obedience.
 - h) man and not for God.
5. Adam and Eve
6. He has asked that we return the first portion to Him (Exodus 23: 19).

The complete study guide for *Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship* is affordably priced at \$6.99. The companion guide, *Planning and Implementing a Successful Stewardship Program*, is highly recommended for Church stewardship leaders. For additional information on how you can obtain your copy of the study guides, please contact us at info@chrisealey.com.

The Stewardship Hand – A Teaching Tool



Just as my thumb touches all of my four fingers, as a Christian, love should permeate my stewardship journey.

RELATIONSHIP - *Leviticus 26:12*

God desires a close relationship with us. He loved us before we loved Him. Our relationship with God is not one of equals since He is the Owner and we are the stewards of His possessions.

OWNERSHIP - *Psalm 24:1*

God is the owner of everything and He has transferred dominion over His creation to us (Genesis 1:26). As faithful stewards, we understand that we have been assigned the management or stewardship of God's possession. We are responsible to the Owner for the manner in which we conduct our stewardship responsibilities.

POSSESSIONS - *Proverbs 3:9-10*

Because God loves us He has blessed us with many possessions, such as time, talent, and treasure. The way we use our possessions demonstrates our love to Him. As faithful stewards, we must use our possessions for His glory, to benefit others, and not for personal gain.

SACRIFICE - *Romans 12:1*

The Hebrew word used in the Old Testament for sacrifice is "korban", and it means to come close to God. Sin separated us from God, but Christ's death on the cross, as the sacrifice for our sins, provided a way for us to come close to Him. As a Christian, living for Christ is our sacrifice to Him. When we use our possessions (time, talents, and treasures) to His glory and to benefit others, we signal to God, and to the world, our desire to have a close relationship with Him.

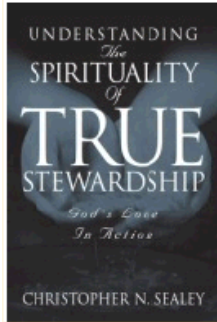
LOVE - *John 15:9*

God is love. Stewardship that is based on God's love allows us to look beyond the faults of others while using our possessions to supply their needs (John 13:34,35). Stewardship is God's love in action.

Additional Resources on Christian Stewardship

More resources to help you understand God's principles of stewardship and live a successful Christian life.

Recommended



Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship - God's Love in Action

by Christopher N. Sealey

Most people equate stewardship with the solicitation of money. In this book, the author seeks to remove that stigma by providing a comprehensive biblical outline on Christian stewardship.

"In tackling the sometimes unpopular subject of giving in the church, author Sealey has done a good job in his research. Using Scripture passages in a scholarly manner as authority for his statements, he explains to the believer why giving is so important. Most of the material covered is in keeping with conventional Christian teachings. There is much helpful material here, with suggestions for believers to use to help them be more systematic in their giving and forms and plans to help pastors in their efforts to raise funds for their churches. The writing is well done, highly readable and well-edited."

Writer's Digest

2004 – 11th Annual International Self-Published Book Awards

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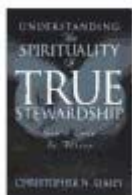
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Price: \$12.99

Download sample chapters and compare prices at www.chrissealey.com

A Study Guide to



This tremendously popular study guide was developed by Christopher Sealey to assist church members and leaders to quickly and easily comprehend the Biblical truths of stewardship in his book, **Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship -God's Love in Action**. It also includes a Spiritual Gifts assessment and implementation plan to assist you in realizing your true potential in the service of God.

Reasonably priced at \$6.99 and is downloaded online in pdf format, which means that you have instant usability and accessibility.



This is another wonderful and scripturally sound book from Christian author and lecturer Christopher Sealey. It is in ebook format and will also be available in Spanish (50 Promesas más del Dios en la administración). You will find biblical promises throughout to help you start or improve your adherence to God's principles of stewardship in your life. God gave us His principles of stewardship, discussed in detail in the book [Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship](#), so that we can live successful Christian lives while helping others to do so as well. In addition, He blesses us for our obedience to His will. When we embrace God's principles of stewardship in our lives, He promises or guarantees that the outcome will be to our advantage. Sealey has searched the Scriptures to find these promises of God in stewardship and has grouped them into seven (7) categories:

Category 1 - Promises of Prosperity

Category 2 - Promises of Provision

Category 3 - Promises of Admonition

Category 4 - Promises of Protection

Category 5 - Promises of Praise

Category 6 - Promise of Prayers

Category 7 - Promise of Admiration or Self Worth

A terrific resource for members and church leaders!

Affordably priced at **\$8.00 per copy**. Order today and find out just how easy it can be to realize the fulfillment of God's promises in your life. You'll understand the surety of God's promises in stewardship and His conditions for the realization of His power in your life. You will be on your way to better Christian living the moment you order this ebook. The complete book is downloaded online in pdf format, which means that you have instant usability and accessibility. This is a ebook would require to have a copy of the freely distributed Acrobat Reader on your computer.

Q: What is an ebook?

A: "eBook" is short for "electronic book." An ebook is an electronic version of a traditional print book. eBooks can be downloaded and read on an electronic device like a desktop or notebook computer. eBooks are versatile, portable and convenient.

Additional free tools can be obtained by visiting <http://www.chrissealey.com>.