

It All Belongs to God: A Devotional

Psalm 50:10-12 – “For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains.”

Our Nature

For you and me it was an old worn out tool, but to a little boy it was a treasure ... and it was ***mine!*** Little Aaron was playing with daddy’s tool belt left on the floor after a long day of work. Quickly he noticed the most fascinating multifunction screwdriver and took off to accomplish some minor repairs around the house. It was just an old tool, but to Aaron it was a new treasure and he had no intentions of returning it back to his father.



More than likely if you have children in your life this story sounds all too familiar to you. Have you ever sat and thought about the fact that we don’t have to teach our children how to take what is not theirs? Unfortunately, it comes naturally as a result of our fallen nature. How often do we respond like Aaron did to our Heavenly Father?

The Fall

In fact, it was a case of misplaced ownership that led to the fall of man. The Lord gave clear instructions to His first children on earth, Adam and Eve, in reference to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil by stating ***“You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.”*** Yet they gave into the temptation from the enemy and ate the forbidden fruit. Ultimately, it was a futile attempt to gain something that was rightfully not theirs in the first place and their actions created severe consequences for the entire human race.

James 4:14, states that our lives are, ***“just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”*** In 2 Peter 3:8, we see that ***“with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”*** Our lives are short in the sight of an eternal God.

Everything Belongs to God

In a similar way that Aaron was entrusted for a brief time with his father's screwdriver, so we are entrusted with a portion of God's resources: our time, family, home, car, financial resources, gifts, abilities and everything else. They're His and when we give to support His work, we are only returning what was rightfully His in the first place.

Malachi 3:8-9 provides a firm warning for us to consider when we are not faithful with what is rightfully God's. It states, ***“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, “How have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.” “You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!”***

When we embrace the truth that everything belongs to God it causes us to realize that we must hold on loosely to all that God has provided us and seek His face for wisdom so that we are faithful stewards for the short time we have on earth.

Personal Application – Seeking Your Input

I think it's important that disciples begin to discuss what it means to be a steward again. Notice, I didn't say “stewardship”, but steward, because a steward communicates that this is a personal responsibility and not just another topic to discuss. We are stewards of God's resources and must grow in that role or we will be like a [stagnant pond](#). [Giving and generosity](#) have become taboo topics in many churches and most pastors are not providing solid biblical teaching and discipleship in this area. I don't know about you, but when I'm struggling with something, part of my growth process is sharing with other disciples for wisdom and being teachable. If we never talk about this, how can we expect to grow?

Here are a few questions for us to get the conversation started:

- 1. How often should a pastor preach or teach on generosity?**
- 2. What has specifically helped you to transfer from an attitude of an owner to that of a steward?**
- 3. Is there something in your life that you have not completely given over to God?**

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