

We pray that all we have, we offer back to God, “ourselves, our time and our possessions.” This forms my framework for understanding stewardship. I have to start by knowing that I am truly blessed. Through no act of my own, I have my self, all my memories through all the years of my life, and also a warm home, plenty of food each day, and more “stuff” than I can list.

I may be tempted to look around and find others who have more than I do. There are many. But I am compelled to remind myself that I have so much more than so many others. It’s all a matter of perspective. No matter your circumstances, there is someone saying “I wish I could trade places with her. Things would be so much better.”

This was made clear to me when I was taking chemo. Chemo is hard, no doubt about that. But one day as I walked with dread toward the clinic to submit myself to the treatment, I caught the eye of a young mother pushing her bald-headed toddler in a stroller. I knew in that instant that she would gladly change places with me in the blink of an eye. And I knew I was blessed. Perhaps some other mother whose child had died because there was no treatment available would welcome the opportunity of the first mother. It’s all a matter of perspective.

I choose to look at my blessings. And doing so, I know God’s challenge to me to share what I have been given. It’s not just about money, although that has its place; it’s about sharing the blessings of “ourselves, our time and our possessions.”

I used to think of stewardship as that annual campaign asking for money. When I joined King of Kings (many years ago!) our pastor, Denny Hacker, told me that we all have blessings to give to others. Sometimes that would mean giving to the needs of the world community; sometimes it would be giving locally; and there could be times when I’d only be able to give to my own family. That message was a challenge and a blessing. When I’m in a position to give much in time and money, I do so. When I’ve had less of both, I know that’s still OK. Now I know stewardship as recognizing my blessings and knowing the joy of sharing them with others.



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