

## Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom Vision

### The Primary Purpose: Stewardship as Worship

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today with hearts full of gratitude and humility.

Thank you for unchanging nature

We confess our faith that is not merely theoretical, one that actively works, transforming our lives and impacting the world around us for our glory.

We pray that faith truly works.

Help us with struggles, external pressures, difficult circumstances, understanding and isolation.

Give us supernatural perspectives to see these moments not as obstacles to our comfort.

Let perseverance finish its work in our lives so that we become mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

Grant us your divine wisdom, generosity and reproach

Help us to ask in faith without doubting.

Guide our hearts and minds for being double-minded and tossed to.

Establish our minds firmly on your truth and promises.

We recognize that we are tempted when we are lured by our own evil desires.

Deliver us from deception.

Remind us that you are never a source of evil or temptation.

Strengthen our resolve to resist the devil, flee from temptation and draw near you.

Help us confess our sins and purify our hearts and minds from every ungodly thought and intention.

We pray from deeper reception to your world.

Help us humbly accept the word planted in us that can save us.

Do not let us be hearers and deceive ourselves.

Help us keep unstained from the world.

Grant us discernment to recognize and courageously step away from environments, relationships and influences that would pull us away from your truth and towards sin.

Give us hearts of impartiality and genuine love for all people including the poor, marginalized, broken and those people struggling towards sin.

In Jesus name, Amen

The primary purpose of stewardship as worship is to acknowledge God as the owner of all blessings and to use them for his glory and the good of others, transforming everyday actions into acts of devotion. I want to tell you a true story about myself and my service to the community. Stewardship is an act of worship because it acknowledges our talents, time, and resources. Stewardship is about aligning our lives with God's purposes and using what we have been given to further his kingdom. We are not the owners, but managers. We will be held accountable by God for how we manage the resources that God has given us. A good steward uses resources for God's purposes and that's why it is important to be generous, avoiding debt, and saving for the future. Stewardship is an act of cheerful giving and gratitude. Living as a faithful steward is a way to demonstrate our faith and obedience to God. The four pillars of stewardship are hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. The four core principles of stewardship are ownership, responsibility, accountability, and reward. Financial stewardship involves responsibly managing and using the financial resources entrusted to us by God. Material stewardship refers to managing resources such as homes, cars and possessions in a way that honors God.

My grandmother on my mother's side of the family died in the hospital on the morning of November 1, 2025. I want to speak and celebrate her life because I remember she told me her first job was working at a bus station in Mississippi. My grandmother was born and raised in Mississippi in 1932. She grew up in Mississippi during the times of the Great Depression. When my sister and I were children, she worked as

a cleaning person who cleaned people's houses. She was a Christian person that read the bible and was involved in the church as an usher.

Questions you want to ask yourself and keep in your journal.

1. How are you using your time, talents, and treasure to honor God?
2. When you look at your schedule, where does God fit into it?
3. Do you live with the mindset that your ultimate treasure is in heaven, not in earthly comforts?
4. What are you passionate about, and how can that passion serve God?
5. What spiritual gifts has God given you, and are you using them for Him?
6. Is there a specific group of people you feel God has burdened your heart for?
7. What is one small step you can take this week to be a more faithful steward of what God has entrusted to you?
8. Are you being faithful with the resources God has given you, even if you don't have a lot?
9. How can you use your life experiences and unique story to honor Jesus Christ?"
10. Does the thought of sacrificial generosity make you anxious because you might have to give things up?
11. Are there 'non-negotiables' in your life that might be getting in the way of giving to God?
12. Are you making financial decisions with potential biases like greed or comfort, and should you seek counsel?

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."-1 Peter 4:10*

The verse is a call for believers to use their God-given spiritual gifts to serve one another. Peter urges believers to love each other deeply and to show hospitality without grumbling. The term manifold grace highlights the diverse nature of the gifts God gives to the church reflecting the rich and varied ways God works through his people. The chapter begins by instructing believers to live with the same attitude as Christ toward suffering and to expect persecution. It also encourages avoiding sinful behavior and living a life of submission to human authority. Believers need to use their gifts with all the strength God provides. My grandmother spent most of her life glorifying God and showing love to friends and family through her actions. My grandmother lived to be 93 years old. I dedicated this prayer to her and will be placed in the obituary for the funeral:

Heavenly Father,

I want to give thanks for the life of my grandmother Louise Hobson. Thank you for the gifts she provided to people who knew her. Let her rest in peace and live eternal life in heaven because it will be a new beginning to be part of the new heaven and new earth created by God. May she rest in the presence of your unconditional love. Grant family and friends with the comfort of our love for her in our hearts, minds and soul. May her memory be a blessing to family and friends. In Jesus name, Amen.

I want to tell a true story about my long time friend in Chicago that we knew from elementary school. We both have been friends since we attended Esmond Elementary school on the southside of Chicago. I graduated from Esmond in June 1999. I graduated from the same school in June 1998. We both went to the same high school. I was thinking something made him take a turn in his life because he used to be positive and friendly while we were children. He knew the truth about my speech impediment while in school. I spoke with a squeaky and shaky voice in school and talked normally like everyone else after we got out of school everyday. I hope he is doing well right now and hope he gets himself back on his feet.

Last time, I remembered in 2023 that he was really struggling in Chicago and living in poverty. I helped him with money with his prescription drugs for his mental health to help with his mood swings and help him sleep at night. I was able to send him money on a cash app when I had the money to send him for food to eat and some living expenses. I hated to hear him going through tough times and had grudges with his father and his family in Chicago. My prayers continued to go out to him to ask God to give a breakthrough.

*"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."-1 Corinthians 10:31*

When we read the scripture to ourselves in the bible, it encourages believers to perform all our actions as stewards to honor God. We need to transform our mindset in our everyday lives when we perform activities with our act of worship to God. We need to transform our mindset to God and make choices to God's kingdom that impact others in our communities. We noticed today that people have daily routines that do not reflect on God and the Holy Spirit. There are too many people that are content with their mindset to the world. We need to transform our lives to perform our daily routines to God and his kingdom daily. We need to pray for things we do before we do tasks. I learned how to do this from case management at Star of Hope Mission in Houston to start praying for things and decisions to stop making decisions too fast. When we do tasks daily, we need to complete the tasks with diligence and excellence to God's kingdom. This is a way to honor God with our spiritual gifts. When we read this scripture, this is the scripture we need to take seriously in households and among family members because it is still people in the family still distant from each other by their values and beliefs. Our children need to start being raised in households to be glorified to God to avoid growing up dealing with mental health, anger, rage, leaning on their own understanding, schizophrenia, bipolar, depression and oppression. The only way this could work is parents have to set an example for children while they are young and as babies. We need to be mindful about our actions that might affect others' faith in God. We need to be doing things to avoid stumbling or dishonoring God. When we see people dishonoring God that they will not be welcomed to the new heavens and new earth. We must not be a people-pleaser to others. We must let God do his work at the throne in heaven to work in individual life on earth. I encourage people as my duty as ordained bishop to find a church home and get involved in the church in a ministry as a member of the church. You can join the choir, be a Sunday school or bible class teacher, and help people with hospitality. You have people sitting around the house doing nothing as a couch potato and hate on other people to stir up depression and mental health issues for themselves just letting their lives pass them by while over ages 40 and 50 years old. People that are able-bodied need to get up and get out of the house to use their time, energy, talents and skills to serve the community to utilize and find your purpose like I did when I was an undergraduate student in Chicago at City Colleges of Chicago and transferred to DePaul University after pursuing Associates degree. That's why I never sit around the house being depressed because I serve and volunteer at homeless shelters and organizations to help the needy and homeless like I did in my hometown Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Houston, Birmingham, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

When I was in the Spiritual Recovery Program at Star of Hope Mission in Houston, I was assigned to do a list of virtues with my case manager when I was at level 2 of the program. I have at least 20 virtues. Most of my virtues involved giving back to the community and helping the homeless that are struggling with homelessness and food insecurity. My virtues involve helping the homeless on the streets with money for food to avoid food insecurity like I did Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Houston, Birmingham, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

*"The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."-Genesis 2:15*

God created the first man in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of the Garden of Eden. When I think of this story, I am thinking it was man that created sin Adam was the man that ate the apple from the tree. It is like he did it by leaning on his own understanding. That's why it is important to pray before every meal before we eat. That is why homeless shelters do what they do before clients eat breakfast, lunch and dinner. When people do not pray before they eat means they are not grateful for God giving them something to eat. People rather have the devil control them and put them in situations where they are dealing with starvation. People in this life need to be thankful or you can live a life with continuous suffering while watching other people succeed in their life and move up in life. For example, they own their own house, work and have a job, able to keep food on the table to feed themselves and families. I really believe the government shutdown is an act from God because it punishes people that want to live by relying on possessions in the world and not for God's gifts from heaven. I believe the government shutdown is a punishment from God because people in the world want to continue living their life as a tax collector and depend on the world. I believe God is doing this to us with the government shutdown because he is putting us in this situation with suffering to encourage us to seek God in our life and worship his kingdom at the center of our life. When God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden for instructions for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We need to apply Genesis 2:15 to our life by recognizing your purpose, tending to your relationships and home, being a good steward of the environment, giving yourself permission to use the gifts God has given you, and being a good worker to God. The verse is part of the creation of marriage. That's why all marriages and couples are supposed to be man and woman with children. Adam represents men and Eve represents women. We need to be honest in our relationships with others and stop hiding stuff from people. I used to do this before I got saved and born again on September 4, 2011. We need to recognize that the earth belongs to God because he created human life and the universe. We need to not worry about problems that we cannot solve because it is an easy way to start depression, oppression and mental health problems for people. We need to focus on what we can do. We need to treat our home, job and community like your personal garden like what God did when he placed Adam in the Garden of Eden.

1. We need to pay attention to God's instructions and warnings by reading the bible daily.
2. We need to pray to God for direction in our life to avoid sin, bondage, idolatry, temptation and abomination.
3. I say we need to read the bible and find a church home because it will prevent any spiritual influences and us living in sin in the world around people that continue to live in sin, bondage, abomination, lust, temptation, idolatry. We need to avoid living our lives as a tax collector and mammon. We need to put ourselves on a media fast to help us turn away from sin and secular television shows and the programming. It will help people like us to control our thoughts and minds on a daily basis. That is a sacrifice we must be willing to make as a christian and disciple.
4. We need to avoid idolatry type work and remember to keep the Sabbath for rest.

When I started volunteering on Catholic Charities Junior Board in Chicago in 2012-2014, I started to enjoy the work I was doing in caring for low-income and homelessness in Chicago. I started to become highly motivated while serving on the Volunteer Committee, Faith Committee, and Social Committee while serving on Catholic Charities Junior Board in helping the needy and homeless in Chicago communities and staying at homeless shelters in Chicago. I enjoyed making a difference and helping the homeless living on the streets as members of Catholic Charities Junior Board. When I lived in East Iowa in 2016, an employee at the time at the local community told me that I have a platform if I run for elected office and I can use my motivation and commitment to help the homeless and needy as my platform. I

started to become more motivated to help the homeless in Chicago at the time because I helped homeless men and women personally to avoid food insecurity daily with loose change and money on me, gave homeless men and women my leftover food on CTA to avoid food insecurity. I was motivated and my commitment continued when I moved to Detroit for the first time in 2017 and 2018 to volunteer at local homeless shelters to help feed the homeless and homeless veterans. I was motivated and my commitment continued when I moved to Cleveland during summer 2017 to help the homeless men with life skills and self-sufficiency. I served as a faith and prayer partner for the Philly House in Philadelphia, Helping Up Mission in Baltimore, Bill Winston Ministries in Chicago. I am still a faith partner at Bill Winston Ministries and Helping Up Mission. I am a faith and prayer for Mel Trotter Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I am a current registered volunteer at capuchin soup kitchen and food pantry. I became extremely motivated when I started volunteering at Grace Place in Chicago feeding the homeless and preparing meals on Saturdays in 2014 to 2015.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for this message today to give us the wisdom to live a righteous life to God.

We thank you for the life you have given us.

We have recognized that you placed us in this world to contribute to serve your kingdom in heaven with your grace.

Bless the work of our hands and minds

Help us approach our jobs, duties and commitments with diligence and integrity knowing our labor honors you and your kingdom under your grace.

Give us discernment to manage our resources responsibly, such as time, finances and talents that are good and spiritual reasons.

Help us tend to the garden as our own souls and relationships.

Help us root out selfishness and distractions to live with the fruit of the spirit.

In Jesus name, Amen.