

## INTRODUCTION TO STEWARDSHIP STUDY

Following his second gold medal at the London Olympics in 2012, the Jamaican sprinter and world record holder, Usain Bolt, tweeted: "I want to thank God for everything he as done for me cause without him none of this wouldn't be possible."

Bolt's sentiment is undeniable—gratitude to God for the immense gift that has been bestowed upon him. There are many times when we too acknowledge and give thanks for that which we have received from God, and therein lies the beginning of "stewardship".

Stewardship is a way of life that calls believers in Christ to:

- receive God's gifts with *thanks*;
- cultivate these gifts *responsibly*;
- share them *sacrificially*;
- and to return these gifts with *increase to God*.

**Some say Stewardship is a mind, heart, faith, and a disciple issue. Yes it is, but stewardship is being involved in God's plan.** God's plan involves each of us working to complete His plan. Stewardship involves grasping *opportunities*, giving our *abilities* selflessly, and using our *wealth*, because God has asked us. He finds us responsible. He holds us accountable. And He provides His Word to supply us insight and answers.

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Monthly study material will be provided in the *Calvary Comment*:

- The study is self-explanatory. Although like any other Bible study resource, some preparation is recommended prior to each study.
- Each study is divided into sections with an objective, introduction, suggested bible passages, and personal reflection.

Hopefully this study guide will give **you**:

- A chance to discuss and explore an important part of Christian discipleship.
- Insights into important Bible passages.
- Reassurance and encouragement from others, who are on the same journey too with regards to stewardship. None of us has this sorted!
- Opportunities to think about your personal situation and to talk about any concerns, if you wish.
- Simple, practical tools to take action and increase generosity in your life.

And finally:

We hope that this short study blesses and takes you further on a journey to faithful, joyful stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us.

# Lesson 1

## God's Ownership Over All



**Objective:** To surrender everything we have to God because we can rest in His ownership of all.

**Read:** Genesis 1 & 2

**Introduction:** As Christian stewards, we must realize that in Christ *"we live and move and have our being."* (Acts 17:28).

In this lesson, you will see the basis of God's claim on our lives. Jesus Christ created us (Colossians 1:16). He bought us with His precious blood (1 Peter 1:18-19). God anointed Him as our Lord (Ephesians 1:20-23; Acts 10:36; Romans 10:12). Thus, the whole of our life—our personality, influence, material substance, everything—*is His*.

The Bible tells us that since Christ died for us, *"those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again"* (2 Corinthians 5:15). Not to acknowledge and act upon God's total ownership of everything we are, have, and will be is to rob ourselves of His blessing and make ourselves unfit for His service (2 Timothy 2:15-16, 19-21).

### Bible Study

What are the characteristics of man, as created by God (Genesis 1:26; 2:19; 3:6; 3:10)?

Read Genesis 2:7-9. Identify God's actions by listing the verbs associated with God as the one acting.

According to Genesis 2:15, what responsibility did God give to man?

What did man do to bring about separation between himself and God (Genesis 3:1-7)?

How did the sin of man affect his:

- Intellect (2 Corinthians 4:2, 4)?
- Emotions (Jeremiah 17:9)?
- Will (Romans 6:20)?

How did this act of rebellion affect the world (Romans 5:12)?

How did God bring us back and reconcile us to Himself (Romans 5:8-10)?

What, then, is to be our response to God (Romans 12:1-2)?

Many people attempt to compromise and give God less than full allegiance. How did Jesus regard that practice in Matthew 12:30?

### Personal Reflection

How much of your life are you willing for God to control? How much of it does He control right now?

Is there something in your life that you have not surrendered to the control of your heavenly Father? What is it and how will you now deal with it?

What do you think God will do with your life if you surrender it all to Him?