July Transcript

Good day, everyone. I'm Mike Hampton, and this is Stewardship 365. We've been chatting monthly about the many acts and opportunities of stewardship. This month, I'd like to take a deeper dive into what stewardship is and offer a view on how we should approach it.

As I have stated in the past, one definition of stewardship means acting as a caretaker of something that does not belong to you, like another person's property, with a duty to manage it responsibly and on their behalf. This role involves taking responsibility for the care, maintenance, and administration of what you are entrusted with.

Now, looking at this definition from a biblical perspective, we as Christians believe that biblical stewardship is the fundamental acknowledgment that God is the ultimate owner and provider of all things, and we humans are his caretakers. But where does the belief and commitment to stewardship come from? Where are its origins in our souls? Generosity does cultivate stewardship, but there is more that drives the practice of generosity and selflessness for the Christian in my mind. Generosity and hospitality are naturally found within a steward who daily is deeply connected to God. And when you examine how we stay connected to God, we naturally turn to the daily practice of prayer.

I recently read an article on prayer as an act of stewardship by Andrea Lee Kapunian and found it very enlightening. And I wanted to share some of her thoughts about this topic. As Christian people, we see the act of praying as our daily communion between the king and the steward, where hopes and desires are shared. Prayer directs the steward's activities and reminds us of our weaknesses and limitations. We all pray and ask God to direct our stewardship opportunities, but I know for me, I still struggle with my own desires, even when I try hard to put God's needs first.

As humans, we are taught to plan ahead, and save for a rainy day because this is what responsible people do, right? Well, I also believe that this action is endorsed by God because, as we stated previously, managing resources is part of good stewardship. However, I also try and remember that God will provide for all of my needs daily. The big struggle for me is defining my needs. I feel safe in saying that God defines my needs differently than I do.

So I continue to pray about it, and I work hard to trust more deeply in each day's blessings. After all, God does not promise us yearly bread or monthly bread. He promises daily bread. So we should take comfort in knowing that He will provide for our every need. Effective stewardship starts with the acknowledgement that everything

starts with and comes from God. Prayer, therefore, is the vehicle where such knowledge becomes reality. Asking God daily for each and everything.

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, my wish for you, my wish for me, really, my wish for all of us, is that we might create an intentional life of conversation with God, where we freely talk with our master, embrace our limitations and our struggles, and invite his provision. For in the practice of prayer, the steward's calling is cemented and centered. There's a knock on the door and the coffee is brewing. Go sit with him and chat a while. So, until next time, may God bless you in your efforts to share His love and kindness through stewardship.