

Weekly Devotion for November 4

Stewardship in Its Many Forms

by Bonnie Papenfuss

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." – Psalm 24:1

God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."
– Genesis 1:26-31

One Sunday morning in November, the pastor announced, "For the next few weeks, we will be conducting our yearly Stewardship Campaign."

We've all heard the words, right? Sometimes we cringe a bit, but then we open our wallets, increase our pledges, and maybe even sign up for the volunteer job we've been considering. We give of our time, talent, and treasure in support of the Church's mission to spread the word of God both here and abroad.

There are other, however, more subtle facets of stewardship, one of which I learned firsthand from my mother. Granted, she made sure I put a portion of my meager allowance in the offering plate each Sunday, but she also taught me lessons in stewardship beyond the value of a dollar.

Mom had a strong faith and a deep reverence for God's natural world. Through her decades of volunteering as a Girl Scout leader and church camp counselor, I and scores of other young people under her tutelage learned the true meaning of the phrase "take only pictures and leave only footprints." She was a vigilant caretaker, and still to this day, I am unable to walk by a piece of (*someone else's*) trash without bending to pick up and dispose of it properly!

Yes, "stewardship" conjures visions of dollar signs, but it encompasses so much more. Let us, through our words and actions, always remember God gave man dominion over all his creation, and with that superiority and custodianship comes the responsibility of good stewardship of this beautiful and bountiful planet we call Earth.

Journaling:
We depend upon the health of planet Earth for our very existence. What are some ways you could make a difference in the stewardship of this amazing and diverse world we live in?


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