Chapter EIGHT

‘I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God’

All that we are and all that we have belongs to God.

When we start from here, from the understanding that all we have has been placed in our care so we can use it for the glory of God, we can discover the fullness of life intended for us.

God is intensely interested in how each of us uses the talents, the resources, the influence, the opportunities, and the freedoms he has given us.
The meal cooked for a neighbour. The coin slipped into the offering plate. The word of encouragement to a stranger. The hour spent in quietness with Jesus.

Faithful stewardship is whole life work.

And God sees it all.

As we practice the way of Jesus, we are invited into the same rhythms of selfless giving that defined his life.

Jesus emptied himself. He gave all that he had to God’s will and purpose for him. His time, his priorities, and ultimately, his life. At every opportunity, pointing others to his Father.

In a world that encourages selfish pursuits and the hoarding of resources, our sacrificial giving stands out. The grace of giving is a balm for humanity, a beautiful way to bless the weary world around us.

Look within you. Look around you. Your skills, your gifts, your time, your resources. Ask God to show you how you can use what he has given you in his Kingdom building mission. Spontaneously. Abundantly.

Stay rooted in Jesus.

Hold lightly to what you have.

Take good care of your body, mind, and spirit.

Cultivate a heart of gratitude and of radical generosity.

Be transformed by the joy of the Lord as he blesses the world through your giving.

This week we are focusing on chapter eight of Called to be a Soldier and how we can best use the gifts that God has given us to point others to him. Read with us. Contact your local Salvation Army to find out how you can access a copy of the book

Find out more about the Called to be a Soldier resource and this focus at sar.my/calledfocus or follow the link in our bio

Get in touch - tell us your story, share where God is at work in your life or how you are using Called to be a Soldier
Work is not always easy, but it is full of opportunity.

Our work is the means by which God gets done what he wants to do in the world - people fed, housed, clothed, informed, educated, cared for.

Our work contributes toward God’s purposes, towards human flourishing, towards care of his creation.

Our work isn’t perfect, our companies aren’t perfect, we aren’t perfect, but Jesus is good news for it all.

The restoration he brings, the redemption he brings, the truth and justice, the hope.

And all of these things he can bring through you.
God has gifted us all in different ways and he is intensely interested in how each of us uses the talents, resources, influence, opportunities, and freedoms he has given us at work.

Ultimately, our identity doesn’t rest in what we do and whatever benefits come from it.

Yes, we work hard and aim to achieve much in this life.

But we've found treasure that is far greater than any job title, fame, pay check or promotion.

We are all called to full time ministry, to reflect the values of the Kingdom of God, to be salt and light, to serve others in love, to share the good news, just where we are.

We all have this opportunity.

Whatever work looks like for you, how can you work in a way makes others curious about your motivation, in a way that points others to Jesus?
'We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.'

- Romans 12:6 NIVUK

Take time to examine your time, gifts, money, possessions, your body, mind and spirit.

Write down what you discover.

What do you need to do?
We have a responsibility to be faithful stewards of everything God has gifted to us.

Our possessions, our money but also our lives. Our whole lives. Our time. And our body, mind and spirit.

God's love demands that we love ourselves. That we take enough time to renew our energy. To move our body. To eat as healthily as our circumstances allow. To respect the creation rhythms of work and rest.

Reflect on your need to care for yourself.

Does anything need to change?
The earth is the Lord's and everything in it,  
The world, and all who live in it'

Psalm 24:1

God is the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things.

And he created human beings in his image.

We are called to reflect his personality. To live well. To live wisely. To live with less. To use our influence to advocate for others. To care for the Earth and everything in it.

The Earth is suffering. And it affects us all. Some of us far more than others.
Large scale changes that are so desperately needed and while those big changes are so important, the choices we make have impact too.

Whether it’s opting for a dairy free milk alternative in your coffee, choosing to walk over taking the car or buying loose veg in the supermarket, our small changes can make a big difference. Whether you’re already a super conscious consumer or you’re just starting out on this journey, we can all do a little more.

With every decision we make, we have the opportunity to advocate for a just world. To care for creation as God intended. And encourage others to do better too.

How do your choices, your actions and reactions, reflect your commitment to sustaining the earth’s resources?

Are there any ways you could adapt your lifestyle to live more sustainably?

How can you encourage others to do better?

This week, try something new for you.

⚠️ Read the Salvation Army’s International Positional Statement on Caring for the Environment here: https://sar.my/environment