

## **Finding Hope in the Stewardship of Life The Stewardship of Obedience**

**Psalm 146:5** - *How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,*

Stewardship -- God given responsibility with accountability

**1 Corinthians 4:2** - *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*

### Four Key Principles of Stewardship

1. God owns everything, you own nothing.
2. God entrusts you with everything you have.
3. You can either increase or diminish what God has given you; God wants you to increase it.
4. You can be called into account at any time, and it may be today.

3 principles to help you obey God even when you're being stretched:

### **I. Let the Size of the Challenge Fire You Up, Not Water You Down**

A. Caleb wanted to be in situations where his faith in God's Word was stretched

**Numbers 13:30** - *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it."*

**Numbers 13:1-2** - *Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, "Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them."*

B. It brings great honor to God when you obey Him even when it is hard to do so.

**Proverbs 29:25** - *The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

C. What about you?

1. Obey the gospel

**John 3:16** - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

**2 Corinthians 9:13** - *Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for your obedience to your confession of the gospel of Christ...*

**2 Thessalonians 1:8** - *dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

2. Be sure you've taken the first steps in Christian obedience

**Romans 10:9-10** - *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

**Acts 2:41** - *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*

3. Evaluate the key effectiveness areas of your life for additional ways to obey your God

## **II. Embrace the Opportunity to Stand Out in the Crowd**

**Galatians 1:10** - *For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.*

A. Caleb knew whose voice he ought to be listening to.

**Numbers 13:31** - *But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us."*

**Numbers 14:1** - *Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night.*

**Numbers 14:2** - *All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!"*

B. Caleb viewed this situation through the lens of the heart

1. Be on the lookout for rebellion

**Numbers 14:9** - *Only do not rebel against the Lord.*

"I preach to myself the false gospel that my moral system is superior to and more efficient than the one God gave me. I tell myself that I am better off ruling myself than following God. So, motivated by the moral laws of personal wants, needs, and feelings, I step over God's boundaries, fully aware of the wrong I am doing but committed to doing it anyway." (Broken Down House, Paul Tripp, p. 39)

2. Be on the lookout for fear

**Numbers 14:9b** - *and do not fear the people of the land.*

### **III. Look to the Day When your Faithfulness will be Vindicated**

A. For Caleb and Joshua

**Numbers 14:30** - *Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.*

B. For you and me

**Hebrews 6:10** - *For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.*