

What do you have that you did not receive? (1 Corinthians 4:7b)

Pastor Brad Cusson shares this experience: “It was the fall of my sophomore year in high school. It had been kind of a rough year. A year earlier my dad lost his job when the company for which he worked for over 20 years was sold and moved. He had such a hard time finding another job that he and I painted together during the summer. Now the stewardship visitors from church had dropped by to talk to Mom and Dad. After they left, having heard just enough of the conversation to know what was talked about, I approached my father in the yard, kind of indignantly flying to his defense. (How dare they come by now and ask for money!) My dad just looked at me with a real peace in his eyes and said softly, “Brad, everything we have is the Lord’s. It’s all His. He gives us everything. We just kind of use it for awhile.” And then he said, “I would give everything to Him. He can have it all.”

As Christians, we know that every second of life is a gift from God, created and sustained by Him alone. Every ability we have is woven into the life which He has given us; and every dime we possess is simply a gift from the providential hand of God. It is He that has given us health, abilities, and opportunities; and through these has provided for us financially. Of course, the greatest gift is the life eternal we have through faith in Jesus Christ! Indeed, what do we have that we have not been given?

The word steward means “one who manages the property, goods, or money of another.” We Christians know that everything we are and have has been given to us by our Heavenly Father. We own none of it. Since everything has been given to us and, of ourselves, we own nothing, our proper response as Christian Stewards is to look on all of life as something we manage to the glory of God! This means that every moment, every ability, every dime, is to be used for God’s glory. It also means that every second we live, every ability we use, and every dime we spend, is sanctified or made holy as we use it joyfully to God’s glory. In short, the Stewardship life is the Christian life. This is why it says in Romans 12, “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.*”

How can we begin to do this? Listen to God’s promise in Christ from Romans 8:32: “*He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all [on the cross]—how will He not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*” We can trust that our Heavenly Father, who has provided all things for us, will continue to provide all we need. It is as sure as the blood-soaked cross and the empty tomb. With this assurance, we are enabled in joy to live our whole lives to the glory of God in Christian stewardship!

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, through Your Word, enrich my faith, I pray, and let me never doubt the certainty of my Heavenly Father’s provision for me, but rather joyfully use all I am and have for His glory! In Jesus Name I pray. Amen!