

7 Hope That Provides

Introduction

“Paano pagkakasyahin ang kaunti?”

Many Filipino families struggle to make ends meet. But even in scarcity, God's promises remain true. He is our Provider, and He blesses faithfulness in every area of life.

Stewardship is about more than just money—it's about how we manage all that God has given us, from our time and talents to our health and relationships.

When we trust God enough to give back what He has asked, we open the door for His blessings. He promises to provide for all our needs according to His riches in glory.

Jesus—our Hope—is our Great Provider.

Philippine Daily Inquirer, March 17, 2025, reported a new nationwide survey by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showing that Filipino households spent an average of P19,242 per month to meet their needs in 2021.

Results of a central bank survey of 16,212 households showed that **food** accounted for the largest expenditure share in 2021 at 57.2 percent, consistent with findings from previous survey rounds.

Housing and utilities collectively cornered 10.6 percent of the total household budget during the pandemic. That translated to a monthly spending of P2,061.

Transportation was the next biggest spending priority of Filipino families with a 7.2 percent share, or a monthly expenditure of P1,798.

Lastly, **non-essential items**, including miscellaneous expenses, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics and recreation and culture made up 8.6 percent of total expenditure.

Bible Discussion

Stewardship is not just about money—it's about how we manage everything God has entrusted to us. We recognize that stewardship includes our time, talents, health, finances, and the environment. These ten principles, based on Scripture, help us live as faithful stewards, preparing for Christ's return.

1. Recognize that God owns everything

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

- Stewardship begins with acknowledging that everything belongs to God—our lives, abilities, possessions, and even the air we breathe.
- We are not owners but caretakers of what He has given us.
- This understanding shapes how we use our resources—instead of using them selfishly, we should ask, “How can I use this to honor God?”

Ask yourself: Do I recognize that all I have belongs to God?

2. Be faithful in small and big things

Luke 16:10 – *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”*

- God tests our faithfulness in small matters before entrusting us with greater blessings.
- If we waste time, neglect health, or mishandle money, how can God trust us with greater responsibilities?
- A faithful steward sees every decision as a test of character—whether it’s handling money, making ethical choices, or being honest at work.

Ask yourself: Am I faithful in managing the small things God has entrusted to me?

3. Honor God with Tithes and Offerings

Malachi 3:10 – *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven.”*

- Returning tithes (10%) and offerings is an act of worship, trust, and gratitude.
- It reminds us that God is the source of all blessings, and we are simply giving back what is already His.
- Tithing is a test of faith—do we trust God enough to provide for our needs when we give?

Ask yourself: Do I trust God enough to return my tithes and give offerings cheerfully?

4. Use Time wisely for God’s glory

Ephesians 5:16 – *“Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

- Time is a precious gift—once lost, it cannot be regained.
- Faithful stewards prioritize their time for what truly matters: daily devotion, service, family, and spiritual growth.

- Distractions such as social media, entertainment, and unnecessary busyness can steal our time from God's work.

Ask yourself: Am I using my time wisely, or am I wasting opportunities to grow spiritually and serve others?

5. Develop and use talents for God's work

1 Peter 4:10 – *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace.”*

- God has given each person unique gifts and abilities—teaching, music, leadership, craftsmanship, writing, hospitality, and more.
- These gifts must not be hidden but developed and used to bless others and glorify God.
- Like the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), God expects us to multiply our gifts, not bury them in fear or laziness.

Ask yourself: Am I actively using my God-given talents for His work?

6. Keep the Sabbath as a sacred stewardship of time

Exodus 20:8-10 – *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”*

- The Sabbath is God's appointed time for worship, rest, and reflection.
- Keeping the Sabbath reminds us that our time belongs to God and that we should not be enslaved by work and worldly pressures.
- The Sabbath is also a gift of renewal, helping us recharge physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Ask yourself: Am I keeping the Sabbath as a holy day set apart for God?

7. Care for the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – *“Your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit... Therefore honor God with your bodies.”*

- God has given us one body to live in, and He expects us to care for it with proper diet, exercise, and rest.
- Avoiding harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and unhealthy foods is a way of honoring God.
- Good health enables us to serve more effectively in His kingdom.

Ask yourself: Am I treating my body as a temple of God, or am I damaging it with poor lifestyle choices?

8. Protect and care for God's Creation

Genesis 2:15 – *“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”*

- As stewards of the earth, we are called to protect nature, reduce waste, and live responsibly.
- Environmental stewardship includes conserving water, reducing pollution, and respecting animal life.
- Caring for the earth is a form of worship—we honor God when we take care of what He has made.

Ask yourself: Am I taking care of the environment as part of my stewardship to God?

9. Avoid debt and practice financial responsibility

Proverbs 22:7 – *“The borrower is slave to the lender.”*

- Debt can become a burden that enslaves us to financial stress and limits our ability to support God's work.
- Living within our means, saving wisely, and avoiding unnecessary debt honors God.
- A faithful steward plans financially to be a blessing to others.

Ask yourself: Am I practicing financial discipline, or am I controlled by debt and unnecessary spending?

10. Prepare for Christ's return through faithful stewardship

Matthew 25:21 – *“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!”*

- Stewardship is not just about managing resources—it is about preparing for eternity.
- Everything we do—how we use our time, talents, health, finances, and environment—is part of our readiness for Christ's second coming.
- We must live each day as if Jesus could return at any moment, ensuring that our priorities are aligned with His will.

Ask yourself: Am I living as a faithful steward, ready to meet Jesus when He comes?

Appeal

God has entrusted us with many blessings, and He is watching to see how we manage them.

- Will you be a faithful steward of your time, talents, health, finances, and the environment?
- Will you honor God in every area of your life?
- Will you hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" when He returns?

Make the choice today to live as a faithful steward in preparation for Christ's soon return.