

The Use What You Have Principle

The Use What You Have Principle Defined

The Use What You Have Principle is a principle regarding stewardship. In the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches us about how to handle our earthly possessions (Matthew 25:14-30). In this parable, He illustrates the attitude we should have towards our earthly possessions, the responsibility we have to care for our earthly possessions, and the kingdom fruitfulness produced by how we care for and manage our earthly possessions.

Attitude

As with the servants we read about in Matthew 25, the attitude we choose to have towards all that God has given us affects how we steward what we have been given by Him. Your attitude toward your home, material possessions, money and how you use these things will greatly impact your ability to steward well all that God has entrusted to you. For example, an ungrateful heart will often lead you to create an environment of disorder, confusion and anger. In contrast, a grateful heart will often lead you to create an environment of order, clarity and joy. Our sense of personal fulfillment and the advancement of God's kingdom through our lives depends upon how well we use what we have been given to bring glory to Him, and life and joy to others.

Responsibility

The story in Matthew 25 illustrates that our Master, King Jesus, will also give us responsibility based on our ability. Our responsibility is to manage and multiply what we have been given by putting it to good use for His kingdom purposes. The focus of this parable is not on what we have, but rather, it is on what we do with what we have. Joy, fulfillment and prosperity are directly related to assuming the responsibility to multiply what we have been given from the Lord. The dividends (both material and spiritual) resulting from our proper management are not only for us, but also for the encouragement and equipping of others.

Kingdom Fruitfulness

The result of stewarding what you've been given by God and gratefully sharing what you have with others is the multiplication of Kingdom fruitfulness. The principle that was clearly defined by the master in the parable in Matthew 25 is, "... Well done, good and

