

“Prepared on Purpose”
Devotional and More
Pastor Samuel Aj Williams

Day 1: Everything Belongs to God

Devotional: Have you ever held something so tightly that your knuckles turned white? Maybe it was a childhood toy, a relationship, or even a dream. We naturally want to claim ownership over the things in our lives, but King David understood a profound truth that can transform how we live: nothing we have actually belongs to us. When David prepared for the temple that his son Solomon would build, he made a radical declaration. Despite being the king of Israel with vast wealth and power, David acknowledged that everything he possessed was simply entrusted to him by God. This wasn't just humble talk - it was a life-changing perspective that shaped every decision he made. Think about your own life for a moment. That job you work so hard at, the family you love, the home you live in, even the talents and abilities you possess - these aren't truly yours to own, but they are yours to steward. This shift in thinking isn't meant to diminish your value or make you feel powerless. Instead, it's incredibly freeing! When we recognize that we're managers rather than owners, the pressure to control everything lifts from our shoulders. God has entrusted you with specific resources, relationships, and opportunities not by accident, but by design. He believes in your ability to care for what He's placed in your hands. This perspective changes everything - how we spend our time, how we treat our loved ones, how we use our gifts, and how we handle our finances. When we truly grasp that we're stewards of God's blessings, we begin to see our lives as a sacred trust rather than a personal possession.

Bible Verse: *"David said to the whole assembly: 'My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God.'" - 1 Chronicles 29:1*

Reflection Question: What area of your life do you struggle most with releasing control to God, and how might viewing yourself as a steward rather than an owner change your approach to that area?

Quote: *Once ownership is settled, everything else falls in place. Nothing David has belonged to him, but everything, everything that David has is entrusted to him.*

Prayer: Lord, help me to recognize that everything in my life is a gift from You. Give me the wisdom to be a faithful steward of all You've entrusted to me, and the humility to remember that I am a manager, not an owner. Transform my heart to find joy in caring for Your blessings rather than clinging to them as my own. Amen.

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Day 2: Planning with Purpose

Devotional: Have you ever watched someone prepare for a big event - maybe a wedding, a graduation party, or a family reunion? The best hosts don't wait until the last minute to throw something together. They plan ahead, thinking through every detail to ensure success. David understood this principle when it came to spiritual stewardship. As David prepared for the temple his son Solomon would build, he didn't just gather random materials and hope for the best. He was intentional and strategic. Gold was designated for gold articles, silver for silver items, bronze for bronze work. Every resource had a specific purpose, and David allocated them accordingly. This wasn't just good organization - it was faithful stewardship in action. In our own lives, faithful stewardship requires the same kind of intentional planning. It means thinking ahead about how we'll use our time, our money, our energy, and our talents. It means making decisions today that will honor God tomorrow, rather than simply reacting to whatever comes our way. Maybe you've been living reactively - responding to financial pressures as they arise, or using your time based on whatever feels urgent in the moment. David's example shows us a better way. When we plan with God's purposes in mind, we're able to use our resources more effectively and with greater impact. This kind of purposeful planning isn't about being rigid or controlling every detail of life. Instead, it's about being thoughtful and intentional with what God has given us. It's about asking ourselves: How can I best use my time this week to serve God and others? How can I allocate my resources to make the greatest kingdom impact?

Bible Verse: *"I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold, a million talents of silver, quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighed, and wood and stone. And you may add to them." - 1 Chronicles 29:2*

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life do you tend to be reactive rather than purposeful, and what would it look like to plan those areas with God's purposes in mind?

Quote: *Good stewards always plan for what's next, not just what's going on right now.*

Prayer: Father, help me to be intentional with the resources You've given me. Give me wisdom to plan ahead and allocate my time, energy, and resources in ways that honor You. Help me move from reactive living to purposeful stewardship that reflects Your heart and priorities. Amen.

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Day 3: From Duty to Delight

Devotional: There's a beautiful moment in David's story that changes everything. After carefully preparing all the official materials for the temple - the gold, silver, bronze, and precious stones - David does something unexpected. He gives more. Not because he has to, but because he wants to. The word 'moreover' in his declaration reveals the heart transformation that turns stewardship from obligation into worship. David says he's giving from his personal treasure 'because of my delight in the house of my God.' This isn't duty-driven giving or reluctant compliance. This is the overflow of a heart that genuinely loves God and finds joy in contributing to His purposes. David has moved from stewardship as a responsibility to stewardship as an expression of affection. Many of us start our journey with God by doing the right things for the right reasons - we give because we should, we serve because it's expected, we follow God's commands because they're good for us. And that's okay! But God wants to take us deeper. He wants our obedience to flow from love rather than obligation. When was the last time you gave something to God - your time, your resources, your energy - not because you felt you had to, but because you genuinely wanted to? When did you last serve others with joy bubbling up from within rather than duty pushing you forward? This transformation doesn't happen overnight. It grows as we spend time with God, as we experience His love and faithfulness in our lives, and as we begin to see His heart for the world around us. The more we fall in love with God, the more our stewardship becomes an act of worship rather than a burden to bear.

Bible Verse: *"Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple." - 1 Chronicles 29:3*

Reflection Question: What would need to change in your relationship with God for your acts of service and giving to flow more from delight than from duty?

Quote: *The one word that I love in that text is the word moreover. That word changes everything.*

Prayer: Lord, I want my heart to be like David's - overflowing with love for You and delight in Your purposes. Transform my motivations from duty to joy, from obligation to affection. Help me to serve and give not just because I should, but because I genuinely want to honor You. Amen.

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Day 4: Surrendering Yourself First

Devotional: If someone asked you to make a significant contribution to a worthy cause, what would be your first thought? Most of us would immediately think about money - how much we could afford to give, what it would mean for our budget, whether we have enough to spare. But when David called the people to participate in building the temple, he asked for something else first: their lives. 'Who then is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?' David didn't start with a financial appeal. He started with a call to personal surrender. He understood that until we give ourselves completely to God, our other gifts - no matter how generous - are incomplete. This challenges our typical approach to stewardship. We often compartmentalize our lives, thinking we can give God our money while keeping control of our time, or serve Him with our talents while holding back our hearts. But true stewardship begins with surrendering ourselves entirely to God's purposes. What does it mean to consecrate yourself to the Lord? It means recognizing that your life - your dreams, your plans, your relationships, your future - belongs to Him. It means saying 'yes' to God's will even when it's different from your own preferences. It means trusting Him with every area of your life, not just the parts that feel safe or convenient. This kind of surrender isn't a one-time decision but a daily choice. Each morning, we have the opportunity to consecrate ourselves afresh to God, to say 'Lord, my life is Yours today. Use me as You see fit.' When we start with this heart posture, everything else - our giving, our serving, our relationships - flows from a place of complete devotion rather than partial commitment.

Bible Verse: *"Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?" - 1 Chronicles 29:5*

Reflection Question: What areas of your life have you been hesitant to fully surrender to God, and what fears or concerns are holding you back from complete consecration?

Quote: *The question is not giving, but it's surrender.*

Prayer: God, I want to give You my whole life, not just pieces of it. Help me to surrender completely to Your will and Your ways. Show me any areas where I'm still holding back, and give me the courage to trust You with every part of my life. I consecrate myself to You today. Amen.

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Day 5: Stewardship as Worship

Devotional: There's something beautiful that happens when all the pieces of faithful stewardship come together. When we recognize that everything belongs to God, when we plan purposefully with His kingdom in mind, when our hearts overflow with love for Him, and when we surrender ourselves completely to His will - stewardship transforms from a duty into worship. David's example shows us this progression. He didn't just manage resources efficiently or give generously out of obligation. His stewardship became an act of worship because it flowed from a heart that was completely devoted to God. Every decision, every allocation of resources, every act of preparation was an expression of his love and reverence for the Lord. When stewardship becomes worship, it changes everything. Suddenly, how we spend our time becomes a sacred offering. How we treat our family members becomes an act of devotion. How we use our talents becomes a form of praise. How we handle our finances becomes a spiritual discipline. Every aspect of life becomes an opportunity to honor God. This is the goal of biblical stewardship - not just to manage our resources well, but to live in such a way that our entire lives become an offering of worship to God. When we reach this place, we discover that stewardship isn't a burden to bear but a privilege to embrace. You have been entrusted with a unique combination of gifts, opportunities, and resources. God has prepared you for a purpose, and He's given you everything you need to fulfill that purpose. The question isn't whether you have enough - it's whether you're willing to offer what you have as an act of worship to the One who gave it all to you in the first place.

Bible Verse: *"Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?" - 1 Chronicles 29:5*

Reflection Question: How can you begin to view your daily activities and decisions as acts of worship rather than just practical necessities?

Quote: *Once stewardship is settled, once preparation is practice, once affection is surrendered, stewardship becomes worship.*

Prayer: Lord, I want my entire life to be an offering of worship to You. Help me to see every opportunity to steward Your gifts as a chance to honor You. Transform my heart so that serving You becomes my greatest joy and highest privilege. May my life be a living sacrifice that brings You glory. Amen.

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Summary

Pastor Samuel Williams delivers a powerful message on stewardship from 1 Chronicles 29, where King David prepares to pass leadership to his son Solomon and build God's temple. The sermon emphasizes that true stewardship begins with understanding that everything we have belongs to God, not us. David demonstrates three key principles: stewardship starts with settled ownership and planned succession, it is prepared and purposeful rather than reactionary, and it moves from mere allocation to genuine affection for God.

The pastor challenges the congregation to move beyond just giving money to giving themselves completely to God. Using the example of David who gave not only from public resources but also from his personal treasure, the message calls for total consecration and surrender. The sermon concludes with the understanding that stewardship is ultimately about worship - giving God our complete 'yes' and recognizing that we are stewards, not owners, of everything in our lives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with grateful hearts, acknowledging that You are the owner of all things. As we gather to study Your Word and learn about stewardship, we ask that You open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our preconceived notions and be receptive to Your truth. Lord, speak to each person in this group according to their need, and help us to encourage one another as we grow in understanding of what it means to be faithful stewards of all You have entrusted to us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one item in your home that you consider 'special' or 'set aside' for particular occasions, and what makes it special to you?

Key Verses

1. 1 Chronicles 29:1
2. 1 Chronicles 29:2-5
3. 1 Chronicles 29:5

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Questions

1. How does David's approach to succession planning challenge our modern understanding of leadership and legacy?
2. What does it mean that 'the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God,' and how should this perspective shape our stewardship?
3. David prepared resources before the need arose. How can we apply this principle of 'pre-decisional' stewardship in our own lives?
4. The pastor mentioned that David gave from both public resources and personal treasure. What's the difference between these two types of giving?
5. How does understanding that 'nothing belongs to us' change the way we view our possessions, time, and talents?
6. David asked 'who will volunteer to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?' What does consecration mean in practical terms for believers today?
7. The sermon states that 'stewardship becomes worship.' How can our daily management of resources become an act of worship?
8. What are some areas in your life where you might be holding back from complete surrender to God, and why do you think that is?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you've been acting as an 'owner' rather than a 'steward.' It could be your time, money, talents, or relationships. Practice daily surrender by starting each morning with a prayer acknowledging God's ownership and asking how He wants you to steward that area for His glory. Keep a journal of how this shift in perspective affects your decisions and attitudes throughout the week.

Key Takeaways

1. True stewardship begins with recognizing that everything belongs to God, not us
2. Good stewards plan for succession and the future, not just immediate needs
3. Stewardship should be prepared and purposeful, not reactionary to emergencies
4. Authentic stewardship moves beyond giving money to giving ourselves completely

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5. Consecration means being set apart for God's exclusive use - it's about surrender, not just giving

Ending Prayer

Lord God, as we conclude our time together, we thank You for the example of King David and his heart of stewardship. We acknowledge that everything we have - our time, talents, resources, and very lives - belongs to You. Help us to live as faithful stewards this week, managing what You've entrusted to us with wisdom and love. Give us the courage to surrender completely to You, holding nothing back. May our stewardship become an act of worship that brings glory to Your name. Transform our hearts from owners to stewards, and help us to prepare well for the future You have planned. We consecrate ourselves to You today and always. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.

