



God is a rewarder. This is a truth about God of which many Christians don't seem to be aware. He loves to reward us when we diligently seek His presence, His will and His ways. He rewards good work, and He rewards good stewardship.

(See Hebrews 11:6). In Matthew, God rewards us when we pray or fast or give to the poor. And in 1 Corinthians, we find, *"Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labour."* (3:8).

Our belief determines *where* we will spend eternity, and our behavior determines *how* we will spend eternity. God is going to reward us one day for our behavior or our good works. But it is also true that God rewards us while we're still on Earth. (See Mark 10:29-30).

God is not going to give us more money if we can't even be faithful with the money that He has already given us. If a person can't handle \$500 per week, why would God give him \$5000 per week? (See Luke 19:17).

God gives talents to each of us according to our ability, and He expects us to use those talents for Him and for His Kingdom purposes. We will never see God's miraculous power given to poor stewards. (See Matt 25:14-30).

God expects us to do business- Kingdom business- until He returns. (Luke 19:13).

Poor stewards lose resources; good stewards receive more. The Lord gives more to those who demonstrate trustworthiness. God is not going to give more to someone who is irresponsible with money or who doesn't know where his money is going.

Not only does He entrust us with a measure of material wealth, but He gives us much more precious things as well. He has delivered treasures to us; prayer, the good news of salvation, and the power to help people. These are His precious goods He has delivered to us, and He expects us to use and distribute them.

When the Lord returns, will He find you being a good and faithful steward? Are you doing the best with what God has given you? Do you know where your money is going every month? Are you tithing, giving, witnessing and praying? (See Matt 24:45-47).

(See Luke 16:11). This scripture shows us that God actually uses money to test our hearts; money tests our stewardship and trustworthiness. The test is our handling of the money. The outcome of that test determines whether He can trust us with true riches or not. That's why, for the Christian, money is more than just a means for buying things. We can't help others if we don't care for what God has given us. If we're not good stewards, it's going to limit our ability to help people and to advance the kingdom of God.

Sometimes we get upset with God because "*He's not coming through for us*" financially. We say this even when we didn't pray before buying. **God is not responsible for bills He does not initiate.** God frequently gets blamed for our self inflicted wounds.

God fervently wants to bless us so that we can be a blessing to others. God wants to put great resources in our hands so that we can be conduits of His blessing. 2 Cor. 9-8 says, "*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.*"

Being confident that God will reward us when we give is simple, childlike faith, but we must be sure we don't allow the reward to become the primary motivation for our giving.

When we allow God to do a work in our hearts, the primary motivations becomes giving for the sheer joy of giving, helping for the pure satisfaction of helping and blessing because in doing so we imitate the heavenly Father we love and honor.