

What do you think?



Eric Wilmeth
Executive Vice President

There is a quote I keep on my desk to inspire the writing down of important information: "If you can't write it down, you don't know what you think." This thought gives me pause. What are those important things about which I really should know what I think? How carefully have I thought them through?

Most of these matters involve passing information on to others so they know what I think about them. That's stewardship. Stewardship is one of those simple yet profound commands from God. It is simple in that He has given guiding principles in His Word, but it demands much prayer with reflection. To steward well, I must assess my priorities, my cares, and my usage of resources to ensure I am thinking His thoughts.

Here are some of the biblical guiding principles involved:

- 1. All I have has been provided by God from His glorious riches** (Philippians 4:19). I should never take that for granted but rather act with great diligence to care for the precious gifts that have been provided. I should be thinking, "The King has trusted me to watch over these, how can I best utilize and multiply His provision for His glory?"
- 2. God expects me to always act with honor before God and man** (Romans 12:17; 2 Corinthians 8:21). Stewarding with honor is not normal according to the world we live in, yet I am God's ambassador and must honor Him at all times and in every way. God calls me to do good because He is good! I should be thinking, "Does my management of what He has given display His character to others?"
- 3. All I have is graced to me to grace others** (1 Peter 4:10). Stewarding does not mean doing the most with what I have so I can be cared for but rather using the tools at hand to love God and love others! I should be thinking, "How can I display the love of God through the grace that has been shown to me?"
- 4. God also graces with the wisdom needed for stewardship decisions** (Proverbs 16:3). I must plan my work and work my plan with prayer at every turn. I should be thinking, "What wisdom do I need from God in order to rightly do the work before me according to His will?"

On a personal level, a will is one way to communicate the prayerful and biblical considerations that have guided one's stewardship decisions before their passing. We are responsible to know what He has entrusted to us and to prayerfully consider how all His gifts should best be invested for continued glory to God. A will ensures that those who come behind us have a clear understanding of our stewardship decisions. This process of evaluating how we manage resources is something we also apply to the ministry here at BCP.



We must know what has been entrusted to us and create policies and procedures that reflect the same biblical stewardship principles outlined above. Our leadership continually evaluates resources and assets, ensuring we utilize them as effectively as possible to enable the ministry to flourish.

God continues to bless the Mission with the resources to carry out His work, and you are an integral part of that. Together, through the faithful stewardship of the resources He has provided, we seek to bear much fruit and multiply the impact of the Mission.

What are the key things you should write down today that you know unequivocally? Have you written down what is important to you for the resources you are stewarding? Will you join me in a season of evaluating, assessing, and committing to care for the resources the Lord has entrusted to you? If you can't write it down, do you really know what you think?

Personal Impact Story - Men's Leadership Journey



Marty Basinger
Church Facilitation Director

It is early morning. Dawn has yet to mark the beginning of a new day; however, the men that make up our small band of Christ-followers are up. We have gathered for our weekly LJ meeting. Leadership Journey is a twenty-four week spiritual trek that leads faithful local church men and their pastors to grow together in their discontent of self and delight of Christ within the various life roles He has entrusted to them. The **transformative** impact of such ongoing decrease and increase (John 3:30) is a multiplying mindset—a growing desire for other men within the church to experience the same change within their Christ-appointed roles.

As the men gather for our online meeting, most holding a cup of coffee, there's a quiet, shared sense of sacrifice. Some are dressed for work, catching breakfast on the fly, while others sit in dimly lit spaces, careful not to wake their families. Over the weeks, the light of summer has faded into autumn's darkness, but each man has found his quiet place to meet, with only the occasional interruption of a loyal pet. Jesus' words in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness" are silently on full display as we seek to grow in our appointed roles.



In these makeshift sanctuaries, the work of the Master Gardener is evident. The Holy Spirit's truth, illuminated through trials, failures, and forgiveness, has shaped our hearts as we are pruned to become servant leaders. The deepening transparency in our meetings reflects this ongoing sanctification, as adoration of God is voiced with awe and humility. Genuine gratitude, contrite confessions, and intercessory prayer bind us together in a way that says, "I understand your struggle; that's me, too." These moments are both humbling and transformative for each of us.

The men are encouraged because they are not alone in their struggle with sin. The Apostle Paul reminds Timothy to "*flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart*" (2 Timothy 2:22). These men are living out healthy accountability with one another and with their wives.

As the sunrise disperses the darkness of night, our small band of Christ-followers disperses as well. "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another" (Proverb 27:17) has become a reality as this **training** sharpens each man's focus, mindset, and heart's desire to be in tune with what is critical to God for this day. They will pursue godliness as they intentionally invest in their God-given roles within their homes, church, and community.

Stewarding the Second Wave



Eric Nihart
Vice President of Advancement

"LORD, HELP US DO WHAT IS IN
FRONT OF US"

Brace yourself. You are about to get surfing lessons from a native Iowan who has surfed once...indoors...at a kids' water park...with no lessons...and ended up with an injury. I am told that two important skills are the "pop-up" and the "stance on the board." I can search for hours on the internet about how to improve my skills; I can talk with experts to get tips and tricks, and I can watch countless videos as the superstars of the sport master a "major wave," but in the end I understand that there are two critical pieces to be a surfer: skills and a wave.

The presence of both these same pieces is essential as we at BCP strive to partner with local churches, and we are excited because both skills and waves are increasing! Since 2017, the Lord has provided over 80 new churches to partner with us. We see this as a major wave; in fact, we believe this to be more of a second wave with another coming behind! As God has led churches to partner with us in the last 10 years, those churches are now reaching other churches who have also partnered with us; it is wave upon wave coming at us. We believe that as churches and individuals partner with us for discipleship, revitalization, coaching, transitions, or training, this wave will continue to grow with healthy churches across the nation doing their Great Commission work.

Of course, riding the wave is the best way to "steward" that wave as a surfer, and riding waves takes the right skills; otherwise, it is just a tall and daunting wall of water. We are seeing the Lord provide for this piece, too. As these partner churches become healthy, we are seeing His faithfulness in providing needed workers. Just in the last 10 years, these healthy churches have sent dozens of men and women into service for the Lord, including serving with BCP. The team is being assembled, and the needed resources are being compiled to steward this second wave well.

Mission accomplished? Not quite. The challenge before us is to continue to encourage and grow the wave of new churches that are seeking to partner with us. Our ability to meet the needs of these waves depends on resources, talent, and relationships. While we've seen the Lord provide talented laborers, we also need resources and partnerships to steward future waves effectively.

Your partnership with BCP is vital in this effort. Not only does your financial support encourage us, knowing that you are likely praying for us too, but it also equips us with the necessary resources to face the challenges ahead. As I meet with partners across the nation, we experience mutual edification through prayer, enabling us to go out in the strength of the Lord. Your financial support helps us steward the opportunities before us with greater skill and speed, aligning with Paul's desire in Philippians 4:17 for "fruit that may abound to your account."

Each morning, the BCP staff gathers to pray for our ministry and partners. When I first started in February, I appreciated the daily prayer of one staff member who would consistently pray, "Lord, help us to do what is in front of us." What a great reminder to be faithful in what the Lord has put before us and not worry about the past or future. What is in front of us is a great wave with opportunity for more. We've accomplished the "pop up;" our "stance" is stable; our team is skilled; the need is clear.

The wave is coming. We need your help now! Would you please consider partnering with us so that we can steward this second wave and beyond?



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