

The Conflicts of Stewardship Wisdom

As we are now in the Kingdom Age, having come out of the Church-Focus Age, our responsibilities are only to do what the Spirit tells us. This is Kingdom operation at its centrality. This means that previous biblical maxims or rules for doing things only come into play when we decide to do something that the Spirit hasn't asked us to do. Or, when our King is testing us to expose our heart by having us operate without the Spirit's input. Outside of those situations **we're to be Spirit-focussed**.

As we come into concerning and disastrous financial times, the ability to hear the Spirit is essential. To prevent us from ending in financial disaster and destitution we cannot continue to follow worldly advice or biblical principles. Both these will be wrong in any situation if the Spirit wants us to operate differently. **We must learn NOW to give up our entrenched ways of operation and be fluid enough to change to what the Spirit shows us in any phase of the future.**

Failing to do this will cause us conflict as we approach each financial decision so that we are unable to make effective decisions that leave us in peace. Chris Anderson gives some good advice for this situation:

“But the real conflict is in the *middle of the spectrum*. It is the conflict between knowing under pressure how and when to rightly steward God's remaining provision by conserving, investing, using (spending) or giving. We have examples and exhortations toward all these in the Bible, but we can't possibly live by all at the same time in any matter, nor by any single one as “the rule” for defining our stewardship.

The conflict between the wisdoms forces us into always asking these questions:

- *Should I store up and save what I have in this situation for a later use, or should I invest it in something I believe will bring in a return, or should I just spend it today, trusting God for tomorrow's needs?*
- *If I don't hold onto conserving it for tomorrow, and I don't invest it in hope of some return, should I use today what I have on my family and personal needs, or am I supposed to give away what I have to others?*
- *If I give this away to others, should I be expecting a return back on it in some way as a qualified ministry investment, or should I not expect any return on it whatsoever, and just blindly trust God for what I need next?*

There is a lot of tension embedded into these questions! As we wrestle with them, we are dealing with issues of:

- 1) spiritual hearing of the Lord,
- 2) repentance out of earlier revealed principles/practices now fixated in our mind, &
- 3) spiritual accusation and guilt leveled against our hearing and outgrowing of prior principles.”¹

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6-3-2016

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