

**Stewardship: Motives of the Heart**  
**Lesson #12 The Habits of a Steward**

**Memory Verse**

**Psalm 119:9–11** (NKJV) *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*

Daniel had a habit of daily prayer (Dan. 6:10). Paul's custom was to be in the synagogue (Acts 17:1, 2). Jesus too. (Luke 4:16) He also writes: "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (1 Cor. 15:33). We are to cultivate good habits in order to replace bad ones.

*"Watch your thoughts, they become words;  
 watch your words, they become actions;  
 watch your actions, they become habits;  
 watch your habits, they become character;  
 watch your character, for it becomes your destiny."*

"We shall be individually, for time and eternity, what our habits make us. The lives of those who form right habits, and are faithful in the performance of every duty, will be as shining lights, shedding bright beams upon the pathway of others."— Testimonies vol. 4, p. 452.

Changing habits. Trail across field of blackberries. Hard at first.

**Habit: Seek God First**

**Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) *But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

**Luke 2:46–49** (NKJV) *Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"*

**Matthew 10:37** *He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*

**Hosea 5:15** (NKJV) *I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me."*

**\*Proverbs 2:4–5** (NKJV) *If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God.*

**Psalm 27:8** (NKJV) *When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."*

"Every morning dedicate yourself, soul, body, and spirit, to God. Establish habits of devotion and trust more and more in your Saviour." Lt 36, 1901

Daniel 6 he prayed 3 times a day. Do we walk with God.

**Habit: Look for the Return of Jesus**

**Titus 2:13** *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

**2 Timothy 4:7, 8** *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to **all who have loved His appearing.***

**Philippians 3:20** (NKJV) *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,*

**Luke 12:35–40** (NKJV) *"Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; <sup>36</sup> and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. <sup>37</sup> Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup> And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. <sup>39</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. <sup>40</sup> Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

**\*Hebrews 10:25** (NKJV) *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**Hebrews 11:10** (NKJV) *for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

**2 Corinthians 4:18** (NKJV) *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

### Habit: Use Time Wisely

**Job 8:9** (NKJV) *For we were born yesterday, and know nothing, Because our days on earth are a shadow.*

**Psalms 39:4-5** *Lord, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age is as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state is but vapor. Selah*

**Psalm 90:12** (NKJV) *So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:6-8** (NKJV) *A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away;<sup>7</sup> A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak;<sup>8</sup> A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace.*

**Ecclesiastes 9:10** (NKJV) *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.*

**\*Ephesians 5:15, 16** *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

**Colossians 4:5** *Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.*

**Romans 13:11-14** *And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of our time. COL 342

### Habit: Keep a Healthy Mind, Body, and Soul

**Proverbs 14:30** (NKJV) *A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.*

**Psalms 37:8** *Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret—it only causes harm.*

**Philippians 4:8-9** (NKJV) *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.<sup>9</sup> The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.*

**John 14:1, 27** *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.... Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

### Habit: Self-Discipline

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27** (NKJV) *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

**Hebrews 5:14** (NKJV) *But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**2 Timothy 1:7** (NKJV) *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

“Let no one say, I cannot remedy my defects of character. If you come to this decision, you will certainly fail of obtaining everlasting life. The impossibility lies in your own will. If you will not, then you can not overcome. The real difficulty arises from the corruption of an unsanctified heart, and an unwillingness to submit to the control of God. “... Remember that you will never reach a higher standard than you yourself set. Then set your mark high, and step by step, even though it be by painful effort, by self-denial and sacrifice, ascend the whole length of the ladder of progress. Let nothing hinder you. Fate has not woven its meshes about any human being so firmly that he need remain helpless and in uncertainty. Opposing circumstances should create a firm determination to overcome them. The breaking down of one barrier will give greater ability and courage to go forward. Press with determination in the right direction, and circumstances will be your helpers, not your hindrances.” COL 331