

## 5 POINTS OF STEWARDSHIP



All human beings are uniquely created in the image of God. God calls us to reflect that image in our lifestyle, our stewardship and our moral behavior. God reveals Himself in scripture as loving, generous and giving; He wants us to see Him as our provider. He supplies us with literally everything we truly value; our mates, our children, the spirit within us, our health, and much more. All wealth and honor come ultimately from Him. The earth itself belongs to God, and He alone is the true owner of all.



Collectively, God has provided for people by creating the perfect environment, with minerals in the ground and fresh water to drink. He gave us plants to both eat and use and placed abundant life in the air, sea and land as food. However, these assets are unequally distributed throughout the world. God's original provision in the natural order is the basis of all true industry and wealth creation. God placed man here to work. As we apply ourselves to working within this world "system", we reap God's abundant provision for us.



While we work to provide for ourselves, God calls us to also provide for those who – for *whatever* reason – cannot or should not work His system of provision for themselves. We are to give back to God a portion – the "first fruits" – of whatever He provides to us, in both good times and bad times as a token of the relationship between the Creator and the created. God calls us to give proportionately according to what we have, and wants us to give to Him from our best. This is true of both income and capital assets.



As we live in conformity to God's plan of stewardship as a lifestyle, God is pleased with us. He has promised to provide for us – even abundantly - through His created system in the natural order. If the needs are more urgent or immediate, He may, in special circumstances, provide for us miraculously.



The issue of wealth is given to us by God as a test of our heart. Our attitude toward the accumulation of wealth is seen by God as a barometer of our true devotion and reveals the authenticity of our love for Him.