

Kingdom Stewardship Bible Study Series: Dr. Tony Evans
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Bible Study Chapter 4: Handout

STRUCTURE

I. Keeping God's Covenant

A. **Many people today are not experiencing God's kingdom benefits because they refuse to keep His covenant.**

1. For example, marriage is a covenant (Malachi 2:14).
2. We read that Adam "*knew*" Eve, and Eve conceived.
3. Thus, when God speaks on covenant and our abiding within His covenant, He is talking about going deeper with Him relationally (Jeremiah 9:23-24) in order to gain access to a greater experience of Him and greater authority from Him.
4. All throughout the pages of the Bible we read this term: **covenant**.
5. Living within the benefits of the covenant is critical because the covenant provides a covering.
6. This lack of covering leaves the door open for Satan to have his way with them (Ephesians 4:27).

B. **As you get to know God more through this unique relational bond, He expresses His pleasure through His presence in your life.**

1. The better you come to know God the more of His covenant you get to experience.
2. Thus, the primary focus of a kingdom steward is to know and understand God.
3. Similarly, as followers of the King and stewards under His care, our relationship with God strengthens and develops as we come to know His desires, likes, dislikes preferences, and more in a fuller manner.

II. Aligning Under God

A. **The Bible is clear that the primary goal of the covenant is to deepen your relationship with and experience of God.**

1. It's to allow you the realization of a broader involvement of God in your life.
2. There is a misconception prevalent in our religious teachings today, and that concerns what exists as the root of our relationship with God.
3. **Deuteronomy 7:7-9**, identifies this underlying motivation for God's relationship with us:
"The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but because the Lord loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments."
4. God's covenant is a love thing.
5. When you lose sight of the driving motivation behind His covenant with you, you limit the movement of the King in your circumstances.
6. As a result, they operate outside of the covenant Any time you are functioning apart from complete obedience to God's commands, you are out of alignment.
7. If what you do and what God says disagree, you're out of alignment with the covenant and, therefore, you're experiencing a diminished relationship with the living God.

B. **Alignment in the structure of the covenant is critical to God confirming and validating His work and kingdom purposes in your life.**

1. There exists a causal relationship in covenantal blessings.
2. You cannot operate outside of His commandments and simultaneously operate as a kingdom steward.

3. The two are mutually exclusive. When you function in disobedience to God, you are declaring yourself as the owner and creator of all things in your life.

III. The Wilderness Experience

A. You cannot live in rebellion to God and expect God's presence in your life.

1. Steady engagement in God's word helps the Holy-Spirit to bring more to light for you in your understanding and knowledge of God.
2. **Read Deuteronomy 8:2;** *"You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."*
3. The context is that the Israelites had come out of Egypt years before on their way to the Promised Land.
4. But in order to get from Egypt to the land flowing with milk and honey, they had to pass through a wilderness first.

B. We see reminders of His care pop up several times throughout the chapter:

"You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not."

DEUTERONOMY 8:2

"He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water;

He brought water for you out of the rock of flint." **DEUTERONOMY 8:15**

1. God reminds the Israelites that it was His hand that provided for them when they needed it most.
2. Before reaching the blessing, they had to experience the wilderness.
3. In fact, if you have been a Christian for any length of time, I can almost assume you have been through a wilderness experience yourself.
4. The reason God takes each of us through these periods in our lives is revealed in Deuteronomy 8:2.
5. God has one primary lesson for each of us in the wilderness and that lesson is that we cannot make it without Him.
6. If it weren't for God, none of us would eat, drink, have shoes to wear, or make it into the next moment in time, let alone tomorrow or next week.

C. The purpose of the wilderness is to position kingdom stewards with the right awareness of God's covenantal de-sign.

1. God knows our propensity to forget.
2. God knows how easy it is for us to assume ownership over what He has given to us.
3. The key event God seeks to keep us connected with is that He created the world, and we didn't.
4. The Israelites wandered for forty years but God is patient.
5. The Israelites turned what could have been a six-week journey to the Promised Land into a forty-year delay because they went year after year after year without learning the lesson of stewardship.
6. None of us are solely dependent on our own human resources.
7. We are all managers entrusted with gifts, skills, time, and ideas to use according to God's leading and His purposes.

IV. The Productive Kingdom Steward

A. God has established His covenant to prosper us.

1. It is designed for your progression and improvement.
2. God has no intention of bringing you hurt or harm through His covenant.
3. The intention of the covenant is always to help you.
4. God is not opposed to your productivity.
5. Deuteronomy 8:18 says clearly, *"For it is He who is giving you power to make wealth."*
6. God has placed massive potential within His creation.
7. The materials for production and building_all of that comes directly from God Him-self.

8. Whatever we make, create, wear, produce, imagine, or dream up is rooted in God.
9. He's blessed us with the mental and physical power to make wealth from His creation.

B. Now, this is not to say that no one prospers financially outside of God's covenant.

1. Many unscrupulous businesses prosper, and even people who have no reflection of God's rule in their lives prosper.
2. God will take from the sinner and give it to the saint (Proverbs 13:22).
3. Don't be confused when the unrighteous prosper.
4. God has multiple reasons for allowing financial growth, but it is always His rule that governs all.

C. God's principles of biblical economics apply not only to individuals and families but to societies as well.

1. When the principles are obeyed, people are set free to choose to legitimately maximize their potential for righteous gain.
2. When disobeyed, economic freedom is lost and you wind up with centralized governmental control of the marketplace, which is the evil economic system of the anti-Christ (Revelation 13:16-17).
3. God's power to produce wealth shows up in many ways.

4. In Psalm 25:12-14 we read:

"Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. His soul will abide in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant.";

5. God lets kingdom stewards know the secrets to success.
- 6. He gives you His ideas.**
7. Whatever it is, God guides you in the right direction with the right thoughts to do the right things to produce wealth and prosper you if it's His will for you to prosper.
8. Friend, you can save a lot of time, energy, frustration, irritation, and all-out mess simply by seeking God.
9. The power to produce something originates in the thoughts about doing it.
10. Thus, if you can get the right thought, then you can produce the optimal result.

D. Too many Christians run from these truths because they confuse this with Prosperity Theology.

1. But Prosperity Theology has nothing to do with alignment under God's overarching rule.
2. When you are living underneath the covenantal covering and provision of God, that is different from Prosperity Theology.
3. And one key differentiating factor between the two is found in the book of 3 John 1:2: *"Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.";*
4. This is a prayer that your physical prospering doesn't outpace your spiritual prospering.
5. You will be sending yourself an invitation to another wilderness experience in order to relearn the foundational principle of life itself: God is the Source of all.
6. One of the major problems kingdom stewards run into is not knowing how to spiritually and emotionally manage success.
7. God does not desire that His stewards operate in a mindset that leaves Him out and negates His ownership over all they have.
8. Making money or creating success is one thing.
9. Keeping it is another.
10. When God sees that you are obeying Him because you want to know Him better, then He is free to open up the umbrella of His covenantal care and covering, while simultaneously ushering in the floods of His blessings.
11. When you can understand the importance of the covenant, you will have unlocked the secret to emotional, physical, spiritual, and financial success.

12. God has a warranty for your life.

13. You are using your time, talents, and treasures for His covenant, His kingdom, and His glory.