



Faith Aflame: 360 Degrees

Trust

Opening Prayer

Introduction: Richard E. Rusbuldt writes, in *A Workbook on Biblical Stewardship*, “Most of what is written about Christian stewardship today stresses *managing*—and quite rightly so. But a couple of other essential ingredients are frequently overlooked or at least shortchanged in such discussion: *entrusting* and *confronting*.” (page 15)

“Trust is the lifeblood of a healthy relationship,” Rusbuldt writes, “and it is essential to personal growth within that relationship.”

- Why is trust so important in a relationship?
- How is trust built?
- What happens when trust is broken?
- How should leaders entrust and confront in the area of Christian stewardship?

People have asked questions about trust when it comes to their relationship with God. Questions like... “Can I trust God?” The answer to that question is a resounding “yes!” God’s promises are sure—He is completely trustworthy.

Another question that needs to be asked is “Can God trust me?” The answer to that question is *not* a resounding “yes!”

“We cannot learn to become good stewards unless someone is willing to trust in us first,” writes Rusbuldt. (page 15) The truth is we cannot even be stewards unless someone entrusts something to us.

- What has God entrusted to you?
- What do the following passages have to say about entrusting?
 - Genesis 1:26-31
 - Exodus 3:1-12
 - John 19:26-27
 - Acts 1:8
 - Matthew 25:14-30
 - Luke 10:29-39
 - Luke 15:11-32
 - 1 Timothy 4:10
 - 2 Timothy 2:2
- What is the leader’s job when it comes to entrusting?

Stewardship Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for entrusting me with Your gifts.

Keep me mindful, Lord, that everything belongs to you, that You have given me the responsibility of managing Your gifts for Your purposes, and that I am accountable to You.

Keep me faithful, Lord, as I serve as a leader in my family, in my church, and in my community.

And, Lord, forgive me when I fail.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

“It is important to note,” writes Rusbuldt, “that one steward can make a significant difference. One reason for this is that God is in partnership with each steward. Guidance, support and courage are available in plentiful supply from our Partner.” (page 18)

- How can one steward make a difference—a significant difference?
- How can you, as God’s steward and leader, make a difference?

Again Rusbuldt writes, “Some Christians also make the tragic mistake of thinking only of money whenever the word stewardship is mentioned, as if money were the only thing that God had entrusted to us.” (page 19)

- Why is connecting stewardship only with money a tragic mistake?
- What is the most important thing God entrusts to us? (1 Cor. 4:1)

Stewardship is all encompassing. And, as Rusbuldt points out, it can be overwhelming. We are entrusted with the “mysteries of God,” with life itself, with all of our relationships and resources. God entrusts us with so much. Can we live up to that trust?

What comfort do the following passages give?

- Hebrews 13:5-6
- Matthew 18:20
- Matthew 28:20

We know that we can trust God. “*I know the one in whom I have put my trust,*” writes St. Paul to Timothy, “*and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.*” (2 Timothy 1:12)

We also know that we have been less than trustworthy with what God entrusts to us. “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*” (1 John 1:9)

Action Item: What are some ways I can model trust as a Christian leader?

Closing Prayer

Provide time at the end of each session for questions, comments and group prayer. The prayer can take one of the following forms or be done in a way the group decides.

Adoration...
Confession...
Thanksgiving...
Supplication....

Praise...
Remember...
Ask...
Yield...

