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## Steward Leadership

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# Steward Leadership

**Abstract**

"As a teacher, husband, father, grandfather, and friend, and with the Holy Spirit's help, I really want to keep getting to know the Master more intimately so I can truly help those in my sphere of influence appreciate to their maximum potential as assets in God's kingdom."

Posting about Christian leadership from *In All Things* - an online hub committed to the claim that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ has implications for the entire world.

<http://inallthings.org/steward-leadership/>

**Keywords**

In All Things, leadership, Christian stewardship

**Disciplines**

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**Comments**

*In All Things* is a publication of the [Andreas Center for Reformed Scholarship and Service at Dordt College](#).

# Steward Leadership

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 [all in allthings.org/steward-leadership/](https://allthings.org/steward-leadership/)

Gary De Vries

*The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1 (NIV)*

*Again it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags of gold, to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more." His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Mathew 25: 14—23 (NIV)*

I often tried to consider myself an aspiring "servant" leader. You know the one, working behind the scenes, willing to get his hands dirty and not needing credit. But after studying "Stewarding the Life God Entrusts" by Ascending Leaders as part of a small group I am in, I wonder if "servant" is the appropriate term to describe the type of leadership I should strive for.

In the Old Testament, a "steward" was the one entrusted with the responsibility to make decisions based on what the master would do. A "servant" did not need to know the master well to complete a task, he just did as he was ordered. The better the steward knew the master, the better he could make choices in the absence of the owner that best represented the owner and most appreciated the assets according to the owner/master's desire. A servant is reactive, but a steward is proactive, looking ahead and choosing to act in the interests of the master. God is the owner of everything, including the relationships he has allowed us to influence. As a "steward" leader I am clearly managing resources that do not belong to me. I believe stewardship calls for accountability for my leadership. I also believe that the motive for my leadership should be to develop resources and help them grow, which especially includes everyone and everything in my sphere of influence.

As a teacher, husband, father, grandfather, and friend, and with the Holy Spirit's help, I really want to keep getting to know the Master more intimately so I can truly help those in my sphere of influence appreciate to their maximum potential as assets in God's kingdom.