

THE CHARACTER OF A STEWARD

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“I fall, I stand still ... I trudge on, I gain a little ... I get more eager and climb higher and begin to see the widening horizon. Every struggle is a victory.”

- Helen Keller

How to work through these radio talks

Purpose of these radio talks

Please note: This is only radio talks for self study and not to be released in any other format due to copy right restrictions.

Sources and Full acknowledgement:

Primary sources

The Power for true success: How to build character in your life

Secondary

Crown Stewardship material

The money devotional from Mark LLoydbottom

CBMC weekly notes and specifically the reflection notes

Biblical Principles for releasing Financial Provision by Frank Damazio and Rich Brott

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

1. ALERTNESS vs Carelessness

Definition

Definition: Being aware of what is taking place around me so I can have the right responses.

Afrikaans		Definisie	Alternatiewe
Waaksaamheid agterlosigheid	vs.	Om bewus te wees van wat om my aangaan sodat ek korrek daarop kan reageer.	Wakkerheid, oplettend Nalatig

Memory Verse: “Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41) *Waak en bid, sodat julle nie in versoeking kom nie. Die gees is gewillig, maar die vlees is swak*

Alertness presupposes dangers that threaten to diminish or destroy the resources God has entrusted to us and that we must exercise extreme care in protecting these resources. The Biblical words *beware* and *vigilance* explains the concept of alertness.

What to Beware of:

“Beware of false prophets/hypocrisy when they give you advice on stewardship, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

Pas op vir die vals profete. Hulle kom na julle in skaapsklere, maar in werklikheid is hulle verskeurende wolwe

What Must We Protect?

- **Our time:** Time is a valuable asset that attracts many robbers. (See Ephesians 5:16.) *Maak die beste gebruik van elke geleentheid, want ons lewe in ‘n godelose tyd*
- **Our health:** Energy and vitality will be dissipated through immoral living. (See Proverbs 5:11.)
- **Our fellowship with God:** “Your iniquities have separated between you and your God” (Isaiah 59:2). *Dit is julle oortredinge wat skeiding gebring het tussen julle en jul God, dit is julle sondes wat maak dat Hy Hom nie aan julle steur nie en nie na julle wil luister nie*

Lions hunt in groups called prides. While part of the pride hides in the grass and blocks the escape route of the intended victim, other lions frighten the prey, driving it into the path of the concealed hunters. Those who are truly alert recognize both obvious and hidden dangers. (See James 4:7.)

- **Our good name:** “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (Proverbs 22:1). *‘n Goeie naam is meer werd as groot rykdom, die goeie gesindhied van ander meer as silwer en goud*

- **Our money and possessions:**

“A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches” (Proverbs 11:16). *‘n deugsame vrou is gesteld op haar goeie naam; mense wat niks ontsien nie, is gesteld op rykdom*

- **Our eternal rewards:** “Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Revelation 3:11). *Ek kom gou. Hou vas wat julle het, sodat niemand julle kroon wegvat nie,*

How Can We Develop Greater Alertness?

Realize that our enemy is a master of deception.

Jesus warned that Satan is a liar and the father of lies (see John 8:44). The Apostle Paul pointed out that Satan is able to disguise himself as an angel of light. “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (II Corinthians 11:13–14). *Sulke mense is vals apostels, hulle gaan oneerlik te werk deur voor te gee dat hulle apostels van Christus is, En geen wonder nie! Satan self doen hom voor as engel van die lig*

Ask God for spiritual understanding.

When Solomon became king, he asked God for keen spiritual senses: “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people that I may discern between good and bad” (I Kings 3:9).

Understand that life involves cause-and-effect sequences.

Alertness is motivated by the realization that actions have predictable results and that the laws of the harvest apply to all levels of life. Scripture warns us to not be deceived. Whatever we sow, we will also reap. (See Galatians 6:8–9.) *Wie op die akker van sy sondige natuur saai, sal van die sondige natuur dood en vederf oes. Maar wie op die akker van die Gees saai, sal van*

die Gees die ewige lewe oes. We reap what we sow, we reap where we sow, we reap more than we sow, and we reap in a different season than we sow.

Have a Biblical response to each danger.

• **Be alert to resist**—Our first line of resistance must be to check every thought that comes to our minds. Satan can put evil thoughts into our minds as he did with Peter (see Luke 4:8) and with Ananias and Sapphira (see Acts 5:3). *Petrus se: toe vir Hom: Ananias, hoekom het jy jou deur die Satan laat omhaal om vir die Heilige Gees te lieg en van die verkoopprijs van die grond vir jouself agter te hou* As soon as we recognize that a thought is not from God, we should resist it and bring it into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ (see II Corinthians 10:4–5). “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

• **Be alert to avoid**—Danger can come from association with the wrong people and wrong ideas. Paul wrote, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them” (Romans 16:17) *Ek druk dit op die hart, broers: Pas op vir die wat verdeelheid veroorsaak en die mense afvallig maak van die leer wat julle ontvang het. Bly weg van hulle af*

• **Be alert to flee**—Joseph was alert to the danger when confronted with the evil request of Potiphar’s wife, and consequently he fled. Similarly, we are instructed to flee youthful lusts and situations that would lead to fornication. (See II Timothy 2:22, I Corinthians 6:18.)

Personal Evaluation

How alert are you to danger?

- Do you daily remind yourself that you are in a spiritual war?
- Do you diligently guard your time from detractors?
- Do you confirm with Scripture everything you are taught?
- Do you guard your daily time with the Lord and His Word?
- Do you protect your good name by doing only what is right?
- Do you ask God for daily guidance and find His will as a steward?

Stewardship wisdom	
1	Our life management is a reflection of our relationship with Him. Who has become your master
2	What we care about we invest in
3	He had been faithful that which was little and therefore was qualified to be faithful to much
4	You have been blessed for a purpose
5	He who gives to the poor will lack nothing
6	God owns everything. I am His money manager
7	We think we own our possessions, but too often they own us

Prayer

Thank you Father that you are interested in the way I handle finances. Father give me a fresh hunger for your character principles and open my ears and a willing heart to obey and to be alert and change my ways to your Kingdom ways. In Jesus Name. Amen

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What are your greatest struggles or challenges in maintaining honesty in your financial dealings, whether at work or in your personal life?

2. Do you agree that the leader of the company should set the example or standard within the organisation for honesty and other forms of ethical conduct? Why or why not?

3. Why do you think it is so easy or tempting to behave in a dishonest manner when it comes to financial matters? How can this problem be overcome?

2. ATTENTIVENESS vs Distraction

Definition

Definition: Showing the worth of a person by giving undivided attention to his or her words. Attentiveness is giving a “hearing heart” to the people or projects that need our concentration.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Oplettendheid vs. afleiding	Die waarde van 'n persoon of taak te toon deur my onverdeelde aandag aan hom/haar of daaraan te gee.	aandagtig

Memory Verse: *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.” (Hebrews 2:1)* Om hierdie rede moet ons soveel kragtiger vasgryp aan wat ons gehoor het, sodat ons nie dalk wegdrywe nie

What Is Attentiveness?

Attentiveness is an attitude of readiness to do what is true and right. In other words to hear intelligently.” “to hang upon the lips of a speaker, i.e. to listen closely.” This is the word used to describe the attentiveness of the crowds who listened to Jesus teach. (See Luke 19:48.) *Hulle kon egeer niks vind wat uitvoerbaar was nie, omdat die hele volk gretig na Hom geluister het*

Attentiveness involves more than just listening with the ears— it involves a “listening heart.” When Solomon was given the opportunity by God to ask for whatever he wanted, he wisely asked for a listening heart.

Attentiveness Pleases God

It is therefore appropriate to develop attentiveness, because many other character qualities are dependent on it. Without attentiveness, we will not even hear the commands of Scripture or the instructions of parents or authorities.

- “A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels” (Proverbs 1:5). *Selvs wyse mense kan na die spreuke luister en so tot dieper insig kom*
- “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). *My skape luister na My stem; Ek ken hulle en hulle volg My*

Light received from God and acted upon brings more light. However, light neglected or rejected brings darkness and confusion.

How Attentive Are You . . .

1. To the voice of God and the direction of the Holy Spirit?

God speaks to us through the Scriptures and the prophets of old: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (II Timothy 3:16). *Die hele Skrif is deur God geïnspireer en het groot waarde om in die waarheid et onderrig, dwaling te bestry, verkeerdelikhede reg te stel en ‘n regte lewenswyse te kweek.* These important *rhemas* build faith and bring true success. (See Matthew 4:4, Romans 10:17, John 15:7.)

If we have been too busy for God’s Word, then we have been too busy! Set a time and a place that you can use for private appointments with the Lord in His Word.

God’s voice will never contradict His written Word.

2. To the instructions of your father and mother?

If you have not been attentive to your parents, consider the following Scriptures.

- “Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6:2–3). *Eer jou vader en meeder is ‘n belangrike gebod. En daar is nog ‘n belofte by; sodat dit met jou goed mag gaan en jy lank mag lewe op die aarde*

Attentiveness to parents (or any other authority) begins by understanding that God communicates His will to us through those He places over us.

Attentiveness springs from an obedient spirit—a prior commitment and desire to do what authorities ask us to do unless it violates Scripture or is not wise. In such cases we should wisely appeal their requests, maintaining a higher commitment to never do evil.

Personal Evaluation

How attentive are you to the voice of God?

- Do you spend time each day reading God's Word?
- Do you search out the meanings of key words in your reading?
- Do you ask how you can apply the Scriptures to your daily life?
- Do you turn Scripture into personal prayers?
- Do you give attention to verses that have special meaning and application to your life?
- Do you take time to listen to God speak to you as you pray?

3. To the counsel of wise advisors?

By walking with wise men, we will be wise. (See Proverbs 13:20.) *Wie met die wyse omgaan kry self wysheid; wie hom met die dwase ophou, word self sleg*

One effective way to walk with the wise is to read the biographies of great men and women of faith. As Charles Jones stated, "You will be five years from now what you are today except for two things: the books you read and the friends you make."

"In multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 24:6). *Jy maak oorlog na beraadslaging, en die oorwinning kom deur baie raadgewers.* When gathering counsel, we must always confirm it in Scripture and make sure that there are no cautions from the Spirit of God that our consciences override. How attentive are you to wise counselors?

- Do you surround yourself with wise and mature counselors?
- Do you ask wise people for counsel and for their insight on lessons they have learned?
- Do you regularly read about great Christians?
- Do you carefully search out a matter before making a decision?

Who are the people God has used in your life to communicate to you His truth, starting in your childhood up until now? Let's be alert to hear God's voice as He speaks to us through many different individuals in our lives.

Personal Evaluation

How attentive are you to your parents?

- Would your parents say you have an obedient spirit when they give you instructions?
- When your parents call for you, do you stop what you are doing and go to them quickly?
- When your parents give directions, do you make sure you understand them?
- Do you confirm instruction with the Word of God?
- When making decisions, do you ask yourself what your parents would say?

Personal Evaluation

“Whosoever would understand what he hears must hasten to put into practice what he has heard.” —Saint Gregory

Stewardship wisdom	
8	God allows us to possess certain things, but mere possession is not ownership
9	When we have an open hand, Go will fill it, if we close it to others, we close it to God
10	Money does not fall from heaven. God does not give money miracle to a lazy, slothful person
11	If you die, how much money will you take with you? None of it!
12	The problem is never upstairs, always downstairs Kurt Beuhlman
13	I have hold many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I placed in God's hands, that I still possess. Martin Luther
14	God prospers me not to raise my standards of living, but to raise my standard of giving

Prayer

Dear Lord

Help me to pay attention and be ready to listen to You at all times. I want to feel Your closeness, Your voice vibrating in my heart. I want to be one with Christ. Help me to take Your Word to heart and grow as You speak to me. Amen.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. In your opinion, is there a difference between success and significance? Which one is the primary focus of your attention and energy right now?
2. If you were to identify someone that you believe has left a legacy that has endured beyond his or her life, who would it be? Why would you single out this individual?
3. Jesus talked about storing up treasures in heaven, rather than treasures on earth. What do you think he meant by that?
4. At this stage in your life, what kind of treasures are you storing up? If your career – even your life – were to come to an end right now, what kind of legacy do you believe you would leave behind?