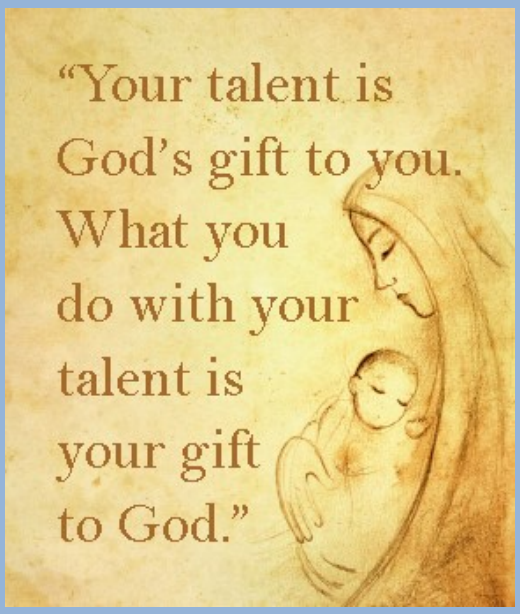
Stewardship

Beginning with creation, we are called to be God's stewards: we have been given the wonderful gifts of the earth and each other, and are charged with taking care of those people and things as God would want them taken care of—with love, mercy, dignity, and generosity. God reminds God's people again and again in Scripture that we are not our own: that no matter how self made we think we are—we're not. All that we have, all that we are, are gifts from our loving and generous God—and God commands that we share those gifts for the sake of others, to help spread God's kingdom and message.

Being a faithful steward, recognizing who we are in relationship to God and one another, and living that out in trusting relationship with God, is at the root of good stewardship, which means that God asks us to model God and give as God gives.

Giving—especially out of the 'first fruits' and not the leftovers—reminds us that it is God who provides for our needs. We give out of thanksgiving for all we've been given, yes; but such giving ideally springs out of a trusting relationship with God. We can give because we trust that God is ever generous and loving, and will provide for our needs (though not necessarily our wants!).

And while God does not need our money—God's mission in the world does. Sharing and giving enables that mission to continue—to spread the Gospel, form disciples, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the hurting or sick or those in prison, all ways the Church strives to live out God's mission.



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