

Stewardship (Week 3) | Stewarding Freedom | 6.28.26

Key Outcomes

The gathering centered on **stewarding freedom** as disciples of Jesus, drawing from Ecclesiastes and Matthew 6. The core message: pursuing things outside of God leads to meaningless results, while true enjoyment, wisdom, and provision come exclusively from God's hand. Members were challenged to unsubscribe from worldly hustle, fear, and self-made ambition, and to live freely in obedience, joy, and focused presence. [1](#) [2](#)

Decisions Made

- **Freedom is active stewardship:** Remaining free until Christ returns requires seeking God's kingdom first and living a disciplined, Jesus-centered lifestyle. [3](#)
- **Enjoyment is a gift from God:** Apart from God, no one can truly enjoy what they work for — fulfillment outside Him is futile. [4](#) [5](#)
- **Fear God as the cure:** Being overly righteous or crashing out in sin are both traps; fearing God is the only path that avoids both extremes. [6](#) [7](#)
- **Praise and worship should be joyful:** The congregation was directed to dismantle "churchisms" — the idea that worship must be somber — and to enjoy God's presence freely. [8](#) [9](#)

Core Teaching Points

- **Everything is "Hevel" (vapor):** Ecclesiastes' word for vanity/futility translates as *vapor* — all things pursued outside God will vanish. [10](#)
- **Toil without God is meaningless:** Solomon's regret (Ecclesiastes 2) illustrates that building empires outside God's instruction leaves nothing worth passing on. [11](#)
- **Be free from pressure of tomorrow:** Investing all energy into future ambitions while neglecting God's present command is a form of bondage. [12](#)

- **Don't make hasty vows:** Acting on a partial vision God gave you — building businesses or careers before hearing the full instruction — leads to wasted years. 13 14
- **Sinners gather; saints receive:** God strips wealth from those who accumulate outside His will and gives it to those who please Him (Ecclesiastes 2:26). 2
- **Better is what's in front of you:** Chasing opportunities that cost family time and presence is vanity; God places His people exactly where He wants them (Ecclesiastes 6:9). 15
- **The earthly trinity:** Fear as Father, anxiety as Savior, stress as the Spirit — the world's counterfeit system that believers must reject. 7

Personal Testimonies Shared

- **Jacob (teacher):** Took a second hotel job against God's direction in 2023; extra income was consistently taken away, confirming the futility of self-directed provision. 16 17
- **Jacob:** Spent years pursuing a record label after God gave him a name at age 17 — only realized 6–7 years later God meant a *school*, not a label. 14
- **Jacob:** Worked in a warehouse God directed him to despite it seeming beneath his qualifications; the warehouse became the place he learned about kingdom community and developed his prayer life. 18 19

Pending Confirmation

- Stewardship series continues next week, Lord willing. 20

Action Items

- **All members:** Examine what altars (idols) have been built in the heart that God may be currently dismantling. 7
- **All members:** If not currently tithing, prayerfully consider giving — online giving available through the church app. 20 21
- **Those without a faith commitment:** Encouraged to repent and confess Jesus as Lord today, not defer to tomorrow. 21

Announcements

- Church is available for online giving via the app. 20
- No one on staff is currently salaried — ministry is mission-driven, not money-driven. 21
- First-time viewers acknowledged; new names noted in attendance without being called out publicly. 20