



Step 8 of the *Stewardship Well Done Journey* is **plan**.

The LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it.
(Genesis 2:15 CEV)

From the beginning, God's design is that we steward His creation. It has been entrusted to our care. On a personal level, there are resources entrusted to your care. What we do with them matters because, in Christ, we see our world through His eyes and envision wholeness, redemption, and restoration for broken lives. But what does this have to do with my personal financial planning? Well, a lot.

What does it mean to be a steward of God's creation?

Consider your personal resources. How does one's view of their resources change when we see them through a lens of stewardship rather than ownership?

When financial planning is rooted in a framework of stewardship, everything shifts from what I want to do with my money and assets, to how God is calling me to steward my money and assets – both to care for myself and my family, and to invest in His work in our world.

Consider the diagram on the next page. As you consider your own financial plan, the arrangement of these categories may be different for you based on your priorities (Step 1). Regardless of how you arrange them, the one thing many of us are concerned about is, "Will I have enough resources to care for myself, my spouse, and my family in the event of medical event, life event, emergency, or other great need?"



PLANNING

WELL DONE

Planning



How much is enough to care for you and those closest to you?

Will you ever be freely generous in your financial planning if you can't answer the question of "enough"?

Answering the question of "how much is enough?" requires the balance of wisdom and faith. These two are not mutually exclusive nor are they in opposition to each other. They are a "both/and" kind of approach to knowing God will care for us, as we wisely honor Him, steward the resources entrusted to our care, and wisely save. The staff at FMF Financial Services can help you map out your financial resources so you can assess what is "enough" for you and your family. Consider this passage of Scripture from Proverbs, chapter 3:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

(Proverbs 3:5-10 NKJV)

How would you define honoring the Lord with your possessions and the firstfruits of all your increase?

Why do you believe God "fills the barns" of those who put generosity before hoarding?

Let's return to our diagram: Personally, or as a group, consider each of the categories. When it comes to "personal" planning, that includes you, your spouse, and your family. As the Word of God tells us in 1 Timothy 5:8, it is good and right to provide for our family and should not be neglected. For those with children and families, they are your primary ministry.

PLANNING WELL DONE

If you knew your personal and family needs would be taken care of through wise saving and generously honoring God, how might you plan differently for:

God-Given Passions (My own calling that God has given me and that I am deeply passionate about)

How would you plan to resource your own calling?

- God's People (Those in Christ and those who need to know Him)
How would you plan to be generous to people?
- Godly Partnerships (Ways we bind together with others to do God's kingdom work)
How would you plan to pool resources with others for exponential kingdom work?
- Ministry Projects (The passions and dreams of others who want to do God's work)
What ministries of others cause you to want to be a part of them?

What else would you add to the diagram, or how might you specifically define each of them based on your own calling and passions?

At FMF Financial Services, we serve His people, and offer financial counsel to those who want to make the most of their own Stewardship Well Done Journey. When it comes to getting beyond the "enough" question so you can be generous in a vast number of other ways that impact our world for the kingdom of God, we find that conversations open the door to fruitful change. Often, we've helped others in ways that has set them free to be generous. How can we help you be a wise steward of the resources entrusted to your care?

Contact us today. Use the QR code below to reach out to us. Let's begin the conversation.

