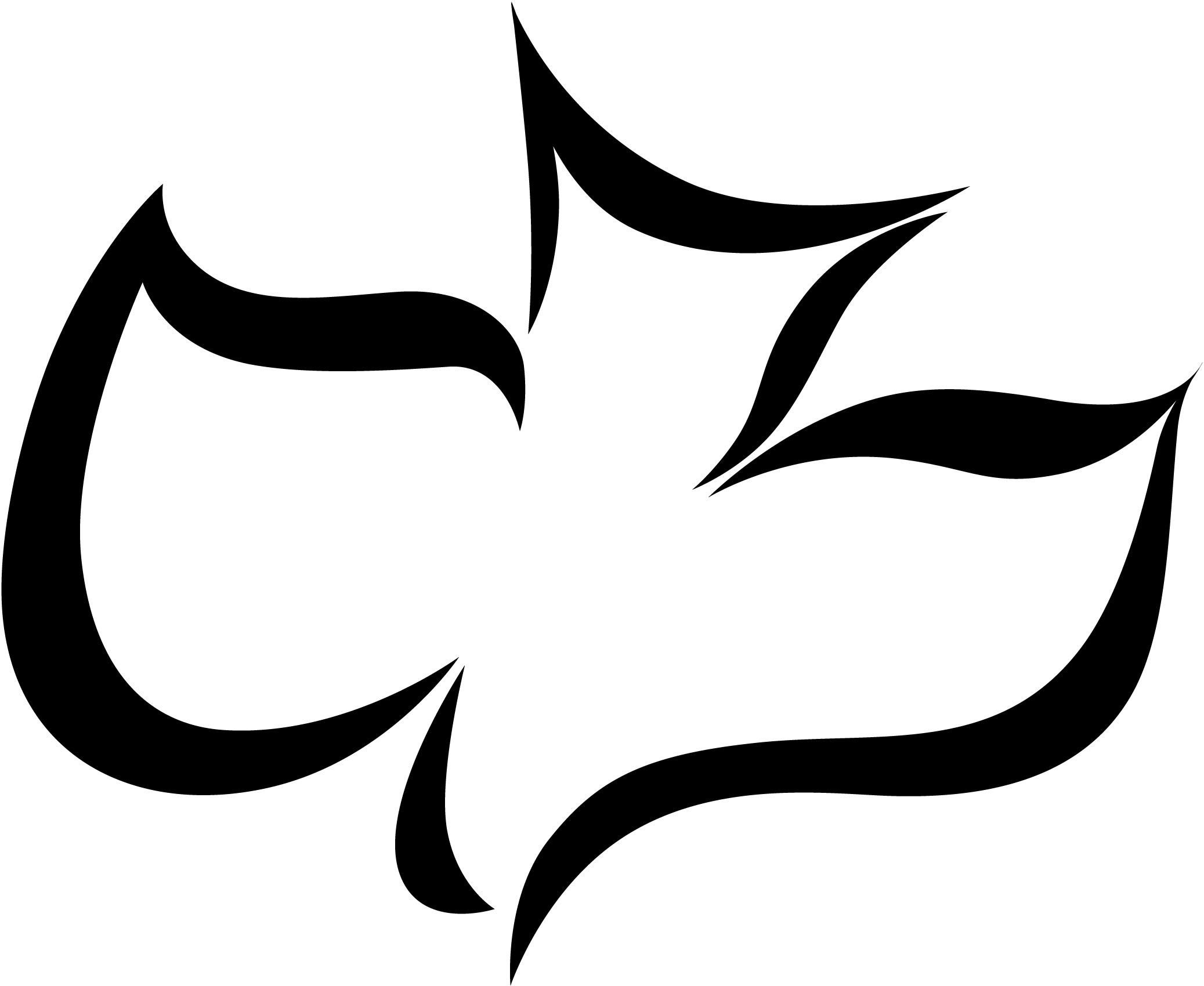
** Love-Money-Hope – Part 2**

**How to Be a Responsible Steward**

**October 23, 2016 Pastor John Raymond**

**1. God entrusts all of us UNIQUELY.**

**Matthew 25:14-15 (NLT),** “14“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone.15He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last - dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.”

**Time – Talent – Treasure – Testimony**

# Romans 12:4-6a (NLT), “4Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. 6In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.”

**2. Stewardship takes the INITIATIVE.**

**Matthew 25:16-18 (NLT),** “**16**The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more.17The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more.18But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.”

# Ephesians 5:16-17 (NLT), “16Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.”

# 1 Corinthians 14:12 (NIV), “So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.”

**3. God will honor your FAITH** **in action.**

**Matthew 25:19-23 (NLT),** “19“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money.20The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, **and I have earned five more.’** 21“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibiliti**es. Let’s celebrate together!’**

22“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ 23“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

# Matthew 16:27 (NIV), “For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.”

**4. Fear kills our POTENTIAL.**

**Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT),** 24“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. 25I was **afraid** I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

# 2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT), “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”

**5. Unfaithfulness has CONSEQUENCES.**

**Matthew 25:26-30 (NLT),** 26“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, 27why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’ 28“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. 30Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

# Luke 12:48b (NLT), “When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”

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