

RADICAL STEWARDSHIP

*PARTNERING WITH THE MASTER
IN EVERYDAY LIFE*

Dr. Stephen R. Graves



SESSION THREE

TRANSFER

*LET GO OF THE GRIP & HAND
OVER OWNERSHIP*

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Before completing this session, read Chapter 5 of Radical Stewardship.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Psalm 8:4-6

What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?
⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.

Acts 17 24-28

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸ for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.'

What do these passages reveal about the relationship between God's ultimate ownership and our role as stewards of his creation?

How do you reconcile being both "rulers" over creation (Psalm 8) and completely dependent on God for life and breath (Acts 17)?

What does Acts 17:27 suggest about God's desire for a relationship with us? How might a lifestyle of stewardship become a spiritual practice of seeking and finding God in everyday life?

If it's true that "in Him we live and move and have our being," how might that shape the way you approach decisions, responsibilities, or ambitions?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

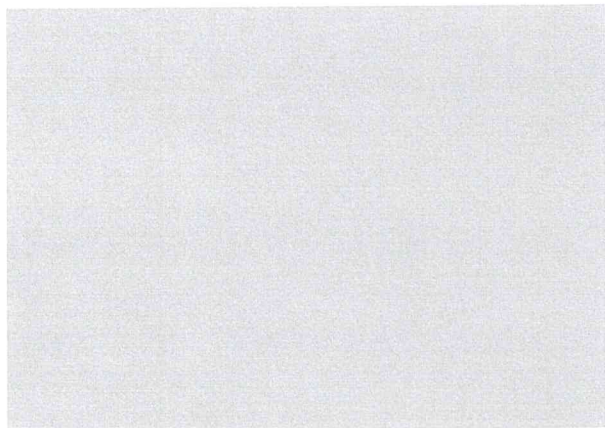
Once we recognize what's in our bag, we face a crucial decision: will we act like owners or stewards?

Transfer is the heart move of giving it back to God, not just in theory, but in reality. This means loosening our grip. It means releasing control, fear, pride, and false ownership. And that's never easy.

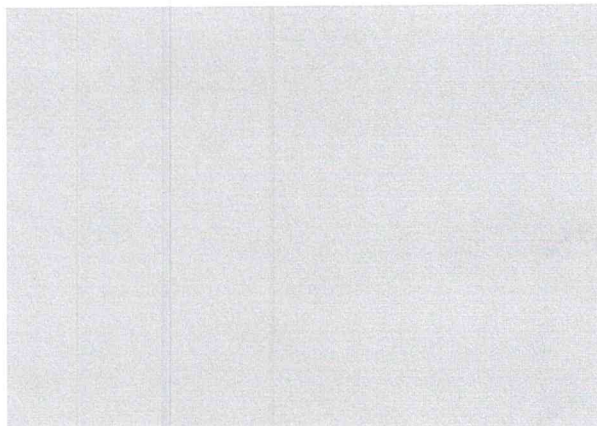
Let's take some time to explore this idea with specific examples.

Look back at some of the assets and superpowers you listed in our Session Two. Sort those answers into the following columns based on how difficult it would be to lose them. Which assets do you have a tight grip on vs a loose grip?

LOOSE GRIP



TIGHT GRIP



What makes the items on the left easier to surrender?

What makes the items on the right harder to surrender?

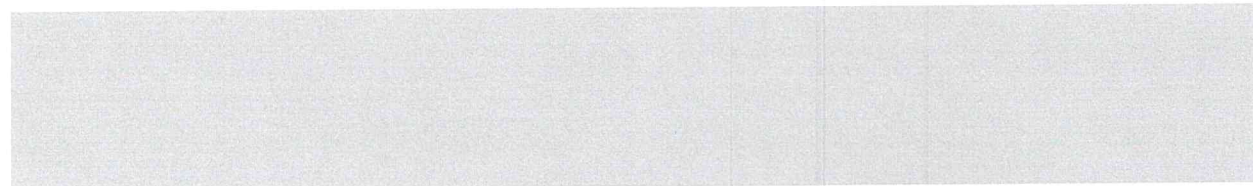
For some assets and superpowers, transfer comes easily. For others, it feels like a slow, painful process. That's okay. Stewardship is a journey of progressive surrender. Consider this exercise a mirror, not to shame yourself, but to see where God might be doing deeper heart work.

What asset or superpower in your Tight Grip column feels the most difficult to imagine life without? What are you worried might happen if that asset or superpower were gone tomorrow?

Consider this quote by Corrie Ten Boom:

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.”

How might releasing your grip and transferring ownership of those items, relationships, and superpowers back to God actually lead to a deeper sense of joy and freedom today?



Control feels comforting for the short term, but releasing our grip and handing ownership back to God sets us up for sustained joy and freedom.

PRAYER

It can be powerful to write—and even memorize—a Transfer Prayer as a daily practice of handing ownership back to God.

A Transfer Prayer is your way of saying,
“God, it’s Yours. I’ll carry it, but I won’t cling to it.”

Here’s my example:

“Lord, I acknowledge that I am the steward and You are the owner. Thank You for all You’ve entrusted to me. Help me to fear not, fret not, and faint not. Guard my heart and steer my steps. I release control to You; please work what’s best.”

Now take some time to write your own Transfer Prayer. Make it personal. Make it honest. Make it yours.

If you need help with the structure, consider using the GRIPS acronym as a guide:

GRATITUDE – Thank God for everything He has entrusted to you.

REPENTANCE – Confess areas where you’re often overly timid, jealous, prideful, or controlling.

INVITATION – Invite the Spirit to take control of your life and guide your decisions.

PRAISE – Praise God for His sovereignty, wisdom, and goodness.

SURRENDER – Vocally release your assets and superpowers back to God.