



SESSION TWO

RECOGNIZE

*INVENTORY & EMBRACE WHAT THE
MASTER PUT IN YOUR BAG*

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Before completing this session, read Chapter 4 of Radical Stewardship.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Psalm 139:13-16

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Romans 12:6-8

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

What stands out to you from these two passages? Is there a word, phrase, or image that resonates deeply right now?

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According to Psalm 139, how does God view your uniqueness, even before birth? How might that impact the way you view yourself?

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Romans 12 speaks of “different gifts, according to the grace given.” What does that tell us about comparison or competition in the body of Christ?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

You can’t steward what you don’t recognize. That’s why the first application in the stewardship operating system is to take inventory of what’s in your bag, and I like to break this down into two categories: “superpowers” and “assets.” Let’s reflect on what each of these may look like for you:

SUPERPOWERS = WHO YOU ARE (WIRING, GIFTS, PASSIONS)

These are the abilities and inclinations God knit into you when He created you. They include your personality, natural strengths, passions, experiences, and the spiritual gifts you’ve been given. They’re the inner drivers that shape how you think, relate, lead, and contribute. Oftentimes, it’s the things you’re uniquely competent at doing even unconsciously.

Think: communication, leadership, discernment, compassion, creativity, strategic thinking, resilience, teaching, hospitality, etc.

What do people consistently affirm or ask you for help with?

When do you feel most alive or “in the zone”?

What do you do effortlessly that others find difficult?

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How has God used your personality or past experiences to bless others?

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Which spiritual gifts do you resonate with most from Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, or Ephesians 4?

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ASSETS = WHAT YOU HAVE (RESOURCES, RELATIONSHIPS, INFLUENCE)

These are the tangible and intangible things God has placed under your care—your money, time, relationships, education, network, platform, health, and even your story. Some are earned, others inherited or circumstantial, but all are on loan from God and carry a responsibility.

Think: your bank account, job title, time availability, house, reputation, friendships, children, career experience, access to people or influence, education, etc.

What relationships or roles has God entrusted to you right now?

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What tangible resources do you currently have access to (e.g., money, time, space, tools)?

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What opportunities or open doors are in front of you in this season?

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What life experience, education, or influence have you gained that others may not have?

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What do you feel a responsibility to protect, develop, or share?

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Stewardship starts by looking honestly at the bag you're carrying. What's in it isn't random. It's been packed by a loving and intentional God for your joy, His glory, and others' good.

Remember: recognizing what's in your bag isn't meant to boost your pride or burden you with pressure. It's about gaining clarity. If God gave it to you, He did so on purpose. And He expects us to know what we have so we can steward it with joy.

The Recognize application can be one of the most rewarding parts of the stewardship lifestyle as we learn to develop an awareness of what the Master has and continues to place in our bag. In time, we begin to see even the difficult and hard things we've been tasked to carry as opportunities to bless God and others.