QUICK READ

Faithful Stewardship

How do you define success?

A resource by:
Sovereign’s Capital
Business Consulting Group

Introduction: Right Thinking Drives Right Actions

Every decision in business is rooted in how we define success. If we misunderstand success, we risk misdirecting our energy, leadership, and stewardship. As followers of Christ, business owners and leaders are called to think differently—to define success not by what we achieve, but by how faithfully we steward what God has entrusted to us.

When we embrace the truth that God owns it all—our resources, relationships, abilities, and opportunities, it transforms how we lead and how we measure results. Our posture shifts from control to surrender, from ownership to stewardship. And in that shift, our definition of success changes too.

Key Insight
Right thinking drives right actions. When business owners see themselves as stewards, not owners, they unlock the freedom to lead with wisdom and peace.

The Problem: The Wrong Definition of Success

Many leadership stories we encounter begin with good intentions but drift toward self-focus. A business owner may start with a vision to serve God and others, but over time, that vision subtly becomes his vision—his legacy, his security, his achievement.

We've walked alongside leaders who sincerely wanted to honor God but defined success by personal control, market dominance, or family pride. One owner poured everything into expanding his enterprise, but in doing so alienated his family and compromised the very relationships that gave his business meaning.

Another refused to slow down, even when his health and the health of his organization demanded it. His desire to "finish strong" became a desire to stay in charge, and the company's long-term health suffered.

The wrong definition of success doesn't just distort outcomes—it distorts hearts. It can fracture families, create anxiety among employees, and erode trust within organizations.

Reflection Point

- Have you ever measured success by growth, control, or recognition —rather than faithfulness?
- How has that definition shaped your relationships, decisions, or peace of mind?

The Biblical Foundation: God Owns It All

Scripture consistently reminds us that everything we have belongs to God:

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it."
— Psalm 24:1

"Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all."
— 1 Chronicles 29:12

This truth is foundational: God is the Owner; we are the stewards.

Our role is to faithfully manage what He has entrusted—time, resources, relationships, and opportunities—for His purposes. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25), Jesus makes this clear: the servants were entrusted with resources and held accountable for how they managed them. The Master's commendation was not, "Well done, successful entrepreneur," but "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Faithful stewardship begins with the recognition that God determines the outcomes. We are responsible for the process—how we lead, how we decide, and how we love.

Did You Know?
The word stewardship comes from the Old English stigweard—"keeper of the house."

It literally means managing something that belongs to another.

God as the Source of Wisdom

Wisdom for stewardship comes from God Himself. Scripture speaks of two kinds of revelation:

- **General Revelation:** God reveals His wisdom through creation and observable truth (Romans 1:19–20).
- **Special Revelation:** God reveals Himself through His Word, His Spirit, and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Many secular business books echo biblical truth—concepts like disciplined leadership (Good to Great), sustainable growth (Built to Last), and organizational health (The Advantage). But these ideas only describe the shadows of deeper truth. The source of these principles—the object casting the shadow—is God Himself.

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom..."
— 1 Corinthians 1:25

Faithful stewardship starts not by asking, What works? but What honors God?

Living It Out: The Practice of Faithful Stewardship

If God is the true Owner, then our role as stewards takes shape in how we lead every day. Faithful stewardship is not a theory—it's a way of life. It expresses itself in two practical dimensions: our posture and our perspective. These two traits determine how we approach decisions, relationships, and transitions in the businesses God has entrusted to us.

1. The Posture of a Steward: Humility Over Control

Your posture determines your path. In family and leadership transitions, we've observed four primary postures that shape outcomes:

Posture	Description	Impact on Family & Business
Controlling Parents	Demand authority, resist change	Fractures relationships and stalls progress
Aggressive Children	Push for power and recognition	Undermines unity and trust
Enabling Family Members	Avoid conflict and hard truth	Delays necessary decisions
Humble Hearts	Seek God's wisdom and mutual understanding	Builds health and alignment

The humble heart is the only posture that leads to flourishing transitions. It acknowledges God's ownership and trusts His timing. Humility in stewardship looks like open communication, shared decision-making, and the willingness to let go when the time is right.

One owner we worked with began a transition process in his early sixties. Instead of holding tightly to control, he invested in building a strong leadership team and intentionally reduced his operational role. His humility created trust and positioned the company for long-term stability and Kingdom impact.

Reflection Point

- Which posture most closely reflects your current approach to your business or family?
- What would humility look like in your next leadership decision?

2. The Perspective of a Steward: Thinking Generationally

Faithful stewardship is not just about today—it's about tomorrow. God's purposes extend beyond one leader, one family, or one generation.

Perspective	Focus	Responsibility	Time Horizon	Primary Question
Employee	Tasks / Jobs	"Theirs"	Short-term	What's best for me?
Owner	Enterprise Value	"Mine"	Short + Long-term	What's best for the company?
Steward	Kingdom Impact	"God's"	Generational / Eternal	What's best for the Kingdom?

Faithful stewardship requires shifting from ownership to stewardship—from “What’s best for me or my company?” to “What’s best for God’s Kingdom through this company?”

When owners think generationally, they design businesses that endure. They mentor successors, invest in leadership development, and view transition not as loss, but as legacy. One family business leader put it this way: “I finally realized that my goal wasn’t to build something that lasted for me—but something that would outlast me.”

Key Insight
God thinks generationally. Stewardship means aligning our plans with His timeline, not ours.

When owners and leaders adopt the posture of humility and the perspective of stewardship, they create a foundation for enduring Kingdom impact. These two dimensions of faithful stewardship—how we think and how we act—shape every decision that follows

Reflection: Evaluating Your Definition of Success

Consider these questions as you examine your own stewardship posture:

1. How do you currently define success in your business and leadership?
2. What measures or metrics shape your decisions—profit, growth, legacy, or faithfulness?
3. Where do you see evidence that God owns your business decisions?
4. Who speaks truth into your leadership?
5. How are you preparing the next generation to steward what God has entrusted?

Encouraging Action: The Freedom of Faithful Stewardship

When we define success as faithfulness, the results may surprise us. One owner we worked with embraced a stewardship mindset in his early sixties. He intentionally built a leadership team, diversified his financial future, and began stepping back to empower others. Because he trusted God with the outcome, he was free to design a transition that maximized both the company's Kingdom impact and his family's peace.

Another leader sought to bless others through generosity. Rather than selling for the highest price, he structured a transfer that empowered ministries to benefit from his company's services—turning his business into a lasting tool for God's purposes.

Their stories reflect this truth: **Faithful stewardship leads to freedom.**

Final Encouragement

Faithful stewardship begins with right thinking—acknowledging that God owns it all. It continues with right action—leading humbly, making biblically guided decisions, and allowing accountability to shape our process.

Our prayer is that every business leader reading this would one day hear these words from the ultimate Owner:

> "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many." — Matthew 25:21

Summary

- Posture: God cares more about your business than you do.
- Perspective: God thinks generationally.
- Purpose: God has a plan for the business beyond you—and a plan for you beyond the business.

Faithful stewardship is not about control. It's about trust. It's about letting God define success and aligning every decision accordingly.

The Business Consulting Group serves faith-driven and family business owners in succession planning, strategic planning, and corporate culture development.

We leverage biblical wisdom and practical expertise to help business owners faithfully “forward steward” the companies with which they have been entrusted. Our familiarity with the unique needs of the family and the business allows us to handle the complexity involved in business transitions to create strategies that foster spiritual integration, human flourishing and love of neighbor within the companies we serve. Our experience facilitating various internal forward stewardship strategies (i.e., family, key leaders, employees or charitable organizations) helps us design and orchestrate plans that are truly unique to each client’s needs.

Our Team

Clint Park
Director, Business Consulting Group

Shelby Hicks
Operations Specialist

Strategic Partners

Dr. Andy Ward, Ph.D.
Business Pyschologist

Chris Allen
Corporate Culture Development

Clinton Hicks
Marketing

Sovereign’s
CAPITAL
BUSINESS CONSULTING GROUP