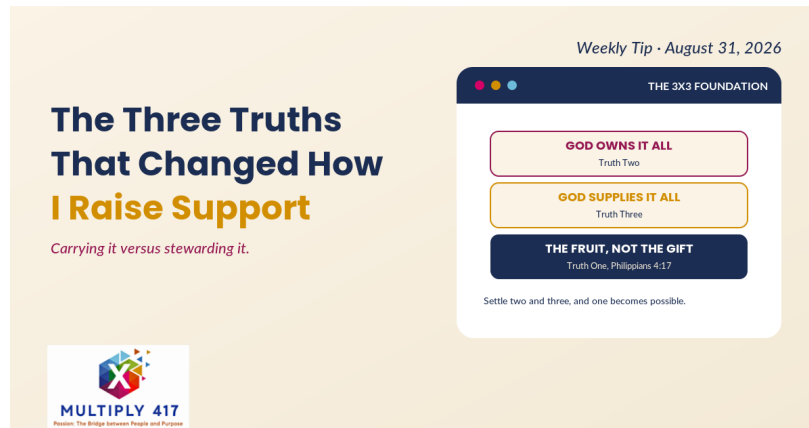


## Weekly Tip - August 31, 2026

### The Three Truths That Changed How I Raise Support



Dear Ministry Leader,

There was a stretch early in my career where I believed, without ever quite saying it out loud, that if I did not personally close the gap between our budget and our revenue, the ministry would fail and it would be my fault. I was running at a hundred miles an hour, praying hard, selling hard, praying hard again, and calling it faithfulness. It was actually just burnout wearing a spiritual costume. What pulled me out of it was not a new technique. It was three truths that had been sitting in front of me the whole time.

I call this the 3x3 Biblical Foundation, and I have built the rest of my career on it.

Truth one is Philippians 4:17. Paul was not chasing the gift from the Philippians. He was chasing the fruit that would be added to their account. Effective, Biblically grounded development is about advancing the partner's own Kingdom passion, not extracting a check to hit a number.

Truth two is that God owns it all. Every dollar in every partner's account belonged to Him before it belonged to them, and it still does. The ministry is not the true owner of the need, and you are not the true owner of the solution.

Truth three is that God supplies it all. Not might supply. Not supplies it if you are talented enough at the ask. Supplies it, as a settled fact, through whatever partners and channels He chooses.

Here is the distinction I want to put in front of you. Call it "carrying it" versus "stewarding it."

"Carrying it" is what I was doing in those early years. The weight of the budget sat on me personally, every appeal felt like a referendum on my worth, and every partner conversation was quietly, invisibly, about what I needed from them.

"Stewarding it" is what became possible once truths two and three actually settled into my heart instead of just my theology. God owns it, God supplies it, so my job shrank down to something sane, faithfully serving the partner's own growth in generosity and trusting Him with the results.

Truth one only becomes practical once truths two and three are settled. If you still secretly believe the ministry's survival rests on your own selling ability, you cannot fully focus on the partner in front of you. You are too busy needing something from them. Settle ownership and supply first, and truth one, the partner's fruit, becomes the thing you are actually free to focus on.

None of this makes the work easier in the sense of requiring less effort. Colossians 3:23 still applies, work at it with all your heart, as for the Lord. It makes the work sane. You can work at full effort without carrying a weight that was never yours to carry in the first place.

Why not try this this week? Sit with each of the three truths on its own. Ask yourself honestly, not theologically, which one you struggle to actually believe when you are staring at a budget gap. Write down what would change in your next appeal, your next ask, your next hard conversation, if you actually believed it.

You were never meant to own it or supply it. You were only ever meant to steward it well.

Passionately,

Rick

P.S. If working through these three truths sounds like exactly the kind of conversation you would rather not have alone, that is precisely why I started the Virtual Consortium Group, a small monthly roundtable where executive leaders talk through this kind of thing with peers instead of in isolation. If you would like to hear more, just call or text (209) 541-5720.

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