



**Stewardship Emphasis:**

**Faithful Stewards of**

**God’s Grace**

**Week Three: “Good Stewards of**

**God’s Grace”**

**Week One: “We are Ambassadors for Christ”**

Our three-week stewardship emphasis, **Faithful Stewards of God’s Grace**, focuses primarily on one Bible verse. *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”* (1 Peter 4:10). What a wonderful privilege and honor that the Creator of the universe has bestowed upon us as He has made us stewards of His creation! All that we are and have been given are by the grace of God. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are equipped and motivated to be **Faithful Stewards of God’s Grace.** We pray that this stewardship emphasis will help you grow as a steward and deepen the relationship that you have with our heavenly Father. May we all hear the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant”* (Matthew 25:23).

**Good Stewards**

Do we really want to be stewards? No! By nature, we are independent, self-centered people. Our first impulse is that we want to be the owners. We want to have possession of things. We want to be important, to be respected, and even to be envied. We are not born stewards. However, by His grace, God transforms us into stewards who seek to follow His ways rather than our own. With changed hearts, we embrace His love and plan for our lives. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we surrender our desires and plans to serve Him. God empowers us to put aside our need to be owners who are in control as we become His faithful stewards who seek to do His will. The love of Christ controls us. Transformed, we worship the Lord and live lives of faith, love, and obedience rather than living for ourselves.

The love of God empowers us to respond faithfully to His love and grace. We learn to love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). We learn to give because God first gave to us. Being a faithful steward is love in action. As Dr. Stephen F. Olford, a 20th Century Christian leader, said,

Christ alone owns our eyes to view His world. He alone owns our hands to serve His will. He alone owns our feet to walk His way. He alone owns our minds to think His thoughts. He alone owns our hearts to love Him fervently. He alone owns our personalities to radiate His charm and glory. Failure to recognize this is a refusal to recognize His sovereignty.

God is the source and owner of all good things, and we are the stewards. God works through us to share His gifts. By the grace of God, we become His hands, feet, and mouth in the world. As stewards, we joyfully manage all that He entrusts to us according to His will.

By God’s grace, we, as stewards, are part of a lifetime journey of faith. The journey moves forward as our relationship with and our dependence on Christ grows. In our journey, God calls each of us to be faithful in our living, serving, witnessing, and giving. With God’s help, we can use our gifts in ways that honor the Lord.

**Walking the Walk**

As God’s stewards, we are not only to “talk the talk” but “walk the walk” as well. Through faith, we know that God entrusts us with time, abilities, and resources and that He empowers us to use them in service for others and to extend His kingdom. When we “walk the walk,” we not only continue talking but we put our talk into action. The Apostle John wrote, *“Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth”* (1 John 3:18). God’s love compels us to serve and bless others not only in words but also in deeds. The Apostle James tells us *“But be doers of the word…”* (James 1:22). As God’s stewards, we use all that He entrusts to us as instruments through which we show love to others. We “walk the walk” by using our time, talents, and money in service to others.

As God’s stewards, we seek opportunities to thank God for His love, forgiveness, and gifts by using our blessings in serving and giving to others. We are able and willing to help others because God’s love within us overflows through us to others. May God help us all “walk the walk” and be the stewards we are called to be.

**Understanding Grace**

Ephesians 2:8-9 clearly tells us that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works so that no can boast. Grace is a gift that God gives to us without merit. We receive it by faith. Many of us are familiar with an acronym of the word grace, “God’s riches at Christ’s expense.” Grace is costly. It is free to us, but it comes at the cost of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We receive all the treasures of the royalty of Jesus. We receive the access that Jesus has to the Father. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation of people called by God according to his promises (1 Peter 2:9). This gift is given to you through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.

This wonderful gift of grace has been present in the world from the very beginning. In Genesis 1, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”* There was nothing in this world that required him to do this work of creation. Grace is something that God does freely and with joy for us. Creation was an act of grace. Creation continues to be an act of grace as God provides.

God’s grace is to given to us as His stewards. His grace empowers us to fulfill all that He has called us to do. God’s grace is a power placed within our hearts to sustain and influence us. Grace is our enabling power. Grace enables us to do and to be what we cannot and cannot be if left to ourselves.

**Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!**