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AI-generated content may be incorrect.Daily Devotions**

**Everyday Stewards**

**Week 1: Stewards Walking by Grace**

**Sunday**

**God’s Grace Shapes His Stewards**

Because of sin in the world, we may know of God, but we may not know God. The Apostle Paul tells us that God’s divine nature has *“been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God…”* (Romans 1:20-21). We may know some things about God from creation, but it is impossible to truly know God in and of ourselves. To know God is a great gift of the grace of God. *“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God”* (1 Corinthians 2:12).

By God’s grace, we are enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit working through Word and Sacrament to know God as our Heavenly Father, Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and the Spirit as our Comforter. By grace, we know that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus and that God seeks a relationship with us. By grace, we know that God has adopted us as His children and called us to be His stewards of all that He entrusts to us. Out of gratitude for who God is and what He has done and continues to do for us, we respond by using our lives and blessings in ways that give honor and praise to our Lord.

**Prayer**: Dear heavenly Father, thank You for making me Your steward. Help me to be faithful in my stewardship. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

**Monday**

**Opportunity Knocks**

Paul, like us, had things he wanted to do and people he wanted to see. He told the Corinthians he wanted to come to visit them but that he would have to stay awhile in Ephesus *“for a wide door for effective work [had] opened to [him]* (1 Corinthians 16:9). As a true disciple of Christ, Paul knew about self-sacrifice. He had suffered much for the sake of the Gospel and even now, instead of pleasing himself, he was not going to let this opportunity for ministry pass by.

These few words offer much food for thought. Is this the time for you, like Paul, to put your own desires aside in order to be able to give donations to missionaries, to your church colleges, and to the ministry of your own church? Everywhere you look, can you see that *“a wide door for effective work has opened…”*? Perhaps you have prepared for a career in a lucrative field. Then you sense the call of God, calling you into fulltime Christian ministry. Not exactly the lucrative career you had in mind. This is foolish, others say; you can serve God anywhere, they tell you, and that is true, but you know that *“a wide door for effective work has opened…“* To serve God faithfully requires that we be ready and willing to set aside our own wants and desires, probably temporarily, and walk through that great door of opportunity.

**Prayer:** Lord, open my heart for opportunities to serve. Help me to be Your hands, feet, and mouth to those who do not know You as their Lord and Savior. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

**Tuesday**

**Faithfully Using God’s Gifts**

As a body of believers, we are given many gifts. Each of us is given at least one gift (1 Peter 4:10). By grace, the Body of Christ is given many gifts such as serving, prophesying, giving, encouraging, or leading (Romans 12:6-8). Although we have different gifts, they all work toward the same purpose—that of building up the Body of Christ *“…to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13), is realized. We are responsible to use our gifts in service to Him through the church. Our work for Christ continues as He uses as instruments to work through in His goal to have all *“people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4).

By the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we are enabled to use our gifts to bless others and to build His Church here on earth. If we choose not to use our gifts, we are spurning God’s gifts, robbing the church, and forcing other members to carry our loads.

**Prayer:** Dear heavenly Father, I come to You as a humble servant, who is thankful for the opportunity I have to serve You. In Jesus’ precious name I pray. Amen.

**Wednesday**

**Sowing and Reaping**

When we think of sowing and reaping, we think of farming. A farmer who wants a corn harvest must plant corn. If the farmer wants to harvest a big corn crop, he must plant a lot of seeds. In the spiritual sense, we also reap what we sow. If we sow kindness, we reap kindness. Practically speaking as well, if we spend time in God’s Word and participate often in the Sacraments, we will grow spiritually. If we work hard and manage our money wisely, we will have our needs met and have funds to give to the Lord’s work.

God promises that, as we sow generously, He will pour out His grace on us that we may *“abound in every good work”* (2 Corinthians 9:8). When we give generously to others and for the building of God’s kingdom, many people may be brought to faith. In addition, Jesus tells us to *“give and it will be given to you”* (Luke 6:38). Our giving to serve others and to enable them to hear the gospel will also reap blessings on ourselves.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for Your promise to me that, as I faithfully sow my gifts and resources, You will bless my efforts. Amen.

**Thursday**

**God’s Grace at Work in our Lives**

The powerful force for faithful management of our lives and good stewardship of God’s resources is the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. When we are connected to Jesus, we have unlimited resources to tap into. The Apostle Paul tells us *“…that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being”* (Ephesians 3:16).

God has supplied us with all the spiritual and material resources required to get the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people in our community and the world. With God as our strength, we will never lack the spiritual and material resources to be healthy leaders and believers who build healthy churches which will empower and mobilize God’s people for ministry locally and for mission throughout the world. In 2 Corinthians 9:8-11, God tells us that He will give us His constant overflowing grace (kindness). Then we will always have everything we need so we can do more good things. God will also give us seed (gifts, opportunities, finances) and multiply it. In our lives, we will increase the things we can do that have His approval. God will make us rich enough, so we can always be generous. Our generosity will produce thanksgiving to God because of us. God’s amazing grace empowers us for our ministry of service and generous giving.

**Prayer:** Dear Creator of all, You have created all things, and You own all things. Thank You for Your grace that encourages and enables us to be stewards of Your amazing creation. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

**Friday**

**Giving God Our Best**

God wants our total devotion and commitment. Scripture is clear that God expects and deserves our best. We are to *“…walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”* (Colossians 1:10). He does not appreciate laziness, idleness, or fruitlessness. He wants our time, talents, and treasures to make an eternal difference in the lives of others. God calls us to bear fruit (John 15:16), to serve (Ephesians 6:7), to obey (John 3:36), to love (Matthew 22:37-38), to give (Matthew 10:8), and to witness (Ephesians 3:7).

Wherever God places us, we are called to be in ministry for Him. We are the instruments through which He works. Through our hands and feet, He brings love and care to the needy; through our lips, He tells others of His life-saving Gospel; and through our minds, hearts, and checkbooks, He supports the work of the Church. As God enables us, we can give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me live a life worthy of You. Amen.

**Saturday**

**Living as Servants**

Jesus lived a perfect life of service to those He came to save. His ministry of service for us culminated in His death on the Cross. His death is the ultimate act of loving service.

Because we have an inborn desire to serve ourselves, serving others is not natural. Yet, as we remember our Lord’s supreme act of love on the Cross, we are inspired to be servants. It is love that motivates us to be servers rather than people who want to be served. Our desire to love and serve our neighbors is our response to the Lord’s love for us. We love because He loved us first (1 John 4:19). To love is to serve; service is the natural outcome of love. Love is what gives us the energy and desire to serve. When our hearts are filled with gratitude for who God is and what He has done for us, we serve with joy. Awed and grateful, we are compelled to share His love by “living as servants.” As we live as **Everyday Stewards** our eyes and hearts are opened so that we are made aware of the needs of others.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord, help me to be humble and compassionate and to seek opportunities to serve people in Your name. Help me to use my time, talents, and money in Your service. Amen.