

## Being a Faithful Steward

### Read I Peter 4:7-11

In this passage Peter is encouraging Christians who in the midst of great persecution are given a high call to serve as God's people in the midst of difficult situations.

The emphasis given in this chapter is one of remaining faithful in all circumstances.

In the midst of these instructions and encouragement let's focus on how we are described in verse 10 *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

Tonight, we want to consider our calling to be good stewards.

A steward is someone who has been employed to manage another's property especially a large house or estate. Peter tells us that we are all stewards because of God's grace(favor).

As stewards, we must first realize we are given gifts by God. Secondly, we must recognize God has expectations for us to use these gifts.

This passage tells us we have been given the manifold(varied) grace of God.

Each member at South Gate has been blessed by God with various talents and abilities.

### **Purpose of our study - How can we be better stewards of our gifts?**

To be a good steward a few things must happen.

#### **A good steward must take inventory of their gifts.**

Peter mentions a few in these passages hospitality, speaking and serving

#### **A good steward must then decide how to make use of their gifts.**

Once a steward identifies their gifts, they then need to decide how they can use those gifts in the good work of God.

#### **Examples**

Hospitality – How can I use my home for the Lord's work.

1. I will use my home for gatherings to get to know new members better.
2. I will invite widows over to my home in order to have coffee and dessert in order to encourage them as they deal with loneliness.

Speaking - How can I use my speaking ability to better serve the Lord?

1. I will avoid grumbling(Verse9) and instead look for ways to be more encouraging to my family.
2. I will seek ways to verbally encourage those around me to follow the will of God in their lives.

Serving - What ways can I serve others in a way that glorifies God?

1. I will determine to help with disaster relief efforts in whatever way I can.
2. I will commit to being involved fixing meals for families following a birth, medical difficulty, or funeral.

### **Let's put this concept to work - Spend a few minutes making a Personal Inventory of gifts.**

What are five talents you believe God has blessed you with that can be used for Him?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Reminder** - What should be the motivation for these actions according to verse 11? Why is it important to keep this as our focus?

**Application**

How can you use these gifts in order to glorify God through your efforts to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. For each gift/talent listed above list two specific things you can do.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**Jesus' focus on this Principle**

Read Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Stewards

What is Jesus teaching us about God in this parable?

What is Jesus teaching us about Man in this parable?

What is Jesus teaching us about faithfulness in this parable?

What is Jesus telling us about our gifts, and how God wants us to use them for His purpose?

How could God be glorified in a greater way at South Gate if we collectively improve our level of stewardship?