

# 5-Day Devotional: Faithful Stewardship in God's Economy of Grace

## Day 1: Servants, Not Celebrities

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

**Devotional:** Paul reminds us that we are "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." In a culture obsessed with platform, fame, and recognition, this truth cuts against the grain. God doesn't need our impressive résumés or polished presentations—He calls us to faithfulness. The question isn't whether others applaud our service, but whether we're trustworthy with what God has entrusted to us. A steward manages someone else's resources, always accountable to the true Owner. Today, examine your motives: Are you serving for applause or for the "well done" that comes from heaven? Everything you have—your life, talents, resources—is a gift from God. Manage it faithfully for His glory alone.

## Day 2: The Danger of Spiritual Arrogance

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 4:6-7

**Devotional:** "What do you have that you did not receive?" Paul's piercing question exposes the root of spiritual pride. When we forget that salvation, spiritual gifts, and every blessing flow from God's grace, arrogance creeps in. The Corinthians boasted about their spiritual maturity while living like infants. We face the same temptation—comparing ourselves to others, taking credit for God's work, or believing we've "arrived" spiritually. True spiritual maturity recognizes our complete dependence on grace. We cannot self-assess accurately; we need God's Word, His Spirit, and humble accountability with fellow believers. Today, confess any areas where you've forgotten grace. Thank God specifically for what He's given you, acknowledging it's all from Him.

## Day 3: Embracing the Difficult Path

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 4:8-13

**Devotional:** Paul contrasts the comfortable Christianity the Corinthians embraced with the apostles' suffering—hunger, persecution, homelessness, being treated as "the scum of the earth." Yet Paul chose this path willingly because the gospel was worth it. Following Jesus doesn't promise ease or prosperity; it promises His presence through difficulty. Jesus Himself took the hard path to the cross, saying, "Father, forgive them." Servant leadership often means choosing what's right over what's popular, costly over comfortable, sacrificial over self-serving.

That Sunday school teacher who led D.L. Moody to Christ didn't seek fame—he simply obeyed. Where is God calling you to take the harder path today? What sacrifice is He asking you to make for His kingdom?

## Day 4: The Power of the Kingdom

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 4:18-20

**Devotional:** "The kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power." Empty religious performance is all talk—impressive words without transforming power. But the gospel changes lives. It's not about persuasive speech or celebrity preachers; it's about the Holy Spirit's power working through surrendered vessels. One faithful Sunday school teacher led one student to Christ—Dwight L. Moody—whose ministry touched thousands, creating a ripple effect that reached Billy Graham. You may never see the full impact of your faithfulness, but God does. The question isn't whether you have great platform or talent, but whether you're available to God's power. Stop relying on your own strength. Pray today: "God, produce fruit through me by Your power, not mine."

## Day 5: Living for Eternal Approval

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 4:3-5

**Devotional:** Paul declares that human judgment—even his own self-assessment—matters little compared to God's evaluation. "It is the Lord who judges me." This liberates us from the exhausting cycle of people-pleasing and performance. Yes, we need accountability, but our ultimate accountability is to God, who sees the heart and will "bring to light the things now hidden in darkness." One day, every motive will be exposed. The applause of men fades; God's approval is eternal. Are you living for the temporary praise of people or the eternal "well done" of your Father? Life is a gift—you could lose everything earthly tomorrow. Are you storing up treasures in heaven? Let this truth reorient your priorities today. Serve faithfully, knowing God sees and will reward what's done in secret.