

Stewards of Grace

**All Scriptures use the English Standard Version (ESV)
unless otherwise indicated**

- One of the things we often overlook is how much of God's grace we have experienced through other people.
- And we look back and say, "God helped me."
- God often helps us through someone who was willing to use what He had placed in their hands.
- God is self-sufficient. He does not need us.
- The God who needs nothing has chosen to involve us in what He is doing.
- So the question is not: "What do I have to offer?"
- Rather it is "What has God entrusted to me that He intends to use for somebody else?"

1 Peter 4:7-11 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good

stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- Peter is writing to Christians scattered across Asia Minor (modern Turkey) living as “exiles” in a culture that did not share their faith.
- Many were facing persecution, pressure, misunderstanding, and suffering because they followed Jesus.

1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

- We are gifted by receiving.
- Before you ever offered Jesus anything, Jesus offered Himself for you.

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

- This is not do more, try harder, be useful and prove yourself.

- Be a steward of God's grace to serve one another.

Ephesians 2:8-10 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Our works didn't create our salvation.
- Salvation creates a life that wants to serve.
- When we see that everything starts with God's grace it changes how we perceive life and how we live.

1 Corinthians 12:12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

- God is the source but the diversity is ours.
- One of our biggest enemies is comparison.
- V18 God divides the gifting as he pleases.
- Remember this: Jesus is Lord and we serve him.
- Ask "How can I make Jesus more visible through my life?"