



## Daily Devotions for the whole family!

### Stewards Transformed by Grace, Faith, and Love

#### Week 1: Stewards Transformed by Grace

##### Weekday Devotions:

- Monday: "God's Grace Shapes His Stewards"  
Tuesday: "Strengthened by Grace"  
Wednesday: "Hope in God"  
Thursday: "God's Grip Doesn't Slip"  
Friday: "Giving Is an Act of Grace"



#### **Week 1—Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>** **"God's Grace Shapes His Stewards"**

**Scripture:** *"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me"* (1 Corinthians 15:10).

**W**hen sin entered the world, our perfect knowledge of God and our relationship with Him was shattered. The unregenerate person may know about God but doesn't truly know Him personally. 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 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).

Because of 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 given us His Spirit that we might be His stewards of all that He entrusts to us.

Because we know that we have a God Who loves us, has adopted us as His children, and wants the best for us, we are energized to be about His work. 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. Acknowledging God as our creator and sustainer of all things, we understand our role as God's stewards. As God's stewards, we seek to manage our time, talents, and money faithfully and according to His will, which we discover in His Word. We become God's instruments through which He works to further His kingdom and help those in need. What a blessing and great honor it is that God has chosen us to be His stewards! May we remain faithful to our calling as His faithful stewards who have been shaped by His grace.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, shape and make me into a person who is zealous to do Your will and boldly share the Good News of Jesus' love and grace with others. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.

## Week 1—Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> “Strengthened by Grace”

**Scripture:** *“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me”* (2 Corinthians 12:9).

If you’ve done some carpentry, you’ve probably needed to pull out some very stubborn nails. The strength of a hammer may not be sufficient so you’ve had to bring in a pinch bar, that two- or three-foot metal rod with claws on the end. With the power from the pinch bar, you could wrench the nails out.

As helpless as the carpenter is with just a hammer, we are even more helpless without God. Although it’s a weak analogy, we may say that, as the pinch bar helps us with nails, God helps us in life. God enables us to understand that all we are, have, and do are the result of God’s grace in Christ. God’s grace not only brings us salvation; it trains *“us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and Godly lives in the present age”* (Titus 2:11-12). Knowing that our lives are gifts from God’s grace, we live our lives in gratitude for who God is and what He has done for us. God’s purpose becomes our purpose. Strengthened by grace, we seek to do God’s will leading to productive and abundant lives.

Even though we are sinful and undeserving, God loves us and wants only the best for us. Being in a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus, our lives have purpose, and we are changed from being self-centered, selfish people to people who serve God by loving and serving others. As we call upon the *“strength of His might”* (Ephesians 6:10), we are empowered by His grace to be Godly stewards.

Through Word and Sacrament, we are equipped and energized to do our best. The Apostle Paul tells us to *“put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator”* (Colossians 3:10). Being renewed by God grace, we live the Godly lives He calls us to live. We live new lives marked by the mysterious union with Jesus described by Paul in these words: *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me”* (Galatians 2:20). God directs us to areas and activities He wants us to pursue. God takes ordinary people like us and does some extraordinary things through us. We become His hands, feet, and mouth. We just need to be willing to be tools in God’s hands.



**Prayer:** Dear Father, fill me with Your faith and grace so I can do Your will and be Your faithful steward. Amen.

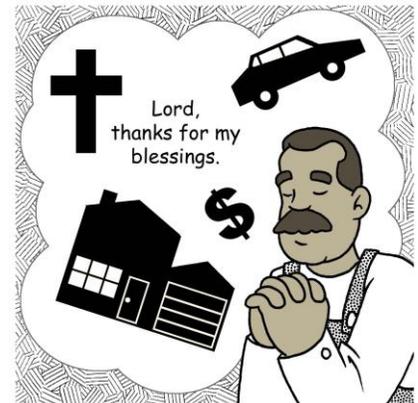
## Week 1—Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup> “Hope in God”

**Scripture:** *“For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope”* (Romans 15:4).

It is wise to plan for our current and future financial needs, but listen to the words of Paul as recorded in 1 Timothy 6:17: *“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, Who richly provides us with everything to enjoy”* (1 Timothy 6:17). Paul reminds us that worldly wealth is still uncertain. He boldly states that, if we’re trusting in worldly wealth, we are acting arrogantly. The only thing that is certain is God’s love for us. His grace and love enable us to make our livings. He loves us so much that He *“richly provides us with everything”* – and here’s the surprising part – for our enjoyment!

How do you plan to “enjoy” God’s rich blessings to you? Take cruises or buy a new luxury car every year? God has blessed us, not so that we can enjoy His gifts by hoarding them, but so that His purposes in the world can be fulfilled. In verse 18, Paul tells us how to enjoy the gifts God gives us: “[We] are to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share.”

When our hope is in God, we have no need to amass worldly wealth. By grace, we can place our hope in God and trust Him to provide for us all we need and even more so that we’ll always have something to share. By His grace, God calls us to be His stewards. His grace enables us to carry out His will. And there’s another bonus! Not only will we receive enjoyment from sharing God’s gifts, we will be storing up treasures in heaven (1 Timothy 6:19). Put your hope in God.



**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for Your grace that enables me to place my trust and hope in You. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

**Week 1—Thursday, July 6th**  
**“God’s Grip Doesn’t Slip”**

**Scripture** “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

Isn’t it amazing that birds go to sleep on their perches and never fall off? This is because God has created them so that, when their legs are bent, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws will not let go until the knees are unbent. The bended knee enables the bird to hold tightly to its perch.

As strong as this grip is, it is not as strong as the hold God has on us. Think about Daniel, a young man in a pagan environment. With all the temptations and threats around him, he was safe because of God’s grace which kept an everlasting grip on him. On his bended knees before his open window, he prayed every day – three times a day – giving thanks for God’s grace and protection, and God didn’t let go of him, even in the lions’ den (Daniel 6:10-22).

We might also consider Joseph who, through all the twists and turns of his lifetime, found one constant: “*The Lord was with Him*” (Genesis 39:3, 21, 23). Taken away from his family at a young age, immersed in an idolatrous culture, tempted by Pharaoh’s wife, he was, by God’s grace, safe in God’s everlasting grip.

Like both Daniel and Joseph, we live in a sinful world. We may not be facing false accusations and a den of lions, but we, too, face temptations and threats. We, too, earnestly pray for God’s grace, protection, and safekeeping of our souls, and His Word assures us that we can rest secure and have hope in His everlasting grip. May God grant us faith to put our hope in Him Who promises to keep His grip on us always.

**Prayer:** Lord, You are so gracious to me. Thank You for Your protecting grace. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

**Week 1—Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**“Giving Is an Act of Grace”**

**Scripture:** *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).*

**A**s Christians, we understand that all we are and have are by God’s grace. Life is a gift. *“And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace” (John 1:16).* By the grace of God, we have life now and the life to come. God has lavished us with His love and grace. As the acronym for grace so aptly states, we have “God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense.” We receive God’s *“abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness through the*



*one man Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17).* God graciously sent His Son to live among us and to suffer and die for us. *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).*

Knowing that God has graciously given us our physical and spiritual lives, we seek to show our gratitude by how we live and what we do with our lives. An important way we show our thanksgiving to Him is through giving. Giving provides evidence to God’s grace and faith at work in our lives as we give to others and extend God’s Church. Giving is a fruit of grace and faith. Without God’s grace, we are not able to give up our resources generously, and it is only through faith that our giving pleases God (Hebrews 11:6). Believers are

empowered by the working of the Holy Spirit to give willingly to fellow believers who need support. As Paul urged, *“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality” (Romans 12:13).*

In writing to the Church in Corinth, Paul referenced the example of the Macedonians who gave so generously to the needy Christians in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-9). They were empowered to give because of God’s grace and generosity to them. Even though they lived in poverty, the Macedonians gave generously and sacrificially. Paul referred to their giving as an *“act of grace” (vs. 6).* By grace, the Macedonians in their extreme poverty gave *“beyond their means” (vs. 3).* They were so eager to give that they pleaded for the privilege of sharing with the needy in Jerusalem. Their giving, while they were in such a difficult economic position, gave witness to God’s grace in their lives. God’s grace makes it possible for people to have very little and yet want to give generously.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, by Your grace, please grant me a giving and loving heart. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.