



Daily Devotions for the whole family!

Stewards Transformed by Grace, Faith, and Love

Week 2: Stewards Transformed by Faith

Weekday Devotions:

- Monday: "Love through Faith"
- Tuesday: "Faith Empowers God's Stewards"
- Wednesday: "Being a Faithful Steward"
- Thursday: "Faithful in all Things"
- Friday: "Faith that Pleases God"



Week 2—Monday, July 10th
"Love through Faith"

Scripture: "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke 17:6).

What is it that precedes the disciples' request of Jesus to increase their faith? It is Jesus' command to count others so precious as to avoid putting any kind of temptation in their paths.

How is this possible? If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that, in and of ourselves, we cannot follow these commands. Then we, like the disciples, must ask of our Lord, "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5).

How does Jesus respond to their request? He assures them that even faith as small as a mustard seed can accomplish great things. It is God Who gives faith, and it is God Who gives us the ability to act on it. It is God Who gives us love through faith that sacrifices our own desires for the good of others, love through faith that knows no limit, love through faith that serves instead of asking to be served.

It is faith that gives us such love for God and our neighbor that we serve and help and give without thought of reward, so that we "when [we] have done all that [we] were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty'" (Luke 17:10).

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, certainly, in order to measure up to Your standards, I must ask You to increase my faith. Still I fail, for I do not love You with my entire being, nor do I love my neighbors as myself. Therefore, I thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has met Your standard of perfection and has lived that standard in my place. Forgive me, Lord, for my failures. Teach me to depend on You. Give me grace to be obedient to Your command to love others as You love me. Through Christ I pray. Amen.

Week 2—Tuesday, July 11th
“Faith Empowers God’s Stewards”

Scripture: *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father”* (John 14:12).

The writer of Hebrews defines faith: *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”* (Hebrews 11:1). Faith enables us to be God-pleasing stewards. *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him”* (Hebrews 11:6). The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is known as the “Faith Chapter.” From Abel down through the ages, the writer names the heroes of faith, listing their accomplishments, preceding each one with *“by faith.”*



Through faith, we understand that our stewardship is God working in and through us. It is not what we do, not what we give, not how we serve – but what God does, what God gives, how God serves, and our response to His love and gifts to us. God has shown us His plan for our lives. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). This is the definition of stewardship: doing the good works which God has prepared for us to do. God empowers and equips us to be faithful stewards. God has chosen us to carry out

His work on earth. *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide”* (John 15:16).

It is through faith that our pastor confidently enters the pulpit to speak forth the Word of the Lord. It is God’s message, God’s gift, and he is only the channel through which it flows. Through faith, the servant humbly steps forward to serve. His only motive is that God may receive the glory as he offers his hands, feet, lips, his whole body, soul, and mind in service. Through faith, the teacher diligently prepares her lessons, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit, studying the Word of God, and looking into the hearts of her students. God creates the learning; His Spirit creates the faith. As stewards, we are the faithful vessels that God uses. Through faith, we are empowered to be His faithful stewards.

Prayer: Lord, You are the creator and source of all good things. I thank You for the privilege and opportunity to be a steward of Your creation. I thank You for faith You give me which enables me to carry out Your will. In the name of Christ I pray. Amen.

Week 2—Wednesday, July 12th
“Being a Faithful Steward”

Scripture: *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace”* (1 Peter 4:10).

What if your pastor asked you to give a testimonial about your life as God’s steward? If you were asked to share how you manage and care for God’s property, what would you say? Have you considered what a faithful steward is expected to be and to do?

God-pleasing stewards acknowledge that God is the creator and source of all things, and that, as the creator of all, He owns everything. God's property is on loan to us. As stewards, we are to manage what He has entrusted to us responsibly and for God's purposes. As God's stewards, we are not to be passive managers but active and involved. We are caretakers and managers of God's gifts, so we are accountable for what we do with His gifts of time, talents, and money. As faithful stewards, we can glorify and honor God with lives of service and faithful use of our gifts.

We stewards live lives expressing gratitude to God for both our created and our redeemed lives. We live lives saying "thank you" to God for His love and mercy. Stewardship is faith in action. Filled with God's grace, we share our gifts with others.

To answer the question, "Are we being faithful stewards with our lives and gifts?" we may want to check our calendars and check registers. Faithful stewards would have times marked on their calendars for helping others, church meetings, and Bible studies. We would be spending time in prayer and attending worship services. Through faith, we try our best to use our time doing God's will. Our check book registers would show weekly offerings being made to God through our church, and there would be some checks written to help those in need. Thus, our calendars and check registers will show us what our priorities are and where they lie.

God has blessed us as stewards with many blessings, and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to use our gifts faithfully. May God grant us grace to be the faithful stewards He wants us to be.

Prayer: Lord, I give You praise and thanks for who You are and all that You have done for me through Your Son Jesus. Help me to respond as a faithful steward to Your love, goodness, and mercy. May all that I do and say give You praise and glory. In Jesus' precious name I pray. Amen.



Week 2—Thursday, July 13th
"Faithful in All Things"

Scripture: Jesus said, "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much" (Luke 16:10).

In this verse, Jesus is saying that faithful stewards will handle God's gifts faithfully regardless of whether they have few or many gifts entrusted to them. What we do with what we have shows our faithfulness. A faithful person will do the small things well. One day a young man went to a bank to apply for a job. After his interview, he was leaving the bank and happened to notice some trash on the floor. He picked it up and put it in the waste paper basket. Seconds later, he helped an elderly lady with the door. Unknown to the young man, the man who had interviewed him for the job was observing him. The young man was promptly summoned back and given the job. The employer's comment: "Anyone who pays attention to the small things as you just did needs to work here."

Unfortunately, we Christians may incorrectly think that small things aren't important to God. We may have the attitude that God isn't concerned with the small amount of money that we have which allows us to give only small contributions or gifts. In the Bible, God spoke mightily through the little that people had. God used the widow and her two mites to teach us a lesson about sacrificial giving. He used the small amount

of flour and oil that the widow of Zarephath had to demonstrate that great things can result from faithful obedience. Jesus used the loaves and fish of a young boy to reveal how God can magnify a small gift. God commends our faithfulness with small things, and He doesn't overlook what faithful people do with small things.

Through God's Word, we understand that small things do count. Because we understand our need to be faithful with all things, we should ask ourselves how we are handling the seemingly small things in our lives. Are we handling small things well in our homes, jobs, and churches? Can non-Christians see a difference in us? With God's help, we can be faithful with **ALL** that we've been given. Through our faithfulness, God will be glorified.

Prayer: Lord, please grant me faith to be faithful with small things so You can trust me with more and bigger things. Help me to live a life that gives You honor and glory. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

Week 2—Friday, July 14th
"Faith that Pleases God"

Scripture: *"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him"* (Hebrews 11:6).

The first gifts that we read about in Scripture are the offerings made by Cain and Abel who were the sons of Adam and Eve. In Genesis 4:2-4 we read, *"...Now Abel kept was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions."* Cain and Abel brought offerings or gifts for the Lord. Because one worked the land and the other raised animals, their gifts were different. We read that Cain *"brought to the Lord an offering,"* whereas Abel *"brought the firstborn of his flock."*



Between the two brothers there is also an indication of a difference in the attitudes of their hearts. While Cain wasn't concerned about giving the first or best of his crop, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock. God looked with favor upon Abel's offering given in faith. God looked into the hearts of both Cain and Abel as He looks into our hearts. He saw Abel's humble faith. By giving his first and best, Abel showed his sincere gratitude for all that God had done for Him.

We need to understand that it's not the size of our gifts and offerings which makes them acceptable to the Lord, but rather it is the attitude of our hearts and minds toward God. God wants our gifts to be an expression of our love for Him. He wants us to give cheerfully rather than grudgingly. He wants us to give our love through faith. We are told by the writer of Hebrews that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

Knowing this story of giving by Cain and Abel will help us examine our attitude toward giving. If we are not giving our first and best out of faith and love to the Lord, God does not look with favor upon our giving. May God grant us all faithful, loving, and giving hearts.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for giving us the ability and desire to give to You. Make us willing to give our first and best to You. May we always use our lives and resources to give You honor and glory. Amen.