



# **I AM SERVING: THE STEWARDSHIP OF SERVICE**

**1 PETER 4:6 - 11 (NKJV)**

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# 1 PETER 4:6 - 11 (NKJV)

**<sup>6</sup> For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.**

**<sup>7</sup> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

**<sup>8</sup> And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”**

**<sup>9</sup> Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.**

**<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

**<sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

# STEWARDSHIP REDEFINED

Stewardship is not only managing money. We steward love, gifts, time, and service.

## CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE

- Written to believers under pressure
- **A Reminder:** Christ is returning, and inspection time is coming.
- **A Call:** Live intentionally because stewardship is not accidental.

# **THE CALL TO CLARITY**

**1 PETER 4:7 (NKJV)**

**But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.**

**“Be serious and watchful in your prayers.”**

**Clear minds produce faithful stewards.**

# FOUR MARKS OF A SERVING STEWARD

- Dispenser of Love: “Fervent Love”
- Hospitable Spirit: “Hospitable to another”
- Faithful Use of Gifts: “Minister it to one another.”
- Dependence on God’s Power: “Manifold grace of God.”

# 1. DISPENSER OF LOVE

1 PETER 4:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> And above all things have "fervent love for one another",

**Biblical Definition of “Fervent”:**

**Greek: ἐκτενής (ektenēs)**

# FERVENT...

## Meaning:

- Stretched out
- Extended to the limit
- Straining with intensity
- Love under tension
- Love that refuses to quit

# LOVE IS STEWARDSHIP

Now, this is where your stewardship theme really shines.

## What Is Stewardship?

- Managing something that belongs to another
- Everything we have is entrusted: Time, Gifts, Resources, Influence, Opportunities, and...Love

**1 JOHN 4:8 (NKJV)**

**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

# **FERVENT LOVE**

**When we have fervent love, it is not casual or convenient love.**

**This is love that must be worked at,  
and Peter paints the picture of an athlete  
stretching every muscle  
toward the finish line.**



# **Fervent love is love that stretches beyond comfort.**

- When people are **difficult**
- When people **disappoint**
- When **forgiveness is required**
- When **patience is tested**
- When **emotions are strained**

**Fervent love = Love under pressure that still functions.**

# LOVE COVERS

**1 PETER 4:8 NKJV**

**"Love will cover a multitude of sins."**

**Biblical Meaning of "Covers"**

**Greek: καλύπτω (kalyptō)**

# LOVE COVERS

1 PETER 4:8 NKJV

**"Love will cover a multitude of sins."**

## Meaning:

- To conceal
- To hide from unnecessary exposure
- To protect
- To shield
- To preserve dignity

This does **NOT** mean:

- ⊘ Ignoring sin
- ⊘ Excusing sin
- ⊘ Pretending sin does not exist

It means responding to sin **redemptively, rather than destructively.**

### **GALATIANS 6:1 (NKJV)**

**Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**

# LOVE RESTORES - NOT EXPOSES

## Teaching Truth:

- Exposure seeks **embarrassment**.
- Restoration seeks **healing**.

Immature hearts ask the question, *“Who needs to know this?”*

Spiritual hearts ask the question, *“How can this person be restored?”*

# WHAT EXPOSURE OFTEN PRODUCES

- Shame
- Humiliation
- A damaged reputation
- Emotional wounds
- Division
- Withdrawal from community

# WHAT LOVE-DRIVEN RESTORATION PRODUCES

- Healing
- Growth
- Redemption
- Maturity
- Unity
- Strengthened faith



# GUARDING AGAINST GOSSIP

As stewards of love, we protect reputations; we do not spread harm.

**PROVERBS 11:13 (NKJV)**

**A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.**

**Notice the contrast: gossip reveals; love protects.  
Faithfulness is measured by what we refuse to repeat.**

## **2. HOSPITABLE STEWARD**

**1 PETER 4:9 (NKJV)**

**Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.**

**Hospitality flows from love, not social courtesy.**

**Hospitality is love made visible.**

**Peter is teaching that love is not proven by emotion, but love is proven by expression.**

**“Be hospitable to one another...”**

## 2. HOSPITABLE STEWARD

The Greek word *philoxenos* literally means “**love of strangers.**”  
(*philos* = love, *xenos* = stranger/guest)

- Biblical hospitality is not entertaining friends. It is welcoming others into your space, time, and comfort.
- A steward must be hospitable because stewardship manages what belongs to God, and people belong to God.

## **Biblical Hospitality:**

- Welcoming spirit
- Kindness to strangers
- Reflection of God's heart

## **Without Grumbling:**

- No silent complaints
- No reluctant service
- Joyful obedience

# HOSPITALITY REFLECTS GOD

## ROMANS 12:13 (NKJV)

**distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.**

“Given to hospitality” implies **actively pursuing it**, not passively tolerating it.

- Hospitality is not accidental kindness. It is intentional generosity.
- Paul lists hospitality alongside core Christian virtues because it is a part of normal discipleship, not optional personality wiring.

# 3. EVERY STEWARD HAS A GIFT.

1 PETER 4:10 (NKJV)

**As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

- Everything begins with two words: **“As each one...”**
- Peter removes all doubt. Not some. Not a few. Not the exceptionally talented.
- **Each one.** Every believer is gifted.

**Every steward has a gift, and this is a divine certainty.**

The phrase “**has received**” is crucial.

Peter does not say, “As each one *earns* a gift” or “As each one *discovers* a gift.”

But: “**Has received.**”

**Giftedness is not achievement, but it is impartation.**

# GIFT

The Greek word for gift (*charisma*) comes from *charis* — grace.

## Meaning:

- Your gift is a **grace-expression**, not a merit badge.
- No believer is spiritually empty.
- God does not create useless members in His body.

# What is “one gift”?

Many believers struggle here because they imagine gifts must be dramatic or platform-visible.

**Biblically, a gift is simply:**

- **A grace-given capacity to benefit others**
- A gift may be Encouragement, Serving, Teaching, Giving, Mercy, Helps, Leadership, Hospitality, Wisdom, or Discernment.

Often, gifts look ordinary to the person carrying them.

Why?

- Because grace feels natural to the receiver.
- What is supernatural to others often feels normal to you.

# Why must every steward minister their gift?

**Because gifts are not possessions.**

- They are assignments.
- Peter says, **“Minister it to one another.”**
- The word *minister* means **“to serve, to supply, to distribute.”**
- Your gift is not primarily for you. It is for circulation.
- A gift withheld is grace restricted.

# Stewardship explains the responsibility.

Peter calls believers “good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

A steward manages what belongs to another.

## Meaning:

- Your gift is not owned; however, it is entrusted.
- The steward does not ask, “Do I feel like using this?”
- But: “How does the Owner want this used?”
- Neglecting your gift is not modesty. It is mismanagement.

# THE DANGER OF UNMINISTERED GIFTS

## When gifts are unused:

- The church suffers loss.
- People miss provision.
- Growth is delayed.
- Needs remain unmet.
- Purpose remains dormant.

God distributes grace strategically. Your gift fills a space no one else can occupy in the same way. Silence creates absence.

# GIFTS ACTIVATE SPIRITUAL MATURITY

**Ministering your gift produces:**

- Growth
- Confidence
- Impact
- Fruitfulness
- Joy
- Clarity of purpose

**Calling becomes clearer through obedience.**

# Comparison is the great thief of stewardship!

**One of the greatest reasons gifts go unused:**

- “I only have one gift.”
- “It’s not as visible.”
- “It’s not as impressive.”

**Scripture never emphasizes gift size - only gift faithfulness.**

**A single functioning gift is more powerful than multiple buried ones.**

# THE “MANIFOLD GRACE” PRINCIPLE

“Manifold” means **multi-layered, diverse, multi-colored.**

God’s grace appears in many forms because people need many forms of help. Not everyone needs preaching.

- Some need: Encouragement, Patience, Listening, Organization, Mercy, Support, Strength, Care
- Your gift may be the exact grace someone is praying for.

# SUMMARY

**Every steward must minister their gift because:**

- God gave it intentionally.
- God gave it graciously.
- God gave it for others.
- God expects its use.

**A steward does not bury grace. A steward distributes grace.**

- You are not ungifted. You are entrusted.

**Heaven's question is never "How many gifts did you have?"  
But: "What did you do with what I gave you?"**