
CROWN OF JOY

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

We introduced our topic of Crowns and Rewards yesterday and said that we would take a deeper look at each crown and our responsibility as Christians as to how we receive that crown. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, after we are raptured, we will go before God and receive our 'stephanos' crowns. The first crown we will look at this week is the Crown of Joy which we receive when we are faithful stewards.

To be a faithful steward we must become spiritually mature. Spiritual maturity is a process that we develop in our walk with God as we study and learn His word. The Bible identifies in Philippians 4:1 and 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 that our faithful stewardship is the basis for our reception of the Crown of Joy.

Read and write 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 here.

On the day of our salvation we are given responsibilities by God and it is our duty to carry them out to His glory. At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be called to give an account of our stewardship and whether or not we correctly carried out our responsibilities.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we are told that once we are born again children of God, we are no longer our own. We are bought with a price. 1 Peter instructs us that because we have received God's gift of grace, we should minister to one another because we are stewards of His grace. Our stewardship is three-fold.

1) We are stewards of the time God has given us. Read Matthew 6:34. It is our responsibility to use the time God gives us to carry out our designed ministry. We are not responsible to rely on God sometimes, we are responsible to rely on God and carry out our ministry ALL the time! God will give us all the time we need to do everything He has planned for us, but we must live it out as faithful stewards.

2) We are stewards of our spiritual gifts. Read Romans 12:6-8. At the moment of our salvation God gives us at least one spiritual gift that He calls us to use to carry out the ministry He has designed for us. It is our duty to carry out our own spiritual gifts under the control of the Holy Spirit. God will not judge us on how we perform in comparison to others. We will be judged on our response to His will for us!

3) We are stewards of Possessions. Read Job 1:21 and Matthew 25:14-28. Everything we have belongs to God. Everything we own is something we have been given by God. Are we using what we've been given to glorify God, or do we hoard our possessions selfishly?

Our lives on earth are not our own. If we have accepted Christ we now live for Him! It's not about us. Remember Paul's words, "to live is Christ..." If we are going to be good stewards of the things God has given us, we must deny ourselves and follow Him. We must be in fellowship and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Everything we have, our time, our spiritual gifts and our possessions, have been given to us by God. Let's use them to honor and glorify Him as good stewards!

When will we receive the Crown of Joy?

What are the three ways we are faithful stewards?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

There is only one manner of operation that will result in rewards. What operation is that?