

Carry the Light

1 Pet. 4:7-11

“Carry the Light to Exhibit God’s Gift”



1 Pet. 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 **As every man hath received the gift, even so minister** the same one to another, **as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, **let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.

Review

During the Christmas season, we are following our theme, *Carry the Light*, by focusing on how carrying the light of the Gospel will allow us to *exhibit God* with our lives.

The conduct of a true Christian, one who is genuinely “born again,” is the outcome of a doctrinal foundation. We are **“living out our faith,”** and our testimony indicates the quality of it, be it good or bad.

As I believe, therefore I live.

I. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD’S GREATNESS

Mt. 5:14 **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 **Let your light so shine** before men, that they **may see your good works, and glorify your Father** which is in heaven.

II. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GUIDANCE

Prov. 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

III. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GRACE

2 Cor. 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you **to wit of the grace of God** bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

- A. The Grace for Living
- B. The Grace for Learning
- C. The Grace for Loving

“Carry the Light to Exhibit God’s Gift”

1 Pet. 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

The principle of “the gift” is also found in several passages: Rom. 12:6-8, 1 Cor. 12:8-10.

Rom. 12:6 **Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us**, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor. 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

- The Apostle Paul emphasized that Timothy utilized his gift for God's glory.

1 Tim. 4:14 **Neglect not the gift that is in thee**, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

2 Tim. 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up the gift of God, which is in thee** by the putting on of my hands.

Let's look at the premise by considering the context of our passage:

IV. CARRY THE LIGHT TO EXHIBIT GOD'S GIFT

A. The General Expectations

1. Steadfastness – Pay attention to the time – v. 7

1 Pet. 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: **be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**

2. Sensitivity – Have fervent charity – v. 8

1 Pet. 4:8 And **above all things have fervent charity among yourselves:** for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

3. Sweet-spirited – Be hospitable with grace – v. 9

1 Pet. 4:9 **Use hospitality one to another without grudging.**

hospitality

1. The friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers.
2. The quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/hospitality>

4. Stewardship – Be a good steward of your gift – v. 10

1 Pet. 4:10 **As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

1 Cor. 4:2 Moreover it is **required in stewards**, that a man **be found faithful.**

5. Spirit-filled – Be faithful to glorify God – v. 11

1 Pet. 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, **let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

B. The Gift Exhibited

1. The Gift of Salvation

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God** *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* **the gift of God:**
9 **Not of works**, lest any man should boast.

2. The Gift of Service

1 Pet. 4:10 **As every man hath received the gift, even so minister** the same one to another, **as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

- We are responsible, as stewards, to utilize the gift that God has given us, by ministering to one another.

Mark 10:42 But Jesus called them *to him*, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

43 But so shall it not be among you: **but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:**

44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, **shall be servant of all.**

45 For even **the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister**, and to give his life a ransom for many.

- Our greatest example of ministering to others is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- When we are good stewards, ministering our gift, we are exhibiting that gift to others.

Mark 14:8 **She hath done what she could**: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

Luke 17:10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: **we have done that which was our duty to do.**

- For us to exhibit the gift given to us is simply to do our duty, for His glory.

1 Pet. 4:11 If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, **let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ**, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

Prov. 23:26 **My son, give me thine heart**, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God**, *which is your reasonable service.*