

## Stewards of God's Life within Us

If you've been in church very long, you've probably heard sermons on stewardship. And hopefully you learned that stewardship involves far more than how we spend our money. It is the realization that all we have and are is a trust from the Lord, and He wants us to use these gifts to serve Him.

In thinking about stewardship, I'm learning that our greatest resource for serving Him is not money, ability, time, or any other "something". It is God's own Spirit. Our greatest gift from Him is His life within us, and the only way we can truly accomplish His work is by His Spirit.

*Christ in you* (Colossians 1:27) is not only the secret to triumphant living but also to effective service. *God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine*, and it is by *his power that is at work within us* (Ephesians 3:20, NIV). Look at Jesus' disciples. They were ordinary men. What were their qualifications for such a great ministry? Simply that they believed in Christ enough to listen and obey. They learned to trust and follow His Spirit, and God saved untold thousands through them.

Has it ever happened to you? God put some task in front of you, and though you were a bit scared, you took the first step of obedience. And as you took one step at a time, the words were there. The ability was there as you obeyed Him. You came away wide-eyed, having experienced the wonder of God working through you.

Having experienced this, it starts to hit home: His Spirit is our greatest treasure and resource. His life within is our most basic trust.

What then does it mean to be a steward of that life? Many things could be said, but a few specially come to mind.

I want to value my relationship with Him and nurture it as the dearest thing in my life - because it is. I doubt that any marriage was ever truly successful and satisfying unless both members valued that relationship and treated it as precious. The presence of God in me is the most lasting, constant, life-changing treasure I have. I want to cherish it and invest myself in it. I'm reminded of the scripture:

*Why do you spend your money on what is not bread - on what doesn't really nourish you? And why do you labor for what never satisfies? Listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of food. (Isaiah 55:2, para.)*

Also, I want to trust Christ within me more and more and more. I've tasted a rest in which we can walk and work every day, and I want to live in that rest. I want to depend on Him in every little thing and every big thing as well. He's never failed to provide for me when I've asked, but so often I forget to bring my concerns to Him.

By His grace, I want to follow Him more immediately, more boldly, more unreservedly. Our fears draw unseen boundaries in our service to God - I've noticed them in my life. I want to trust Him enough to let Him take me beyond those imaginary boundaries into richer and more fruitful ways of being used by Him.

I become far more effective in my service to Christ as I turn my time over to Him, holding loosely to my preset plans. His Spirit is always within us. As we relax in His presence and trust Him to lead, He does. And the surprises are wonderful!

*I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5, NIV)*

Hymn: [Lord Jesus, Living Presence](#)

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