

# *“Working Till He Comes!”*

## **1 Peter 4:10-11**

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- Home alone!
- **Jesus Christ has given us work to do while He’s gone.**
  - Matthew 28:19-20-- *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*
- **Jesus Christ is coming again, but we do not know when.**
  - John 14:1-3-- *“Let not your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”*
  - Matthew 24:36-- *“But of that day and of that hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*
- **Peter’s teaching in light of Christ’s soon return**
  - **Need to be “serious”, of sound mind or right thinking**
    - 1 Peter 4:7-- *“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers”*
  - **Mentally alert for effective prayer**
    - Luke 12:35-36-- *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants whom the Master, when he comes, will find watching.”*
    - Luke 12:40-- *“Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*
  - **Focused on fervently loving one another**
    - 1 Peter 4:8-- *“And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins.’”*
  - **Showing hospitality to others**
    - 1 Peter 4:9-- *“Be hospitable to one another without grumbling”.*

### *“Working Till He Comes”*

- 1 Peter 4:10-11-- *“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 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.”*
- A. **A “steward” is in charge of his master’s household and business in the absence of the master.**
- B. **We are stewards of the “manifold grace of God”!**
1. **We’ve been recipients of God’s grace in salvation**
    - Ephesians 2:8-9-- *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.”*

2. **Each of us has been given a grace gift for ministry**
  - 1 Peter 4:10-- *"as each one has received a gift, minister it to one another."*
  - a. The word "gift" is lit. *"gift of grace"*.
    - Romans 12:6-- *"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them."*
  - b. **These gifts are "spiritual" in that...**
    - 1) They are *"manifestations of the Spirit"*
      - 1 Corinthians 12:7-- *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all."*
    - 2) They are distributed by the Spirit
      - 1 Corinthians 12:11-- *"one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."*
  - c. **Definition of "spiritual gift"**— *"a God-given, special ability for service"*
  - d. **Spiritual gifts are for ministering to others, not for private use or hidden.**
    - 1 Peter 4:10-- *"As each one has received a gift (a grace gift), minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God"*
  - e. **"Manifold" grace of God—many different kinds of spiritual gifts.**—1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4
3. **Peter's Two Categories: Speaking Gifts and Serving Gifts**
  - 1 Peter 4:11-- *"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."*
  - a. **Reflect the division of ministry roles in Acts 6**
    - Acts 6:2-4-- *"Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, 'It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.'"*
  - b. **Specific ways the gifts are to be administered**
    - 1) **"If anyone speaks, as the oracles of God"** -- 1 Peter 4:11a
      - 2 Corinthians 5:20-- *"we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."*
      - 1 Thessalonians 2:13-- *"For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as words of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."*
    - a) Ministering God's Word to God's people and the unsaved.
    - b) Very serious undertaking
      - 2 Timothy 2:15-- *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."*
      - 2 Timothy 3:16-17-- *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."*
      - 2 Timothy 4:1-2-- *"Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching."*

- 1 Timothy 4:14-16-- *“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Mediate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*
- James 3:1-- *“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”*

2) ***“If anyone ministers, as with the ability that God supplies”***

a) Every gift is a “serving” gift

b) Need to rely on God’s strength and ability

- Ephesians 3:16-- *“strengthened with might through the Spirit in the inner man.”*
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5-- *“I did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-- *“...treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.”*

**C. Since as “stewards of God’s grace” we owe everything to God, He therefore receives ALL the glory**

- 1 Peter 4:11-- *“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.”*

**D. What does Jesus hope to find when He returns?**

1. **Faithful, wise stewards**

- Luke 12:42-44-- *“Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has.”*
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2-- *“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”*

2. **The temptation to quit early**

- 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13-- *“We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.”*