

# A Steward of the Gospel

Ephesians 3:1-7

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## **Introduction:**

This week in our series on Ephesians, we come to chapter 3.

- In verse 1, Paul starts a sentence that he does not finish until you get to verse 14...
  - In verse 1, he says,
    - Eph 3:1: “For this reason, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—”
    - and then he leaves the thought hanging...causing us to ask:
      - “For this reason, you Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus do what???”
  - He never tells us until verse 14...
    - and then he says:
      - Eph 3:14: “For this reason, I bow my knees to the Father...”
      - and he tells the Ephesians how he prays that they would understand how great God’s love for them really is!
        - That they would realise what grace has been showered upon them!
        - He speaking of the same prayer that he began to speak about at the end of chapter 1—
          - the prayer he began praying for them when as he heard about their faith in Christ and love for each other...

Paul writes like a man who is almost beside himself...

- As he writes, he keeps interrupting himself to go into all these wonderful digressions about the grace of God...
- In Corinthians, he suggests that some people actually thought he was beside himself—but he says that it’s fine with him if they do!
  - He explains that the love of Christ constrains him.
    - He just couldn’t get over what God has done for both Jew and Gentile in Jesus Christ!

And so you see that the sentence begun in verse chapter 3, verse 1, is interrupted to speak about the ministry to the gentiles that God has given to him...

- The interruption seems to be generated by Paul’s mention of himself as “the prison of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles...”

- In saying that, he realises what an amazing thing that it is that the Lord has called someone like him to bring the gospel to the Gentiles—the nations outside Israel!
- Paul knows himself to be a sinful man who once persecuted the church...
- But now he, Paul, is God's chosen connecting link between the gospel and the Gentiles!
  - He is God's chosen instrument to direct the Gentiles to Jesus Christ as the pathway from their sin and misery to everlasting fellowship with God!
  - Paul is the steward of God's grace to the Gentiles!

Now some of you will say to me, "What is a steward?"

- A steward is a servant, appointed by a master, to distribute what his master has provided for the household...
  - He is said to have been given a stewardship because he is responsible for dispensing what is needed in the master's house.
    - To illustrate with plumbing, he is a supply line to carry water to where it is needed in the house...
    - To illustrate with electricity, he is a wire to carry electricity to where it is needed in the house.
- And Paul was, more than any other human being,
  - appointed by God to be the steward of God's grace to the Gentiles.
  - He was the one that God set apart to carry the gospel to them...
    - He was the one God chose to stand up for their cause when many of the Jews opposed it...
    - It was his to, as verse 8 says,
      - "preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ and make them see [what God has done for them] in Christ."
    - That was the stewardship, or the dispensation, that Paul had been given!

We are going to take a couple of weeks to look at Paul's stewardship...

- This week, that God makes stewards,
  - and next week, the privilege it is to be a steward.

So with that in mind, I want you to see first of all that:

### **I. The Lord is the one who makes men His stewards...and that in three ways:**

- First, that he is the one who gives them a stewardship.
- Second, that he is the one who supplies them with what they are called to dispense,
- and third, that he is the one who empowers them to carry out their work.

Then I want to show you how:

**II. this fact that God makes men stewards ought to give you confidence and gratitude for those who are your stewards...**

And...

**III. how it ought to encourage you in whatever stewardship He has given to you!**

So let me begin with the first point...namely, that:

**I. The Lord is the one who makes men His stewards, and that in three ways.**

A. First, that He is the One who gives them a stewardship...

- That is, He calls them into it, places them into it, commands them to take it.
- 1. This is brought out in verse 2 where Paul says,
  - “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you.”
  - a. He is referring here to his statement that he is a prisoner of Jesus Christ for their sake!
    - Paul had been imprisoned by the Jews primarily because of His ministry to the Gentiles...
      - Certain Jews had falsely accused him of taking the Ephesian, Trophimus, into the temple where Gentiles were not allowed to go.
      - It seems that Paul did not actually do this, but he was charged with it because of the Jew’s resentment of his ministry to the Gentiles.
    - b. The idea is that Paul was simply exercising the stewardship that God had given him of bringing the gospel to the Gentiles,
      - and that is was for the sake of that work that he was now in prison.
      - The fact that he was in prison for this cause was not a discouragement to him at all—he rather considered it an honour and an aid to his ministry.
        - And just the mention of it causes him to think about how God has instructed this ministry to the Gentiles to him...
  - 2. You see how Paul describes this stewardship as that which was given to him by the Lord...
    - a. “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God **which was given to me** for you...”

- It was the Lord's doing, something that the Lord placed him into by providential working and direct commandment.
- b. If you look at Paul's life, you can see how evident it is that Paul did not place himself in this ministry!
- 1) He was going in the very opposite direction!
    - Before the Lord called him, he did all he could to prevent the spread of the gospel even among the Jews!
    - He pursued and imprisoned those who believed and tried to break up their meetings.
    - He was more zealous than all the rest.
  - 2) It was the Lord who broke into His life on the Road to Damascus...
    - Luke tells us what happened in Acts 9:
      - Acts 9:1-7: Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."
  - 3) After this, Paul's life was completely turned around.
    - First, the Lord Jesus commanded him to be baptised in His name...
      - to become a disciple of the One whose work he had been so vehemently opposing...
    - Then he explained that he would be his chosen instrument to bear his name before the Gentiles—
      - and that in the execution of that work, he would suffer many things!
- c. Though it is not always as dramatic as in Paul's case,
- every steward of the Lord Jesus is a steward only because of the Lord's call...
    - first, the call to become His disciple...
    - then the call to serve Him.

3. God calls and places us into many different kinds of stewardships...
  - a. An apostle, which is what Paul was called to be,
    - was one who was called by a direct personal call from the Lord.
    - The Apostle's task to receive revelation concerning Jesus Christ and to pass it along to us as the doctrinal basis on which the church was built.
  - b. Christian ministers and elders are legitimately called by God's gifting of them, giving them a desire for the ministry, and giving godly churches to recognise them and set them apart for service in accordance with his command.
    - No minister or elder is to appoint himself.
    - God has established a procedure in his word by which elders lay hands upon those chosen by the congregation to set them apart,
      - and the ones chosen are to meet certain requirements.
    - They, and they only are given a stewardship by God...
      - Those who are self appointed or those (such as women or ungodly persons), even though they may be set apart by the church, are not given their stewardship by God but have taken it to themselves.
  - c. There are stewardships that God gives in natural and civil relations as well...
    - God leads His people into these roles through ordinary providence...
      - You may come into these stewardships the same way those who do not know the Lord come into them...
        - but the difference is that as a believer, your life is consecrated to Jesus Christ and you are in your ordinary calling as one who realises that you are there to dispense the Lord's blessing to your neighbour.
    - For example,
      - If you are a carpenter, God has given you a stewardship and you are dispense blessings to your neighbour as He enables you...
      - If you are a homemaker, God has placed you into a stewardship and you are to provide faithfully for your household—all sorts of good things.
      - If you are a judge, then God has given you a stewardship in which you are to administer not your own, but His justice in behalf of the community.
    - There is a sense in which every carpenter and every judge and ever minister is a steward of God—regardless of whether they know the Lord...

- but when the Lord places you into a stewardship, it always involves conversion so that you are put into His service as His instrument of blessing.

TRANS> And so you see then that God is the one who calls you and places you into stewardships according to His will—

B. Secondly, I want you to see that God is the one who supplies stewards with what they need to carry out their stewardship...

1. Paul explains this in verse 3 and following:

- Eph 3:3-7: how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister

2. No steward, no matter what he may say about himself, has the things God has given him to dispense from himself.

a. He gives only what he has received...

- This does not mean that an unfaithful steward may not dispense poison instead of food...
  - or false doctrine instead of true doctrine...
  - but it is still God's doctrine perverted that is dispensed.

b. Paul recognised that as Christ's apostle, he was given his doctrine by revelation from Him.

1) And especially was he given the doctrine that the Gentiles were to be included in the family of God as heirs of salvation.

- as verse 6 says,
  - Eph 3:6: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, of which I became a minister...

2) This is what Paul wrote about so much in Ephesians 2:11-22...

- And he points out to the Ephesians that this teaching about their inclusion is obviously God-given—
  - Paul could not decide where God would dispense His grace at any particular time...
  - He could not decide that suddenly, it would be brought to the Gentiles...

- this was clearly something that was revealed to Him...
  - It was something that came from the Lord.
- c. The principle here taught is that when God sends forth a steward, he provides that steward with what is to be dispensed.
- Paul did not take his own message to the Gentiles, but the Lord's message.
  - No master would appoint a steward without providing the steward with the things he is called to distribute...
    - It is the very nature of stewardship that the steward dispenses his master's goods rather than his own.
3. This is especially true in Paul's case as an apostle to the Gentiles...
- a. The doctrine that he is dispensing is something that had not been known to previous generations... as Paul mentions in verse 5...
- Oh yes, the prophets had spoken of it,
    - but it was not until Jesus had actually come and sent out His apostles to the Gentiles (and especially Paul) that the doctrine was put into effect!
- b. God was the one who gave Paul the precious truth that the Gentiles were included.
- This was the glad message he was appointed to dispense to the nations.
  - It was not his own message, but the Lord's.

So you see first that the Lord is the one who gives stewards their stewardship and secondly that he is the one who provides them with what is to be distributed.

C. Thirdly, I want you to see that the Lord is the one who empowers them to carry out their work...

1. It is not enough to merely give Paul the doctrine that is to be dispensed...
- In verse 7, Paul says that he became a minister:
    - "according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power."
- a. In other words, Paul recognised that he was doing work of which he was entirely incapable!
- Here he was calling people that were dead in trespasses and sins to live!
  - His ministry could have no success unless God enabled him.

- b. And not only were the results god-given... but also Paul's very ability to carry out the work was god-given...
  - Paul would have been swallowed up by the weight of his responsibilities and would have made a complete mess of the work God gave him to do if the Lord did not continually supply Him with grace.
    - He knew that the very strength by which he laboured was of the Lord.
    - That it was not him, but the grace of God in him...

2. Oh that we could all see this!

- In 1 Cor 3:5 he says:
  - 2 Cor 3:5: "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the New Covenant."
  - You can do nothing without the Lord—nothing at all!
- We so often think that what we have, we have by our own strength, but to think this is to be deceived...
  - As Paul so eloquently says:
    - 1Co 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?
    - He constantly realised that in his own ministry and so laboured in humble dependence on the Lord.

TRANS> So then, having seen that the LORD is the one who makes men stewards, I now want you to see how

**II. This fact that God makes men stewards ought to give you confidence and gratitude for those who are your stewards in the Lord.**

- You are to see them as placed over you to do His work for your sake.

A. The stewards that God has appointed to care for you are given by God for you!

1. Paul shows that in this passage!

- a. Look at verse 2 again...
  - we have just seen that Paul says that the dispensation or stewardship was given to him by God...
    - but now I want you to notice for what reason it is given!
    - He says, "it is given **for you...**"
      - For who?



- For the Ephesians to whom he is writing!
  - and if for them, by implication for all the Gentiles!
- b. Paul's ministry was not for himself, it was for the Gentiles!
  - He was not in prison on his own account, but for their sake—as one standing up for their cause as gospel recipients in full!
  - A steward of God does what he does for the Lord's people.
- 2. This is true of all of those that God has placed over you in the Lord as stewards...
  - If they are in the Lord, then they are placed into office for you!
    - It is a mark of God's love to you that He gives you stewards!
  - It is a marvellous thing that God works with us in this way.
    - Ours is such a social religion.
    - Instead of each person receiving their portion from God off in their little cubical,
      - Biblical religion brings us together as families—
        - men are God's stewards of their home, administering God's care both physically and spiritually to their wives and children,
        - elders and ministers and deacons are God's stewards in the church—bringing discipline, guidance, instruction, and care to the members...
    - Instead of closing us off from others, the Lord most graciously brings us together...
      - He deliberately makes us dependent on each other, yet in such a way that we know that everything we have is from Him.
        - He puts His treasure in clay vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.
      - He is preparing us to live together forever,
        - where He will continue to provide for us through each other's ministry—He the giver of all things...
          - and we, privileged to give and receive from is resources in holy fellowship with each other.

B. How you ought to trust the stewards that God has given to you...

- They are His provision for you!

1. In this fallen world, you are not to trust in them for their own sake, but inasmuch as God has chosen to minister to you through them...
  - a. If He has called them—for your sake, has given them what they distribute for your sake, and has empowered them to serve for your sake,
    - then you are to look to them for your provision from God.
    - You are to pray for them, that God would strengthen them and use them to bless you—
      - that He would give them much grace for their ministry.
      - The goal is to look to the Lord to provide for you through them.
  - b. There are so many ways for us to go astray regarding stewardship...
    - 1) There is the Roman Catholic error in which members are taught to give blind obedience to the Pope and to the leaders of the church...
      - to trust in them not merely as stewards, but as the very source of God's blessing...
      - to obey them, not as they dispense to you God's commandments,
        - but their own commandments...
        - To obey them and trust them for things that God never authorised them to do...
          - like forgiving sin or offering the body and blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper as a sacrifice that atones for sin.
    - 2) But then there is the reaction to this view of personal individualistic religion where everyone wants to have a direct line to the Lord...
      - without any need for scriptures given to us by the apostles and prophets,
      - without any need for ministers to minister the Word and Sacraments,
      - or elders to administer God's discipline
      - or heads of households to bring God's nurture and discipline to their homes.

TRANS> The goal is not to gravitate to what you are most comfortable with...

- To find security by trusting in stewards who behave as lords, or to find security in isolating ourselves from stewards.
- The goal is to receive God's grace in the way He has chosen to distribute it!
- And He has chosen to distribute it through stewards who are absolutely dependent on Him, and who point us not to themselves, but to Him as the source of grace and truth.

2. This God-focused trust is especially to be given to apostles (which is what we are expressly pointed to in our text).
  - a. The apostles were sent and gifted to bring God's word to His church concerning Jesus Christ and all we need to know about Him.
    - God called them and gifted them and empowered them to give us His Word without error.
      - We are not to trust God who gave them for this purpose.
    - Because it was His purpose for them to give us the word of God written without error and without distortion,
      - we are to look to the scriptures as our source of divine revelation.
      - If God has chosen to reveal the truth of the gospel through this means, you do not truly trust in God unless you absolutely trust His Word.
        - That is why we make believing the scriptures are the written word of God, the only perfect rule of faith and practice, a requirement for church membership.
        - You may claim to be a Christian, but your profession is not credible unless you believe the Bible to be the very word of God.
  - b. When you read the Scriptures, you can see the Apostles' insight—that they speak the word.
    - God's Spirit bears witness that what they say is true.
    - Paul tells the Ephesians in 3:3-4 that in the brief writings he has given to them, they can "see his knowledge in the mystery of Christ."
      - They can see that he has truly heard from God.
    - They are therefore to receive what he has written not as the word of man, but as it is in truth, the word of God that effectively works in them that believe.
      - It is distributed by men, but it did not originate from man...
        - Did Jesus not say to His apostles, "He that hears you hears me?"
        - Did He not say that those who believed the message they bring would be saved?
    - You may desire to have your own private revelations from God,
      - but that is not how God has chosen to work...
        - He has chosen rather to reveal His truth to His apostles and prophets and then to have us receive it from them.

- Indeed, it is He who opens your eyes to see that it is His word, and it is He that changes your heart to receive it...
  - but it is the word of the apostles and prophets that He uses.
- He is not giving you truth that was not previously known as He gave it to them...
 

He is rather enabling you to receive and believe what has been revealed to them and now inscripturated by them.
- As John the Apostle puts it in 1 John,
  - The things which we have seen and heard, we declare to you, that you also many have fellowship with us.
  - As an apostle, John saw and heard and handled Christ first hand...
  - Now we are given fellowship with God by believing what John has declared.

TRANS> Therefore, as God has chosen to reveal His truth through apostles and prophets...

- c. You are to put full, absolute, and unreserved confidence in what they say:
  - regardless of what detractors think...
    - people may laugh at you for believing that God made the world in six days or for believing that Jesus was born of Virgin...
    - but that is not to deter you—it is God’s word.
  - regardless of threats and persecutions may come to those who claim to believe and who obey the word...
    - people may cast you into prison or impose fines on you for saying that homosexuality is sinful and is an abomination to the Lord or for saying that children ought to be chastened with rod...
    - but that is not to deter you—it is God’s word.
  - regardless of your feelings
    - You may not always like what the Word says or always be comfortable with it...
    - but that is not to deter you—it is God’s word.
- d. Brothers and sisters, God brings His word to you through stewards!
  - 1) If this is His way you are to depend upon Him by depending on the scriptures as the way of His speaking to us today.

- 2) And as He also has appointing preaching as the primary means by which these scriptures are brought to us for salvation and edification,
  - You are to look to receive blessing from Him through the word preached...
    - but as He has not promised to provide preachers who are infallible as He promised to provide apostles who are infallible,
      - you are to always go back to the source of what God has given the preacher to preach...
        - the scriptures—
    - You are to test their doctrine.
      - And if they add to the scriptures or take away from them, you are to reject what they say...
      - and if they take to themselves more authority than the scriptures have given them...
        - and command you to do something that God has not commanded in the word or authorised them to command,
        - it is for you to reject it.

TRANS> So you see that you are to trust the Lord as the one who gives them...

C. And obviously, you are to be thankful that He gives them, in Christ, for your sake.

1. You are to support and honour them...

- As they are appointed as God's representatives, the way you treat them is the way you treat the Lord who sent them...
  - If a king sends out ambassadors to bear his message and the ambassadors are rejected, the insult falls on the king himself!
- God's promise in the fifth commandment to bless you with long life if you honour your father and mother,
  - not only applies to honouring parents,
    - but also to all those God has placed over you as stewards to provide His care to you.

2. You are not to grumble concerning them...

- It is true that they are mere men of clay and you will be able to find fault with them in many ways...
  - I have already said that you are not render blind obedience to them,

- but neither are you to reject their lawful commands, even if they have many inconsistencies...
- They are still the Lord's ministers, and you are to honour them for His sake, even if you cannot honour them for their own sake.

3. You are to make their service pleasant.

- You are to be cheerful in your obedience, to speak well of them, to provide generously for them, and assist them as the Lord's stewards.
- In Hebrews you are told:
  - Heb 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

TRANS> So you see then that God is the one who makes men stewards...

- And that He makes them stewards for you—therefore you are to trust that they are His provision and you are to receive them with gratitude as you would the Lord...
- But now I want to look at all this from the other side...
  - Not when you are receiving ministry from God's steward, but in whatever capacity God has made you a steward!

**III. The fact that God makes men stewards ought to encourage you in whatever stewardship he has given you.**

A. First, it should make you more diligent to know that God has given you a stewardship.

1. You have all been given a stewardship of some kind—in which God has given to you to give to others...

a. We could look at it from the perspective of what He has given you...

1) Whatever material provision He has given you He has entrusted to you as a steward...

- it is His and you are to distribute it to the needs of your family,
  - to gratefully support the official proclamation of the gospel with your tithes,
  - to support the poor and need,
  - and even to support yourself...
    - all this for the Lord—according to His directives!

2) Whatever knowledge He has given you, you are given as a steward...

- It is from Him and it is given to you for your benefit—yes indeed—but also for the benefit of others...
  - If you see your brother overtaken in a fault, you are called to go and attempt to restore him...
  - And if he sins, you are called to rebuke him...
  - and if he is ignorant, you are called to enlighten him.
- This is to be done with all proper honour—dealing with an elder differently than with a child...
  - but it is to be done with whatever knowledge God has given to you...

TRANS> So you see that we can look at your stewardship from the perspective of **what** you are given to give to others...

- b. We may also look at it from the perspective of those over whom God has appointed you as a steward...
- 1) Some of you are officers in the church, and God has gifted you in order that you provide His care to the members of the church...
  - 2) Some of you are heads of household, and as believers, God has appointed you to minister His word and discipline in your household—you are responsible!
  - 3) All of you have a calling—this is a stewardship God has given you and you are to do your labour in service to your neighbour for God...
    - If you are a baker, you are to give God’s bread to your neighbour...
    - If you are a mother and wife, Proverbs 31 shows how you to care for your household, providing what God has given to you for them...
    - If you are a brick layer, you are to help to provide God’s shelter to your neighbour...
    - If you are a science teacher, you are to provide the knowledge of God’s creation to your neighbour...
    - If you are a judge, you are to administer His justice...
    - If you are a merchant, you are to distribute his gracious provision for Him...
  - 4) And to this I would add that all of you are God’s stewards, called and gifted, to provide for your own soul...
    - No other human being can see what is in your heart...
      - You alone are responsible at last for feeding your own soul with the provision that God gives you.

- It is a huge responsibility, for you have a soul that will never die.

TRANS> So you see that God has made you all stewards in some way or another...

2. And as those seeing that you are called by the Lord,

- It is for you to enter into your work with all due diligence!
  - a. There are people who are depending on you!
    - The Lord has made them dependant on you!
    - Woe to you if you do not exercise your stewardship for Him!
      - God told Ezekiel that if he did not warn the people God told him to warn as His prophet, they would die in their sins and their blood would be on Ezekiel's hands!
      - Brothers and sisters,
        - it could not happen in God's providence,
          - but if I may speak hypothetically,
            - where would we be if Paul has neglected His stewardship to go to the Gentiles?
        - There are missionaries that have not gone and there are whole generations that were thus deprived of hearing the gospel...
          - Ultimately, God is the one who appointed judgement for those generations...
            - but He appointed it in that case by means of a negligent steward!
              - And that negligent steward is responsible!
    - b. I shutter to think how many parents there are who have neglected to discipline and train up their children...
      - because of their own discomfort with it!
        - They did not like the way God told them to do it, or simply could not be bothered...
      - You men are God's ministers to your children, and you are not called to exercise your own discipline—but His!
        - Do you dare to neglect the stewardship that He has given to you?
        - I tell you, it will bring you sorrow unless you repent!



TRANS> When you see that God Himself is the One who makes you a steward, it ought to make you all the more diligent in your stewardship to labour with all your strength.

- But you will say to me,
  - “But I am not able”
  - And I will reply back to you...

B. Knowing that God is the one who makes you a steward should not only make you diligent, it should make you **confident**.

1. What did we see with Paul? What did he say of his stewardship?

- He said that God who called him also equipped him and empowered him to do the work.
- Remember verse 7:
  - Eph 3:7: “I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”
  - Paul did not go out and preach to dead Gentiles so that they lived in his own strength!
    - He could never have done such a thing!
    - He was a steward and it was God who gave the increase...
    - As he told the Corinthians,
      - 1 Cor 3:6-7: I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

TRANS> Clearly, Paul’s confidence was not in his own strength...and neither should your confidence be in your own strength.

- That is what is so exciting about it all!
  - In God’s calling, you are able to do things that are impossible for you!

2. Trust in the Lord to enable you to carry out your stewardship!

a. Does the work He has given you to do seem impossible?

- Good—that means you understand the nature of the work—it is indeed impossible for you...
- You can’t even take another breath apart from God...
  - how much less are you able to carry out the stewardship that He has given to you apart from His aid?
    - Are you able to minister God’s nurture and discipline to your children?
    - Are you able be a steward to your own soul?

- No, nobody is sufficient for such things!

b. Take heart Christian!

- God is faithful not only to provide his stewards with the provisions they need for his household...
  - but also to give them grace to carry out their ministry.
  - Cry out to Him for grace and strength to enable you and He will provide it.