

**Simple Gifts.** Look for “Simple Gifts” in our monthly newsletter. These devotions emphasize that stewardship is “not simply a function of doing business in the local congregation,” but “an act of worship” that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus. With titles such as “The Gift of the Gospel” and “God’s Gift of Life,” they are based on the theme of “gift.” We pray that you will be enriched by God’s Word shared in “Simple Gifts.”

## The gift of faithful stewardship (OR) God is pleased

*“Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’” (Luke 3:21-22).*

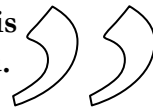
With whom was God pleased? His son Jesus of course! But why? What had Jesus done up to this point to cause such pleasure for His Father? Well, He was in the temple like a good Jewish boy. He hadn’t done anything exceptional up to this point. No healings. No teaching. No resurrections.

But that is what gives us the greatest stewardship lesson. Stewardship isn’t about the spectacular. You don’t have to give your life’s savings to be a Father-pleasing steward. You don’t have to go to Africa to do mission work so that your Father is pleased with you. Stewardship that is faithful and God-pleasing is found in everyday life. It is the husband loving his wife because

she is a gift from God. It is a mom feeding her baby in the middle of the night because she has been given this new life to steward. It is children doing their level best because their talents are gifts from God and his or hers to steward.



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This happens every day. You have been doing it. Simple gifts have been entrusted to you. Your faithful presence in worship, your generosity for the Gospel, the investment in your family with the message of the

Gospel and so many other everyday efforts are stewardship. It is your faithfulness to the callings you have been given.

Just as the Father was well pleased with Jesus for what He had done and would do, the same is true of you, faithful steward. He is pleased with what you have done and what you will do. He knows you will heed His Word and answer His call. He gives you all the gifts of grace you need to be His faithful steward. With you He is well pleased.

*Prayer*

Loving Father, You were well pleased with the faithful work of Your Son both before and after His Baptism. Give me the grace to be faithful in the stewardship of my daily life. When I fall short, lead me back to Jesus. I know that it is because of Him that You are pleased with me. Lead me to be a faithful steward of His Gospel every day Amen.

*The Stewardship Board*

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## The Gift of Faithful Stewardship (OR) God Is Pleased

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