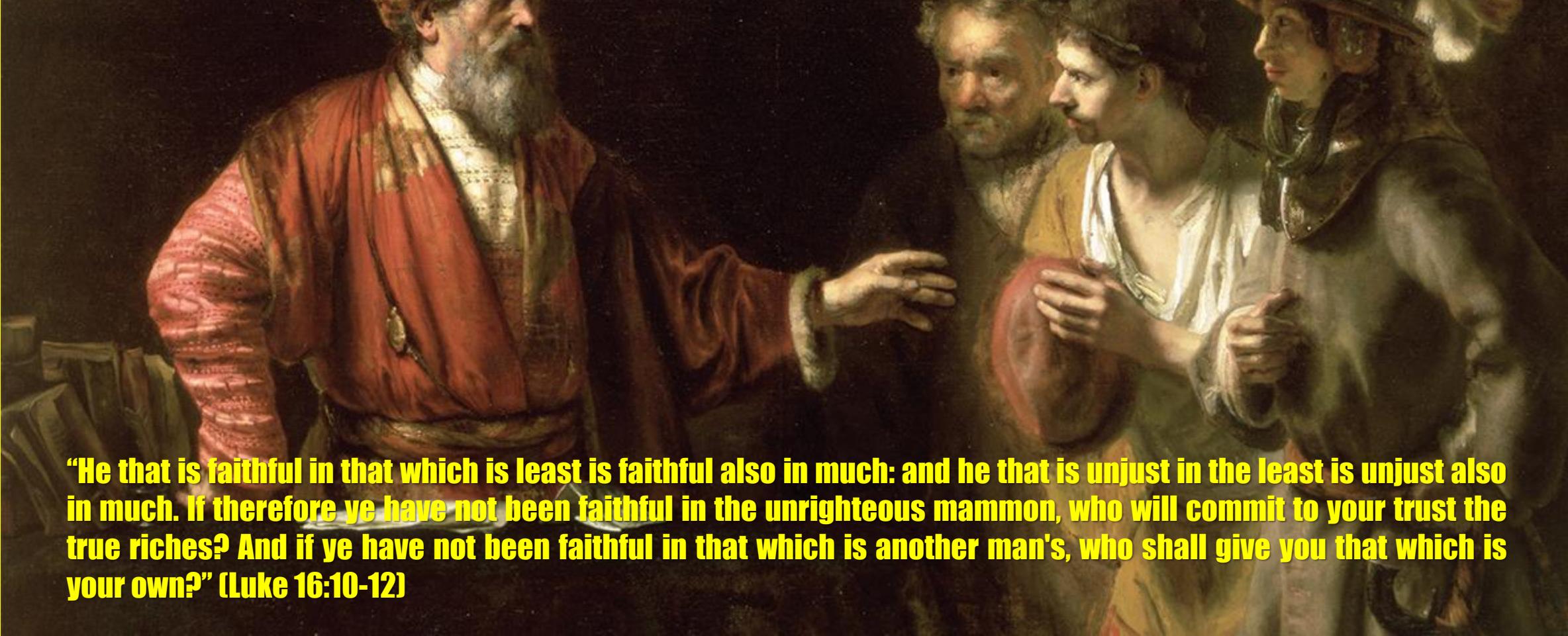


**“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”**



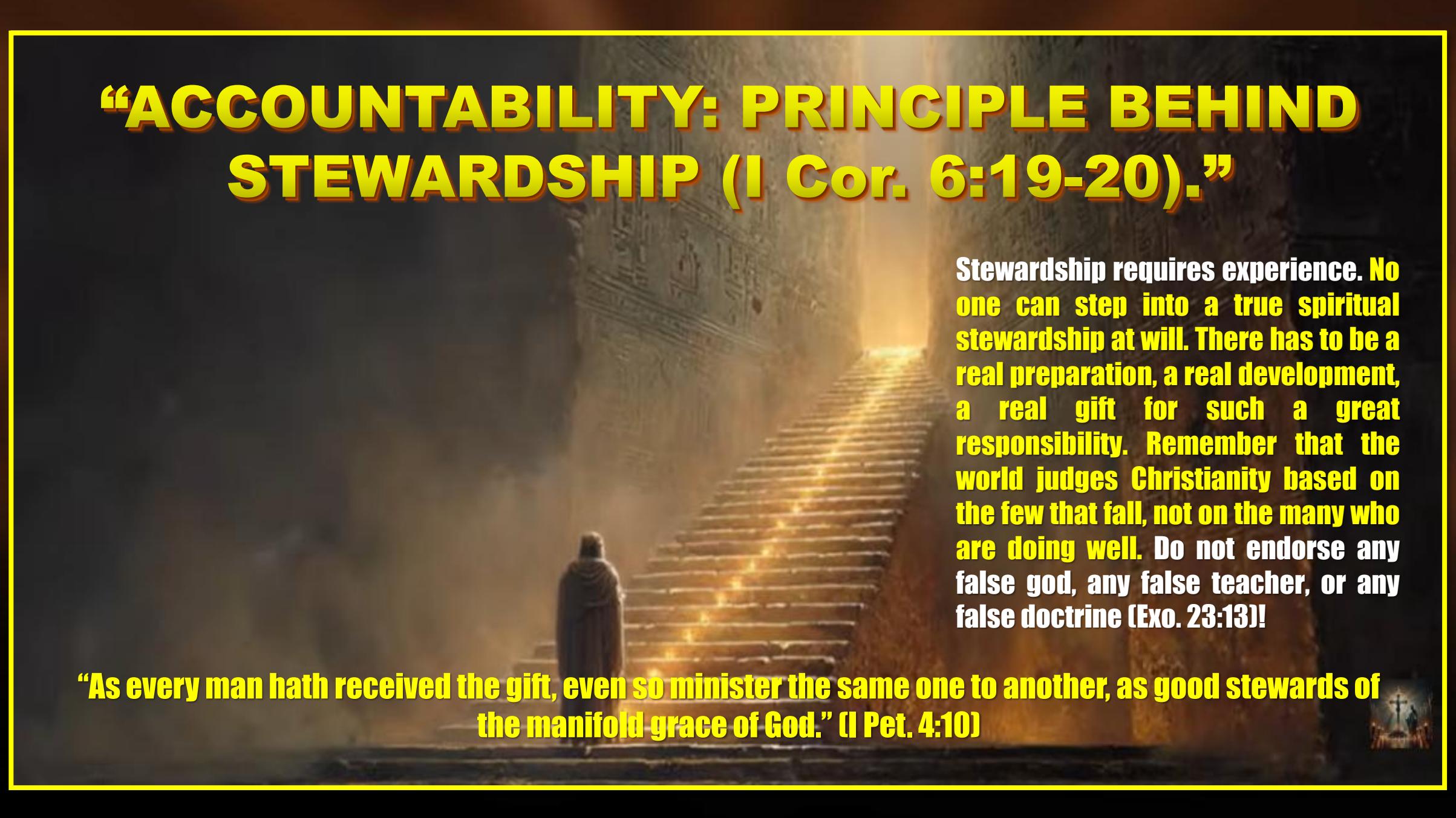
**“STEWARDSHIP: HOLDING OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD.”**

# “PARABLE OF THE UNJUST STEWARD”



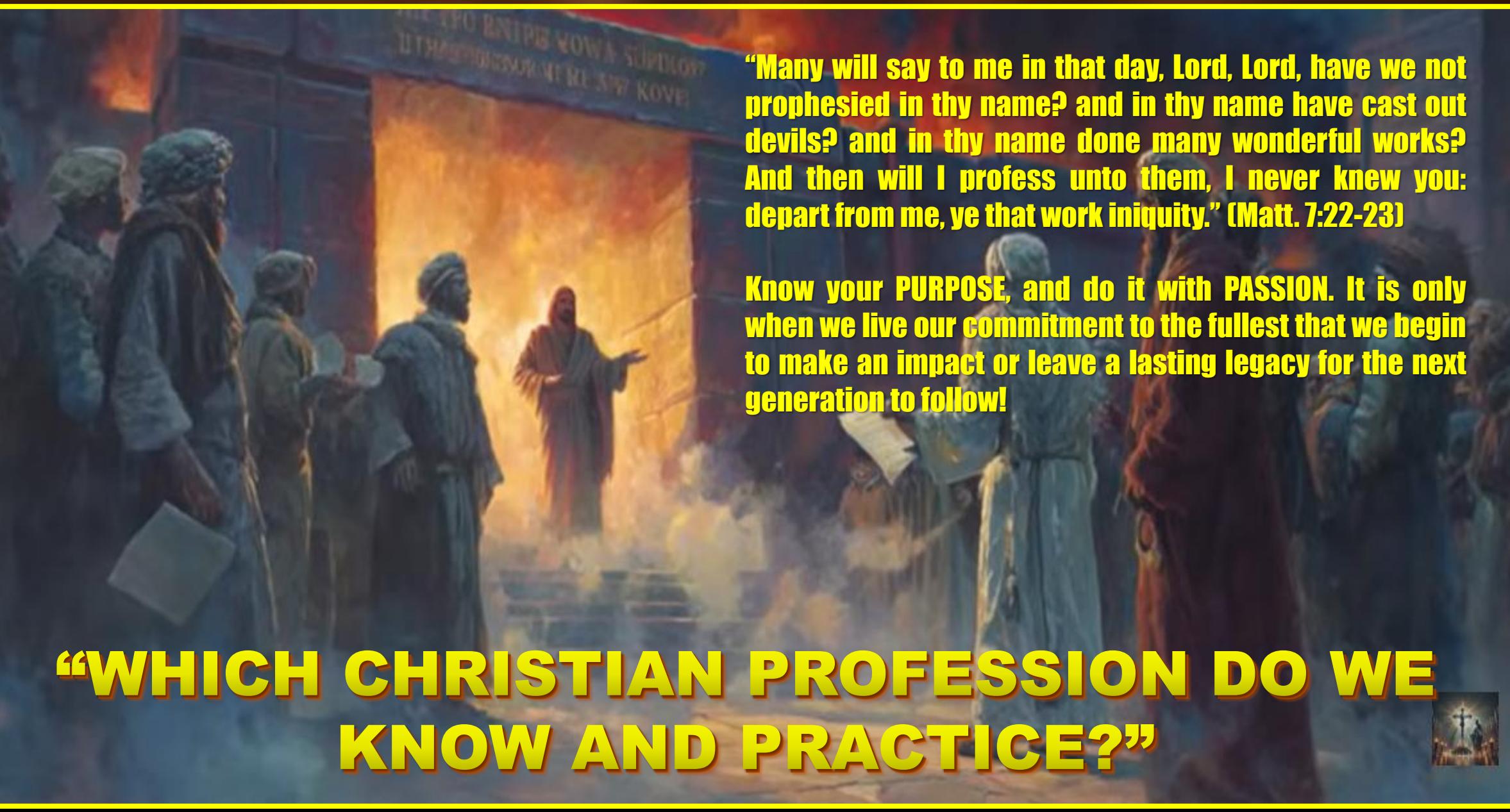
“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?” (Luke 16:10-12)

# **“ACCOUNTABILITY: PRINCIPLE BEHIND STEWARDSHIP (I Cor. 6:19-20).”**



Stewardship requires experience. No one can step into a true spiritual stewardship at will. There has to be a real preparation, a real development, a real gift for such a great responsibility. Remember that the world judges Christianity based on the few that fall, not on the many who are doing well. Do not endorse any false god, any false teacher, or any false doctrine (Exo. 23:13)!

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



“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matt. 7:22-23)

Know your PURPOSE, and do it with PASSION. It is only when we live our commitment to the fullest that we begin to make an impact or leave a lasting legacy for the next generation to follow!

**“WHICH CHRISTIAN PROFESSION DO WE KNOW AND PRACTICE?”**



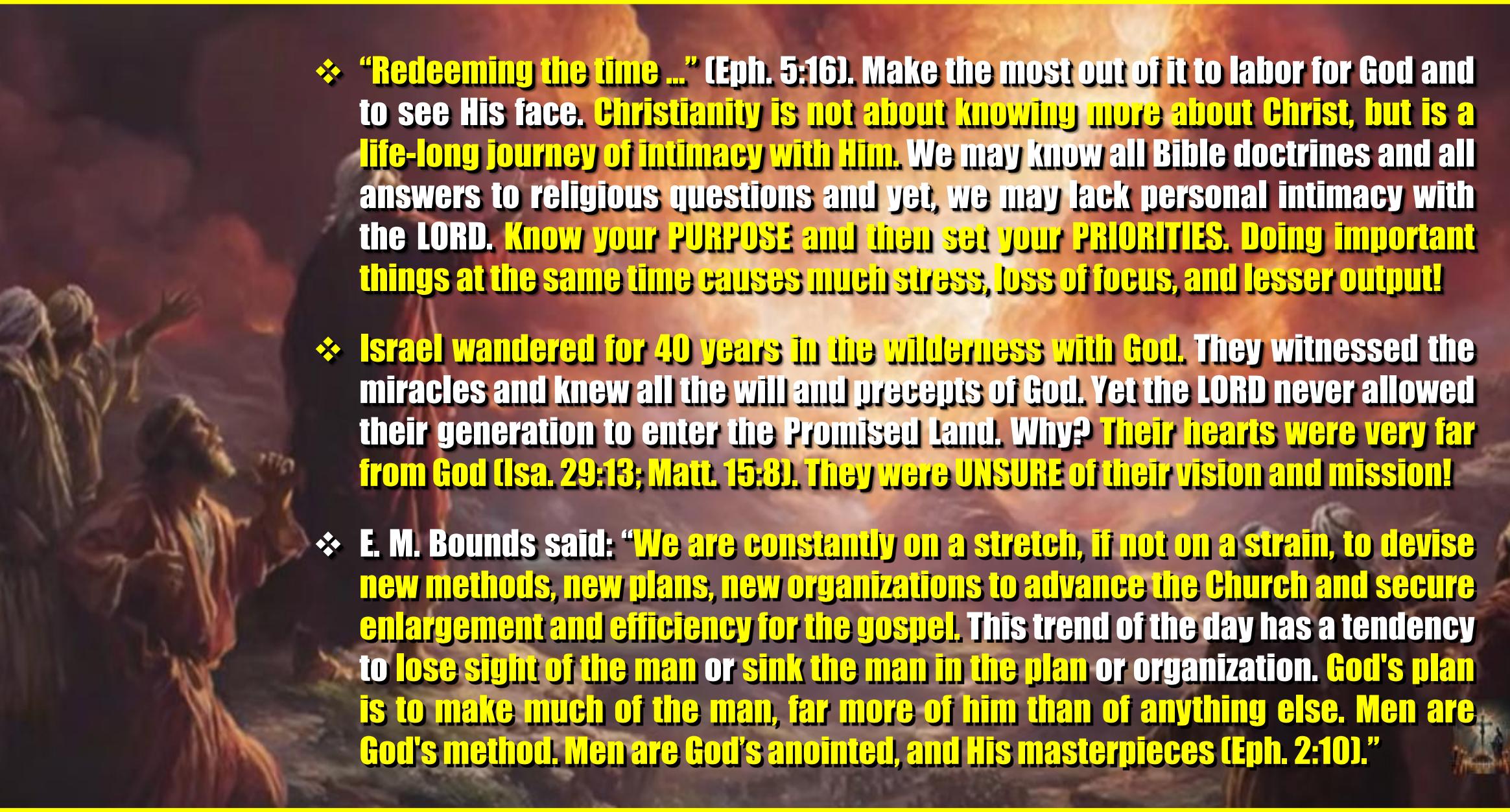
**“Much time spent with God is the secret of all successful praying. Prayer which is felt as a mighty force is the mediate or immediate product of much time spent with God. When our prayers cannot move the heart of God, neither can we move the hearts of men (Gen. 41:38-43)! How can we move the heart of God? By constant devotion and communion with Him (Psa. 27:4)!**

**Choose that good part, which shall not be taken away from us. “God doesn’t want you to do more for him. He wants you to be more for him.” Serving God is good, but knowing the Bible is better, and knowing the LORD is best!**

**Luke 10:38-42**

**“STEWARDS OF DIVINE TIME.”**



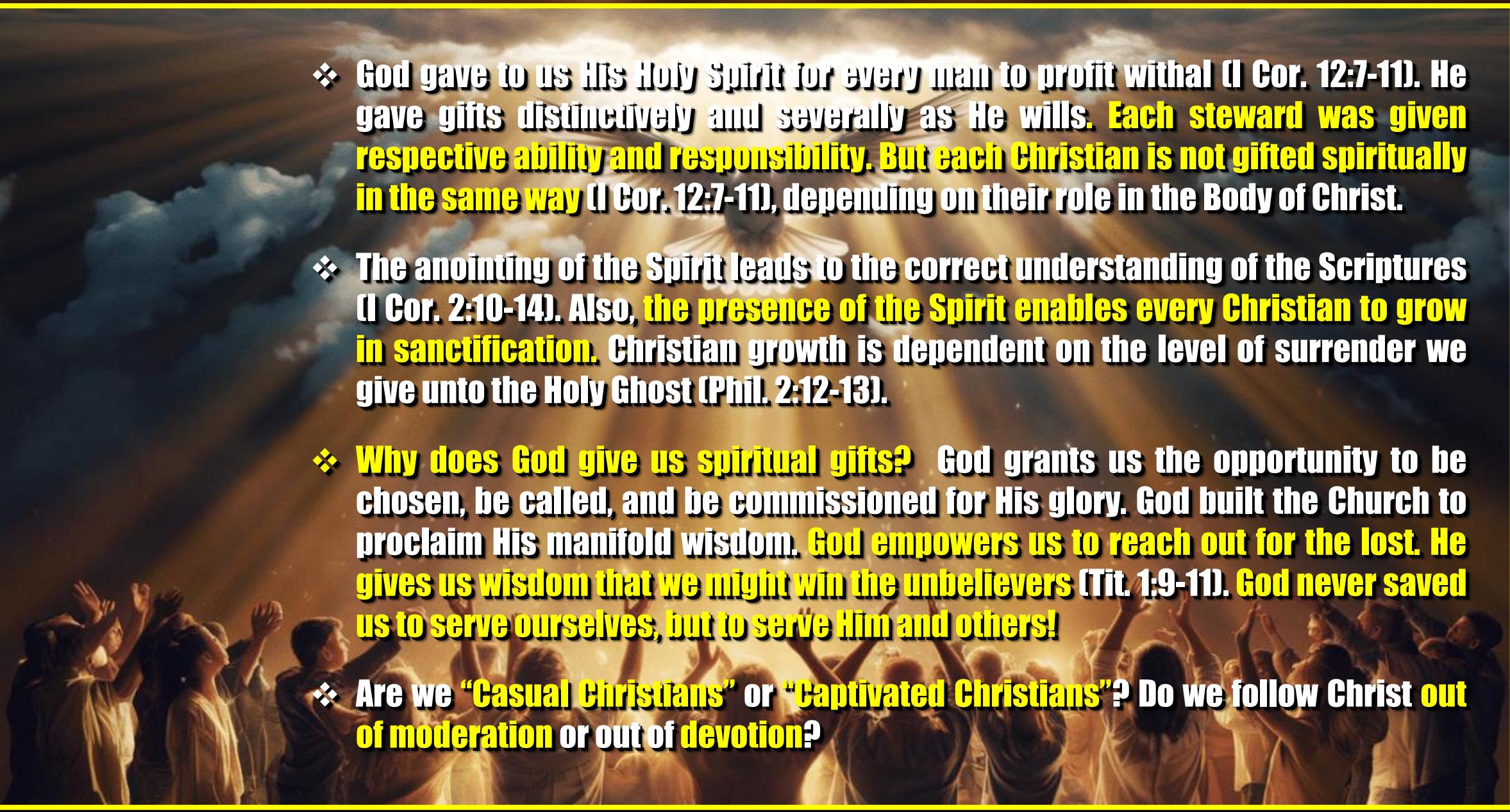


- ❖ “**Redeeming the time ...**” (Eph. 5:16). Make the most out of it to labor for God and to see His face. Christianity is not about knowing more about Christ, but is a life-long journey of intimacy with Him. We may know all Bible doctrines and all answers to religious questions and yet, we may lack personal intimacy with the LORD. Know your PURPOSE and then set your PRIORITIES. Doing important things at the same time causes much stress, loss of focus, and lesser output!
- ❖ Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness with God. They witnessed the miracles and knew all the will and precepts of God. Yet the LORD never allowed their generation to enter the Promised Land. Why? Their hearts were very far from God (Isa. 29:13; Matt. 15:8). They were UNSURE of their vision and mission!
- ❖ E. M. Bounds said: “We are constantly on a stretch, if not on a strain, to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the Church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the gospel. This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man or sink the man in the plan or organization. God’s plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God’s method. Men are God’s anointed, and His masterpieces (Eph. 2:10).”



**“We need to let go of the idea that we can be a Christian without getting in too deep or messing up our comfort; that we can read our Bible when we feel like it or pray only when we’re in a crisis; that we can go to church and worship God when it’s convenient; or that we can witness to others as long as it doesn’t embarrass us.” Be a committed Christian to the maximum, not on bare minimum!**

**“STEWARDS OF DIVINE TALENT.”**

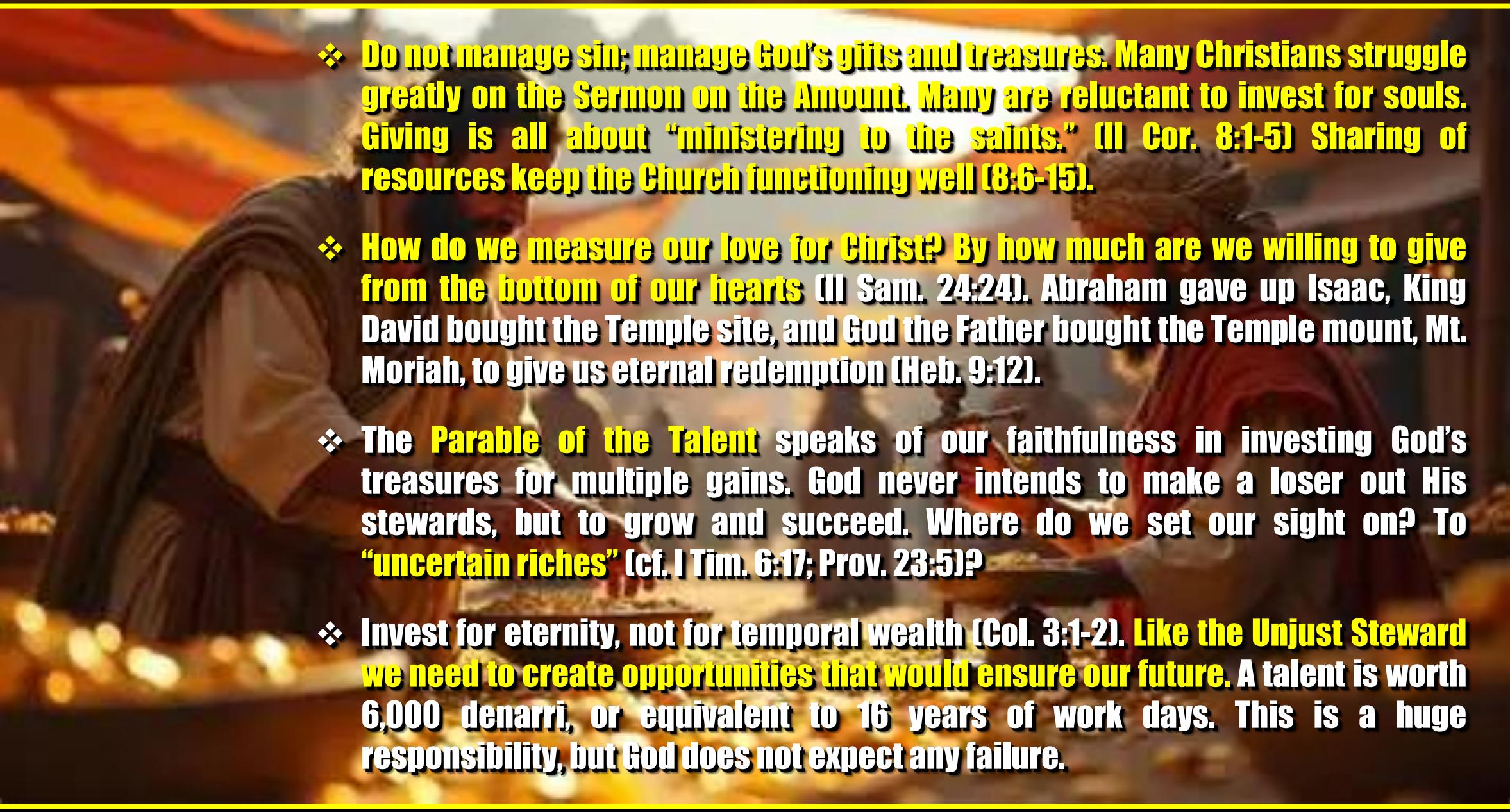


- ❖ God gave to us His Holy Spirit for every man to profit withal (I Cor. 12:7-11). He gave gifts distinctively and severally as He wills. **Each steward was given respective ability and responsibility. But each Christian is not gifted spiritually in the same way** (I Cor. 12:7-11), depending on their role in the Body of Christ.
- ❖ The anointing of the Spirit leads to the correct understanding of the Scriptures (I Cor. 2:10-14). Also, **the presence of the Spirit enables every Christian to grow in sanctification**. Christian growth is dependent on the level of surrender we give unto the Holy Ghost (Phil. 2:12-13).
- ❖ **Why does God give us spiritual gifts?** God grants us the opportunity to be chosen, be called, and be commissioned for His glory. God built the Church to proclaim His manifold wisdom. God empowers us to reach out for the lost. He gives us wisdom that we might win the unbelievers (Tit. 1:9-11). God never saved us to serve ourselves, but to serve Him and others!
- ❖ Are we “Casual Christians” or “Captivated Christians”? Do we follow Christ out of moderation or out of devotion?



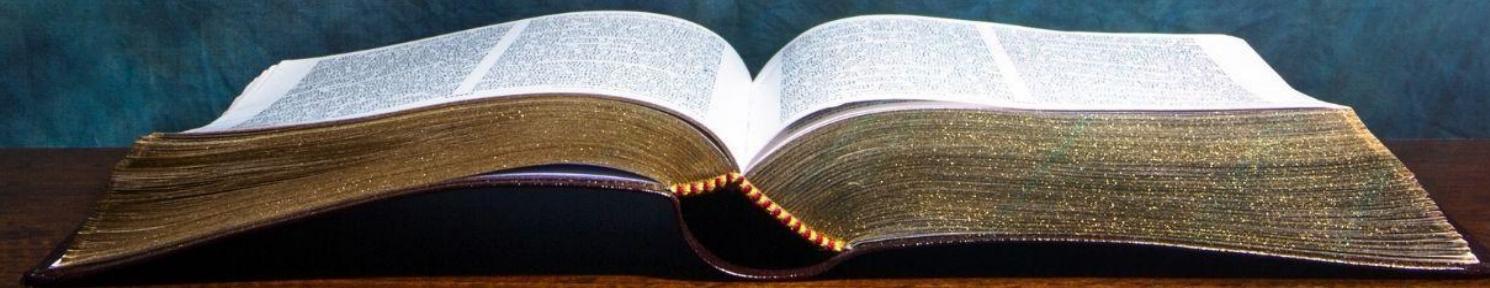
Matt. 25:14-30

**“STEWARDS OF DIVINE TREASURES.”**

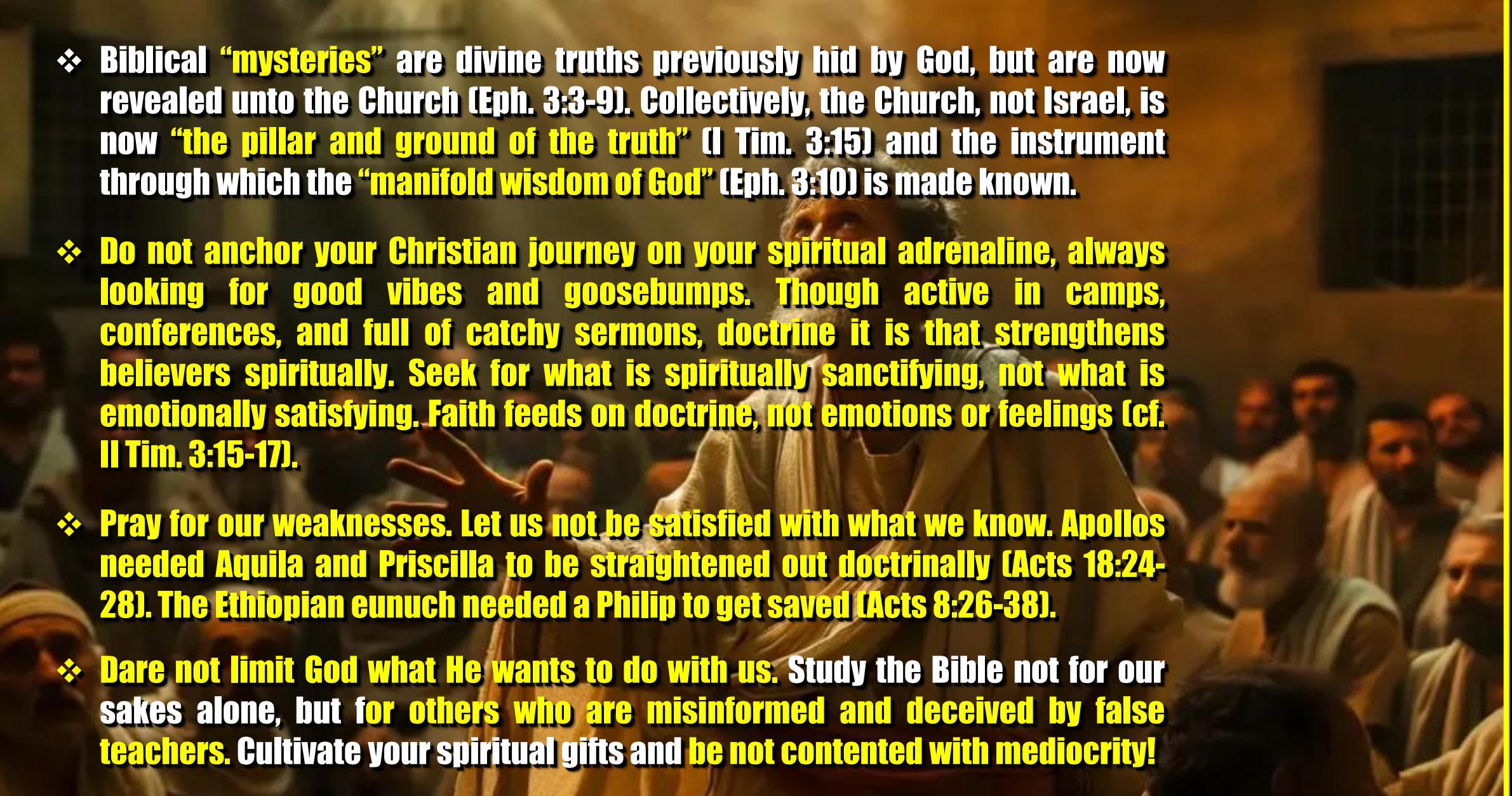


- ❖ **Do not manage sin; manage God's gifts and treasures. Many Christians struggle greatly on the Sermon on the Mount. Many are reluctant to invest for souls. Giving is all about "ministering to the saints." (II Cor. 8:1-5) Sharing of resources keep the Church functioning well (8:6-15).**
- ❖ **How do we measure our love for Christ? By how much are we willing to give from the bottom of our hearts (II Sam. 24:24). Abraham gave up Isaac, King David bought the Temple site, and God the Father bought the Temple mount, Mt. Moriah, to give us eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12).**
- ❖ **The Parable of the Talent speaks of our faithfulness in investing God's treasures for multiple gains. God never intends to make a loser out His stewards, but to grow and succeed. Where do we set our sight on? To "uncertain riches" (cf. I Tim. 6:17; Prov. 23:5)?**
- ❖ **Invest for eternity, not for temporal wealth (Col. 3:1-2). Like the Unjust Steward we need to create opportunities that would ensure our future. A talent is worth 6,000 denarii, or equivalent to 16 years of work days. This is a huge responsibility, but God does not expect any failure.**

**“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful ... But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.” (I Cor. 4:1-2; I Thess. 2:4)**



**“STEWARDS OF DIVINE TRUTHS.”**



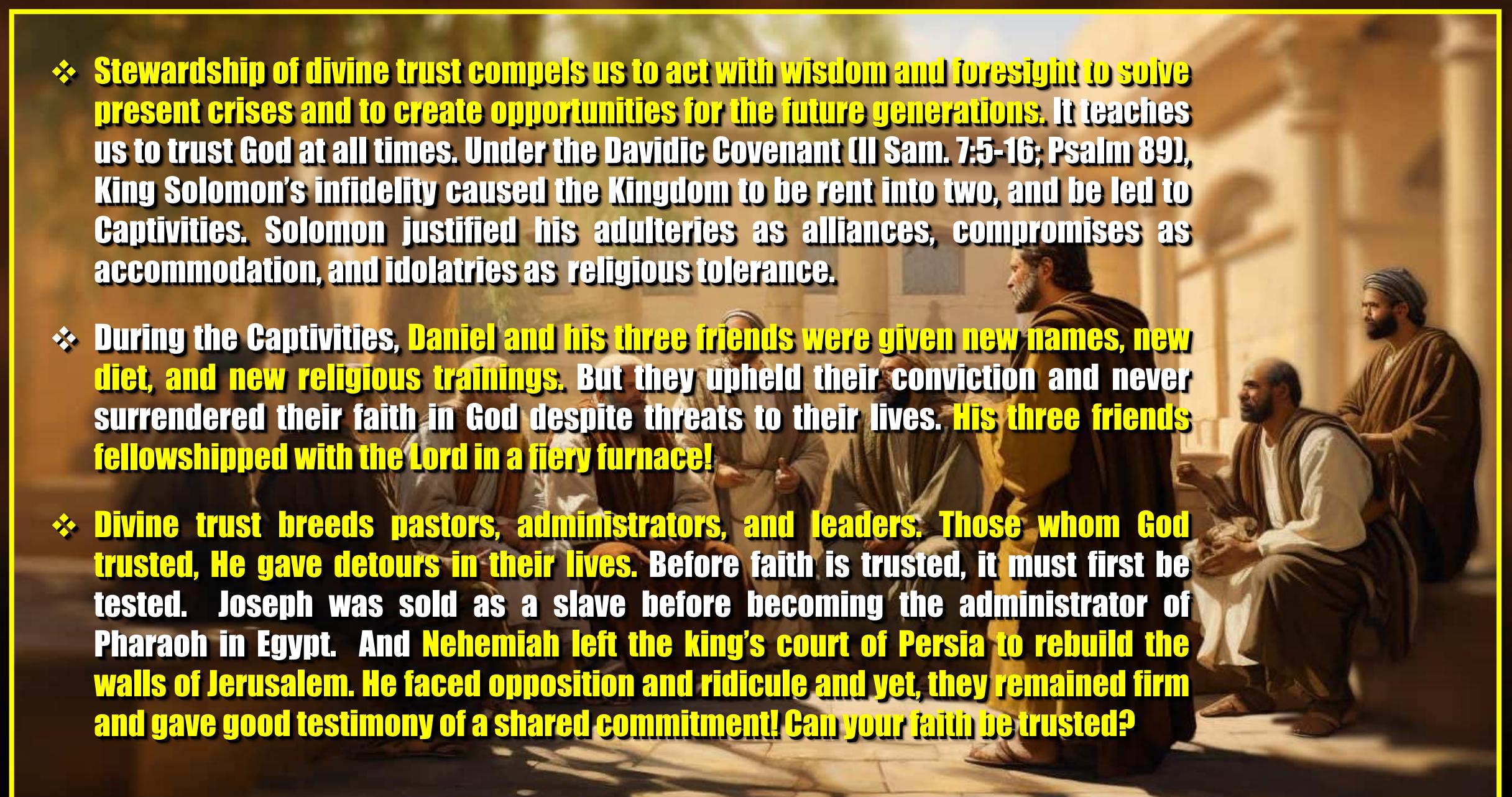
- ❖ Biblical “mysteries” are divine truths previously hid by God, but are now revealed unto the Church (Eph. 3:3-9). Collectively, the Church, not Israel, is now “the pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15) and the instrument through which the “manifold wisdom of God” (Eph. 3:10) is made known.
- ❖ Do not anchor your Christian journey on your spiritual adrenaline, always looking for good vibes and goosebumps. Though active in camps, conferences, and full of catchy sermons, doctrine it is that strengthens believers spiritually. Seek for what is spiritually sanctifying, not what is emotionally satisfying. Faith feeds on doctrine, not emotions or feelings (cf. II Tim. 3:15-17).
- ❖ Pray for our weaknesses. Let us not be satisfied with what we know. Apollos needed Aquila and Priscilla to be straightened out doctrinally (Acts 18:24-28). The Ethiopian eunuch needed a Philip to get saved (Acts 8:26-38).
- ❖ Dare not limit God what He wants to do with us. Study the Bible not for our sakes alone, but for others who are misinformed and deceived by false teachers. Cultivate your spiritual gifts and be not contented with mediocrity!

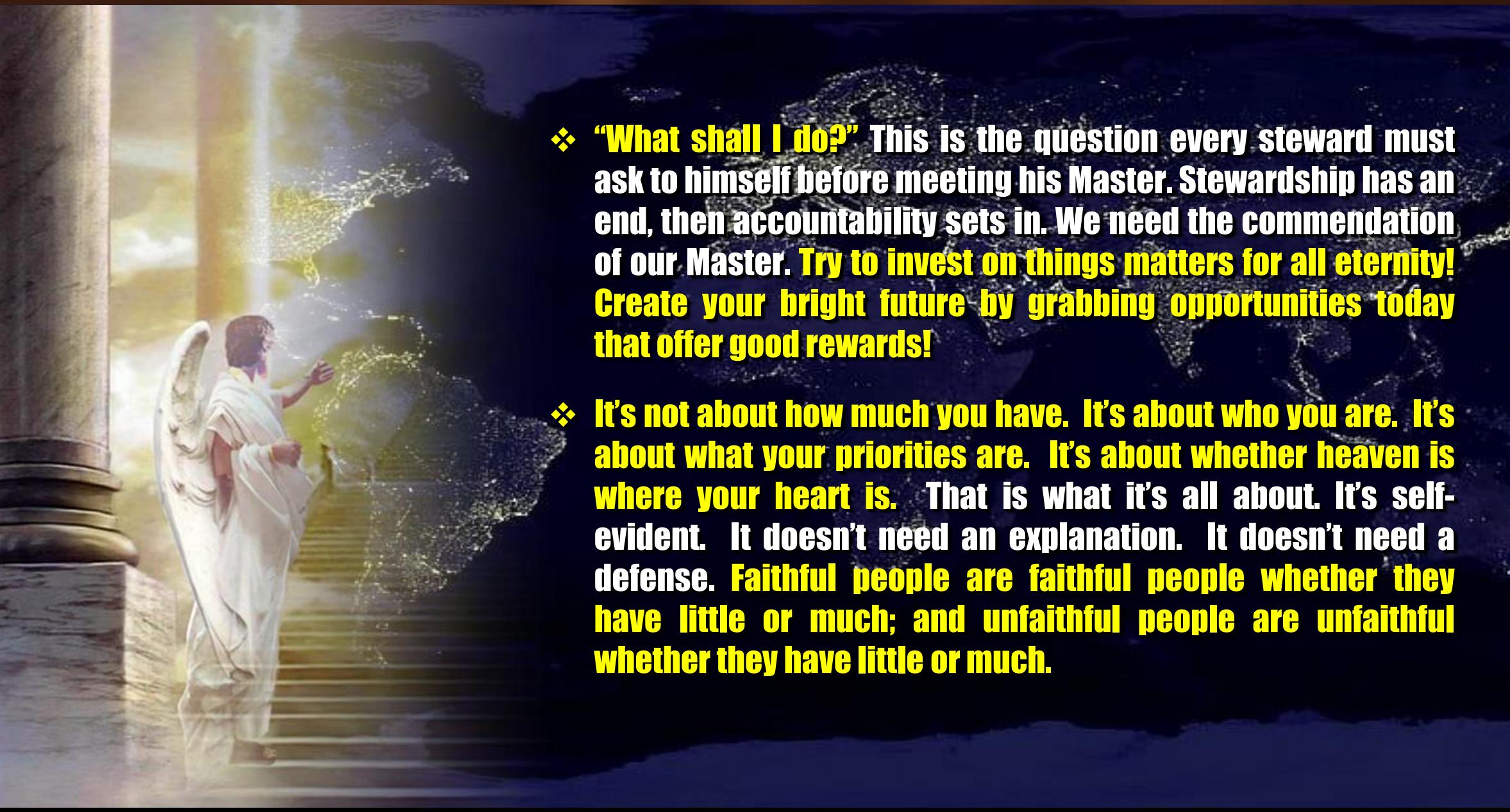


**"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."** (Titus 1:7-9)

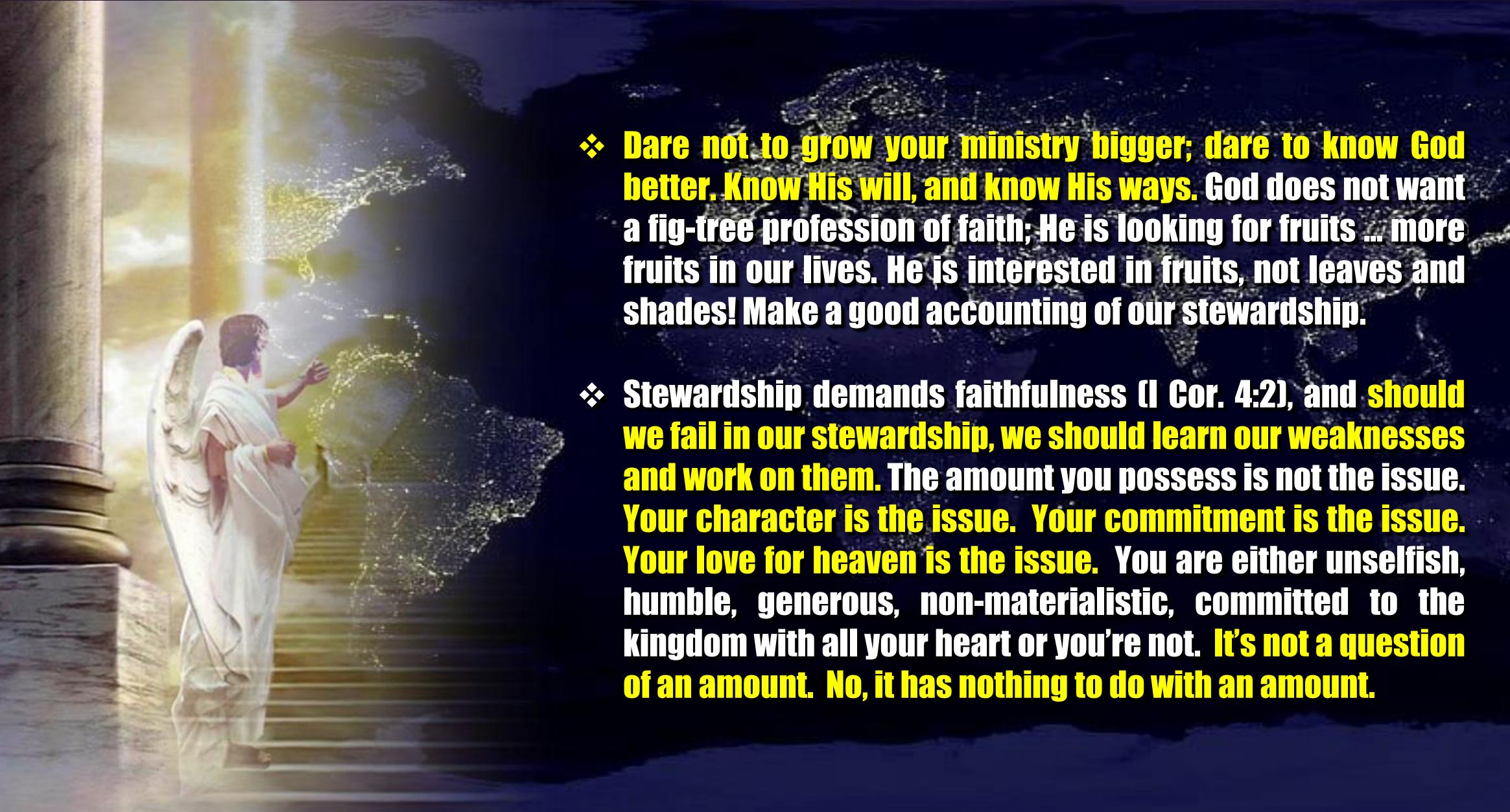
**"STEWARDS OF DIVINE TRUST."**

- ❖ **Stewardship of divine trust compels us to act with wisdom and foresight to solve present crises and to create opportunities for the future generations.** It teaches us to trust God at all times. Under the Davidic Covenant (II Sam. 7:5-16; Psalm 89), King Solomon's infidelity caused the Kingdom to be rent into two, and be led to Captivities. Solomon justified his adulteries as alliances, compromises as accommodation, and idolatries as religious tolerance.
- ❖ During the Captivities, **Daniel and his three friends were given new names, new diet, and new religious trainings.** But they upheld their conviction and never surrendered their faith in God despite threats to their lives. **His three friends fellowshipped with the Lord in a fiery furnace!**
- ❖ **Divine trust breeds pastors, administrators, and leaders.** Those whom God trusted, He gave detours in their lives. Before faith is trusted, it must first be tested. Joseph was sold as a slave before becoming the administrator of Pharaoh in Egypt. And **Nehemiah left the king's court of Persia to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.** He faced opposition and ridicule and yet, they remained firm and gave good testimony of a shared commitment! **Can your faith be trusted?**





- ❖ “What shall I do?” This is the question every steward must ask to himself before meeting his Master. Stewardship has an end, then accountability sets in. We need the commendation of our Master. Try to invest on things matters for all eternity! Create your bright future by grabbing opportunities today that offer good rewards!
- ❖ It's not about how much you have. It's about who you are. It's about what your priorities are. It's about whether heaven is where your heart is. That is what it's all about. It's self-evident. It doesn't need an explanation. It doesn't need a defense. Faithful people are faithful people whether they have little or much; and unfaithful people are unfaithful whether they have little or much.



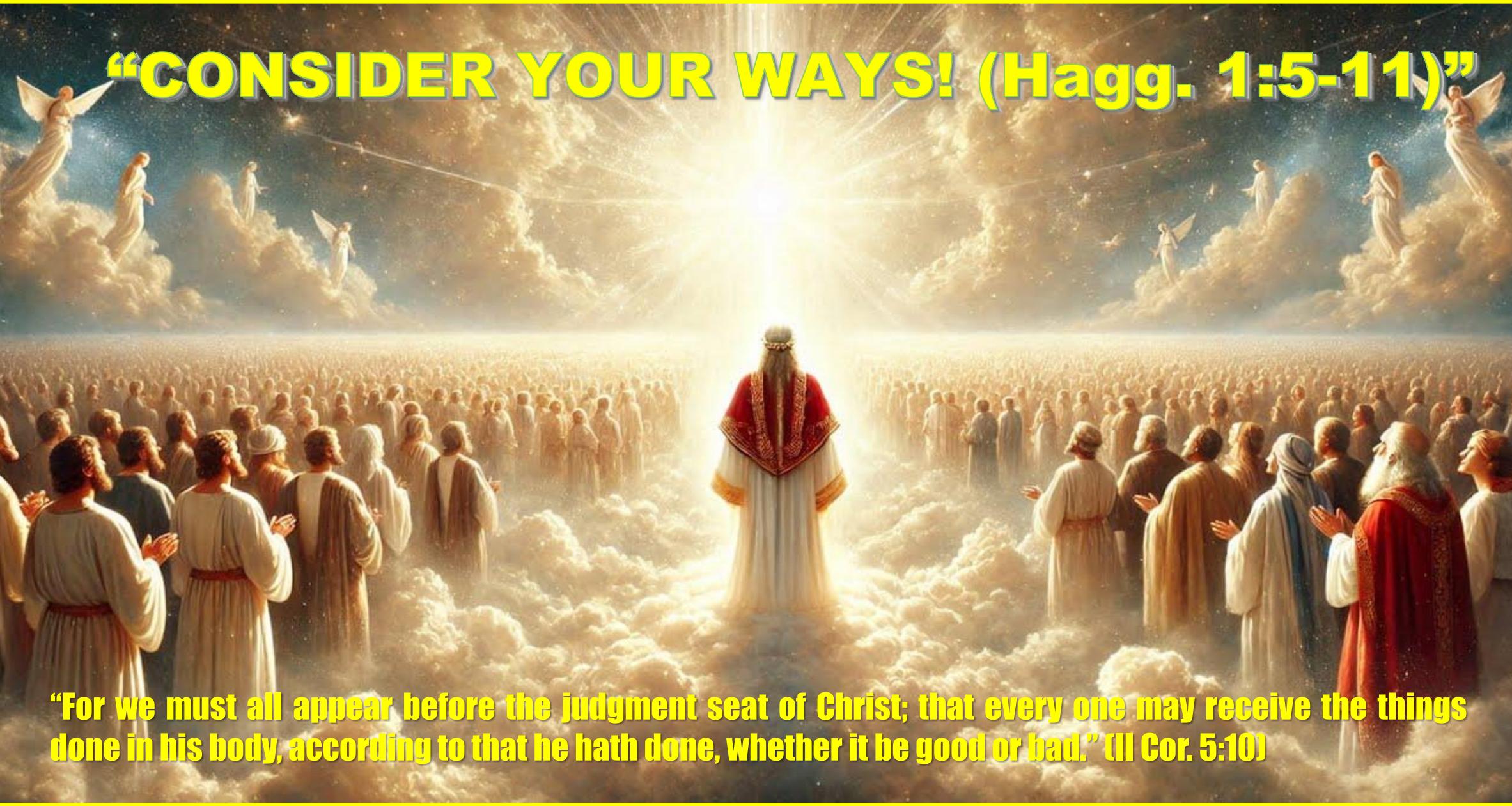
- ❖ **Dare not to grow your ministry bigger; dare to know God better. Know His will, and know His ways.** God does not want a fig-tree profession of faith; He is looking for fruits ... more fruits in our lives. He is interested in fruits, not leaves and shades! Make a good accounting of our stewardship.
- ❖ **Stewardship demands faithfulness (I Cor. 4:2), and should we fail in our stewardship, we should learn our weaknesses and work on them.** The amount you possess is not the issue. **Your character is the issue. Your commitment is the issue. Your love for heaven is the issue.** You are either unselfish, humble, generous, non-materialistic, committed to the kingdom with all your heart or you're not. **It's not a question of an amount. No, it has nothing to do with an amount.**



- ❖ Jesus had come into the place called the City of God. He was hungry to taste of the faith of those who would turn to Him as the Promised Messiah. But Jesus wept over them. He saw their unbelief, and His heart broke due to the coming judgment. It was God's time for them, but not their time for God. They were not ready for the heaven-sent Savior, but an earth-bound Messiah of their own imagination. They had a temple, religion, ritual—all the words but none of the heart.
- ❖ ARE WE CHRISTIANS FOR DECORATION, OR ARE WE FOR CIRCULATION?

**“There is no season of life when He does not expect to find fruit in us.”**

# “CONSIDER YOUR WAYS! (Hagg. 1:5-11)”



“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (1 Cor. 5:10)

When we think about the amazing things that Moses did with the rod like the plagues of Egypt, parting the Red Sea, leading Israel to victory against the Amalekites etc., we might think that it was some special rod. But the fact is that it was the power of God and had nothing to do with the rod. God just used it.

It is interesting to note that in Exodus 4:2 it is Moses' rod, in verse 20 it was called the rod of God. What happened is Moses' rod became God's rod. When our abilities, talents, and gifts become God's gifts then God can use them to accomplish great things.



**“And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand?” (Exo. 4:2)**