





PREPAREDAND EMPOWERED BY GOD FOR SERVICE

7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound thinking and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God— 11 whoever speaks, as one speaking the oracles of God; whoever serves, as one serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and might forever and ever. Amen. (1 Pet 4:7-11 LSB)

God Demands AND Equips

- God expects much (e.g., Christlike holiness, sound judgment, fervent love, grumble-free hospitality) of his people (1 Pet 4:1–9; cf. Luke 14:25–33; 12:35–48).
- Yet, God never demands the impossible; he also equips his servants to fulfill their duty (1 Pet 4:10-11; Phil 2:12-13).

The will of God will never take you where the grace of God cannot keep you, where the arms of God cannot support you, where the riches of God cannot supply your needs, where the power of God cannot endow you. (Unknown)

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- Though we will focus on the grace and power of God, we must never forget that the primary way by which we experience these divine provisions is Scripture (2 Tim 3:16–17; Eph 4:11–12; 1 Pet 4:11).

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- The manifold grace of God endows each Christian with a unique contribution that he or she can make (1 Pet 4:10; Rom 12:3–8; 1 Cor 12:4–11; 15:9–11; 2 Cor 3:4–6; Titus 2:11–14; Eph 2:8–10).
- God also lends his own strength to us so that we can serve God and others (1 Pet 4:11a; Phil 2:13; Eph 1:16-21; 3:20-21; Col 1:29).

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If you can explain what God is doing in your ministry, then God is not really in it. (Warren W. Wiersbe)

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- If we allow divine grace and strength to work in and through us, the result is divine glory—God is glorified and (eventually) he glorifies us with him (1 Pet 4:11b; 5:6-7, 10-11; Heb 13:20-21).

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Resolved: that all men should live for the glory of God. Resolved second: that whether others do or not, I will. (Jonathan Edwards)

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