

# CHAPTER 9

## Do You Know You Are Called to be a Faithful Steward?

### Foundational Review

In this middle section of the book is the full, three part Gospel which is for all Christians, not just SDAs. This is how the Gospel actually does its work in those who want a more intense relationship with God.

In this middle section, we talked about that more intense relationship with God:

- #1: Why we “keep” the Commandments.
- #2: How we function as Priests in our work for others, as emphasized in Level II.

This week, we are emphasizing another important segment:

- #3: Functioning in the attitude of a Steward/Servant.

### ■ *Eliezer the Steward*

#### QUESTION #1:

What is a Steward? Choose ONE; explain and defend your answer.

- a. A slave
- b. A manager
- c. A non-owner
- d. A servant
- e. An underling

#### QUESTION #2:

TURN TO Genesis 24. Review the story of Eliezer in Genesis 24:1-9; 10-14; 15-26. How do the following characteristics describe the role of a Steward as illustrated by Eliezer?

- a. Praying: When Eliezer prays, to whom does he pray? Whose God does Eliezer trust? (Verse 27)

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Why does Eliezer say “the God of my master Abraham?”

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### You Are:

- A Saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- and Beloved (Ephesians 1:6; John 16:27)
- A Christian/the 5 C’s (Acts 11:26)
- In a Covenant Grace/Faith Relationship with God (Gal. 2:8)
- Accepting/Received From/ Faith/Son (1 John 4:7)
- Abiding/Growing In/Hope/Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:12-16)
- Acting/Becoming Like/Love/ Father (2 Peter 1:4)
- Required to choose (Romans 12:1)
- Each choice is made by Faith (Romans 4:21)
- Faith works by Love (Galatians 5:6)
- Gifts of Holy Spirit-internal/external change (Romans 12:2)
- Keep the Commandments because of Love (John 15:8-10)

*This is basic Christianity.*

Stewardship  
is

Heart  
Work

## Chapter 9: Do You Know You Are Called to be a Faithful Steward?

b. Persistent: Whom does Eliezer represent? Whose mission is he on? (Verse 33-34)

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c. Persuasive: How careful and focused is Eliezer? (Verse 33-56)

1. When Bethuel and Laban set food before him, what does Eliezer say?

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2. When and only when did Eliezer bring out the silver and gold presents?

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3. What did Eliezer say when Bethuel and Laban wanted to delay his departure?

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Eliezer was the consummate business manager. And yet NONE of what Eliezer had or did or said was about him or about anything that was his.

### ■ Mindset of a Steward

#### QUESTION #1:

READ Luke 17:7-10. Describe the mindset of a Steward.

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Does this seem harsh to you?

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In John 13:3-5 Jesus washes the disciples' feet. Then in Matthew 20:28, Jesus says: "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve."

#### QUESTION #2:

READ Phil 2:1-5. Try again with this new information; describe the Steward mindset.

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Reach for a concept/idea that is beyond just being a good manager. Imagine the reason why the Steward/Manager is a good steward. What makes this attitude in a human being possible – since this is one of the answers to the question: Seventh-day Adventist Christian: do you know who you are?

### ■ Faithful

#### QUESTION #1:

Think about the characteristics of a Steward outlined above and about the lives of the men listed below. Describe what each man was given to manage and give an illustration of the circumstance under which he managed. For each man choose ONE characteristic that describes how he managed. (See the book chapter for help.)



<u>Man</u>	<u>What he manages</u>	<u>Illustration</u>	<u>Characteristic</u>
Moses			Numbers 12:7
Joseph			Genesis 39:4-6; Hebrews 11:22
Abraham			Genesis 15:6
Paul			Romans 1:17; 2 Timothy 4:7

**QUESTION #2:**

READ Matthew 24:45 and Matthew 25:21. What is the main characteristic of a Steward?

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But what made it possible for each of these men to carry out their task for God?

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**QUESTION #3:**

What does the word “faithful” mean? (check a dictionary)

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“Faithful” in both Hebrew and Greek means firm, permanent, steadfast, unchanging, unwavering, solid, unmovable, stable, sure.

It is important to understand the meaning of faithful (the basic concept of the Steward/Manager) in the relationship of being human vs. being God, the difference between faithfulness in God and faithfulness in Man.

**QUESTION #4:**

READ Deuteronomy 7:9-10. What does it mean when God is “faithful?”

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**QUESTION #5:**

READ Psalm 78:37. What does it mean when Man is “faithful?”

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In this understanding, consider the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship.

**QUESTION #6:**

In each level, how do we accept, abide, and act?

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**QUESTION #7:**

What is this human-type “faithfulness” based on? (Recheck the biblical definition of Faith. READ Romans 4:21.)

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**God and Man**

With this definition of Faith firmly in mind, let's look at the relationship between the faithfulness of God and the faithfulness of Man and how they interact with each other. Let's look at another relationship in the Bible.

**QUESTION #1:**

READ Genesis 5:24. What was Enoch doing when taken up by God?

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**QUESTION #2:**

READ Hebrews 11:5. Why was Enoch taken up?

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**QUESTION #3:**

READ 1 Thessalonians 4:1; Colossians 1:10. What does “pleasing” mean and how is it related to “walking with God?”

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READ Hebrews 10:23 – this is God's faithfulness.  
READ Hebrews 11:1-3 – this is human faithfulness.

Here in Hebrews 11 we find listed all of the “faithful”, from Abel to Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and on. Hebrews 11:2 says “for by it [faith] men of old gained approval.”

**QUESTION #4:**

In what did they have their faith? In themselves?

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**QUESTION #5:**

Verse 4 says that by faith Abel did... By Faith in whom?

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**QUESTION #6:**

Verse 5 says that by faith Enoch did... By Faith in whom?

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**QUESTION #7:**

What does Hebrews 10:23 say? Who is faithful?

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**QUESTION #8:**

Back to Hebrews 11:3 –

a. By faith we understand what? By faith in whom?

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b. READ John 15:5, 10-12. How do we “please God” and “walk with God”?

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**QUESTION #9:**

READ Ephesians 3:16 (Look at the Covenant Grace-Faith Relationship Model. Look at Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18). How is it that Enoch (and we) are made capable of such a walk? Who is responsible for making this happen?

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■ **Think It Through**

**QUESTION # 1:**

READ Hebrews 11:6. In Whom does Enoch have faith?

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What two concepts does Enoch believe about God?

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**Question #2:**

With this in mind, explain what make Enoch and Eliezer “faithful.”

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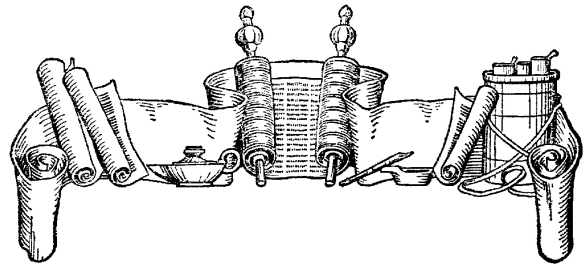
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**Take Home**

**Thought Questions**

Whom do you trust? What do you believe about God?

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Since this is critical to being a good Steward, what is faithfulness?

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