

HIGHLANDS CHURCH

Study Guide

# Practical Faith

Bob Wade  
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## Major Points

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- 1 Giving should be systematic, proportional, and purposeful — reflecting a heart aligned with God's generous nature rather than merely responding to financial pressure**  
*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*
- 2 Adversaries and resistance are not signs that God's door is closed but proof that effective kingdom work is happening**  
*1 Corinthians 16:9*
- 3 Paul's five charges — be watchful, stand firm, act like men, be strong, and do all in love — summarize the entire letter's call to spiritual maturity**  
*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*
- 4 The highest commendation for a believer is to be someone who refreshes the spirits of others, as Stephanas did for Paul**  
*1 Corinthians 16:17-18*
- 5 Claiming to love Christ while having no love for his bride, the church, is empty religion that Paul warns will bring judgment**  
*1 Corinthians 16:22*

## Key Quotes

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*“Faith in Christ isn't just about believing the right stuff.”*  
at 7:31

*“Giving is a spiritual issue. It's not a financial one. Giving reflects my heart and what I love the most.”*  
at 11:43

*“Resistance often means you're right where God wants you to be.”*  
at 17:38

*“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”*  
at 20:35

*“When we hung out with Bob, we just got refreshed. He just built us up, just made us feel good. That's supposed to be the church. That's supposed to be us.”*  
at 27:02

## Discussion Questions

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1. Pastor Wade says giving is a spiritual issue, not a financial one. How does reframing generosity as a heart matter rather than a money matter change the way you approach giving?  
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2. Pastor Wade explains that adversaries are proof the door is open, not closed. Can you think of a time when resistance in your life was actually a sign you were doing something right for God's kingdom?  
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3. Pastor Wade summarizes 1 Corinthians with five phrases from verses 13-14. Which of these five charges — be watchful, stand firm, act like men, be strong, do all in love — do you find most difficult to live out, and why?  
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4. Pastor Wade says the highest compliment anyone could pay him is that he was refreshing to be around. What practical habits or attitudes make someone a refreshing presence in the church?  
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5. Pastor Wade warns that loving Jesus while despising his bride, the church, is a contradiction. How should this reality shape the way we respond to frustrations and disagreements within our local church body?  
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## Word Studies

### **logia**

*Greek*

A collection of money; a term used in the papyri for religious collections and special contributions. Paul uses it in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 for the organized gathering of funds for the Jerusalem saints, emphasizing that Christian giving should be planned and systematic rather than haphazard.

*Usage: 2 times in NT (both in 1 Corinthians 16)*

## gregoreo

*Greek*

To be watchful, stay awake, be vigilant. Used in 1 Corinthians 16:13 as the first of Paul's five closing imperatives. It carries the sense of spiritual alertness against threats like division, false teaching, and moral compromise — staying awake when cultural pressures tempt believers to drift.

*Usage: 22 times in NT*

## anathema

*Greek*

A thing devoted to destruction; accursed. In 1 Corinthians 16:22, Paul uses this severe term for anyone who professes faith but has no genuine love for the Lord — the strongest possible warning against empty, loveless religion within the church.

*Usage: 6 times in NT*

## Cross References

### 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Paul expands on the same collection he introduced in 1 Corinthians 16, teaching that God loves a cheerful giver and that generous sowing produces generous reaping — reinforcing that giving is a joyful spiritual discipline.

### Romans 12:13

Paul calls believers to contribute to the needs of the saints and to show hospitality — the same twin themes of generosity and hospitality that anchor the closing of 1 Corinthians.

### Ephesians 4:14-15

Paul urges believers to grow up and no longer be spiritual infants tossed by every wind of doctrine, but to speak truth in love — directly echoing Pastor Wade's interpretation of 'act like men' as a call to spiritual maturity.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:6

Paul tells the Thessalonians to stay awake and sober, using the same watchfulness language as 1 Corinthians 16:13, showing this was a consistent charge across his letters.

### Philemon 1:7

Paul tells Philemon that his love has given Paul great joy and comfort because Philemon has refreshed the hearts of the saints — the same 'refreshing' ministry Paul commends Stephanas for in 1 Corinthians 16:18.

## Further Reading

- **The Grace of Giving: Money and the Gospel**

*by John Stott*

- **Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community**  
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- **1 Corinthians (Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament)**  
by David E. Garland

## Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
1 Corinthians 16:1-4	Read Aloud	10:05	<i>Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I...</i>
1 Corinthians 16:5-9	Read Aloud	16:04	
1 Corinthians 16:10-12	Read Aloud	18:09	
1 Corinthians 16:13-14	Read Aloud	19:57	<i>Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men...</i>
1 Corinthians 16:15-18	Read Aloud	25:09	
1 Corinthians 16:19-24	Read Aloud	27:46	
James 2:17	Read Aloud	7:36	<i>Faith without works is dead.</i>
Luke 21:1-4	Referenced	13:29	
Proverbs 6:16-19	Referenced	21:38	
1 Corinthians 13:1-3	Referenced	24:57	