

# SERMON OUTLINE 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

God's Sustaining Grace

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## **I. GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE (v. 4-6).**

*A. God has given you grace in Christ Jesus.*

*B. God has enriched you in Christ Jesus.*

*C. God's work has been confirmed among you.*

## **II. GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR WHAT HE IS DOING (v. 7).**

*A. God has gifted you for ministry.*

*B. God has given you hope for life.*

## **III. GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR WHAT HE WILL DO (v. 8-9).**

*A. God will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

*B. God will do this because He is faithful!*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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This sermon's main point is that believers can have deep confidence and lasting hope because salvation—from beginning to end—is sustained entirely by God's grace and faithfulness. First Corinthians 1:4–9 helps us see that God has already acted through the gospel to save, enrich, and confirm believers in Christ, is presently at work gifting and strengthening them for faithful living, and has promised to sustain them to the very end so they will stand blameless when Christ returns. Rather than boasting in human ability or spiritual performance, Christians are called to give continual thanks to God, rest in His faithfulness, persevere in daily faith, and live with joyful anticipation of Christ's return, knowing that God will finish the work He has begun.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. **Understanding Grace** - Paul thanks God for what He has done for the Corinthians rather than what they have done. Why is this distinction so important for understanding biblical grace, and how does it challenge our natural tendency toward self-sufficiency?
2. **Grace and Weakness** - The sermon connects God's grace with human weakness (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). How have trials, weaknesses, or hardships in your own life made you more aware of your need for God's grace?
3. **Focus: God or Man?** - The Corinthians were tempted to boast in people and gifts rather than in God. In what ways are we today tempted to place our confidence in personalities, abilities, or accomplishments instead of God's grace?
4. **Gifts and Gratitude** - Paul thanks God that the Corinthians were enriched in speech and knowledge—even though they struggled to use those gifts rightly. How can we practice gratitude for the gifts God has given us while still being honest about our need to grow in using them well?
5. **Evidence of God's Work** - Paul says the testimony about Christ was "confirmed" among the Corinthians. What kinds of fruit or evidence help confirm genuine faith in a believer's life today?
6. **Hope While We Wait** - Verse 7 speaks of waiting eagerly for the revealing of Jesus Christ. How does future hope shape the way we live in the present, especially in times of suffering?
7. **God's Ongoing Work** - The sermon emphasizes giving thanks not only for what God has done, but for what He is doing right now. Where do you currently see God at work in your life or in the life of the church?
8. **Sustained to the End** - Verse 8 promises that God will sustain believers to the end, guiltless in the day of Christ. How does this promise bring comfort during seasons of doubt, struggle, or failure?
9. **God's Faithfulness vs. Our Effort** - Scripture teaches both human responsibility and God's preserving grace. How do we live faithfully and obediently without slipping into either pride (self-reliance) or passivity?

## APPLICATION & RESPONSE

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10. The sermon ends with several implications of God's sustaining grace. Which one speaks most directly to your current situation, and what is one specific step you can take this week to align your life more fully with God's faithful, sustaining grace?