

September 23, 2026

Use What's In Your Hand

September Series: We Are The Church

Week Focus: Everybody Has a Part

Scripture – 1 Peter 4:10 - *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTION

There is an important word in Peter’s instruction that we can easily move past: **“use.”** Peter does not simply tell believers to recognize that they have received something from God. He tells them to do something with it. God’s grace was never intended to remain dormant in our lives. Whatever He has entrusted to us—our abilities, experiences, resources, opportunities, or ways of serving—can become useful in His hands when we are willing to put it into action. **Knowing what God gave you is not the finish line. Using it faithfully is.**

Sometimes we hesitate because we are waiting for complete clarity. We want to know exactly what our gift is, exactly where it should be used, and exactly what will happen when we use it. But sometimes clarity develops while we are faithfully serving. You may discover that you are an encourager because you started encouraging. You may recognize compassion in yourself because you moved toward someone who was hurting. You may discover an ability to teach because you helped someone understand what God had taught you. **You do not always have to know everything before you take the next faithful step.**

There is also a danger in waiting for the “right” opportunity. We can imagine that using what God has given us requires a title, an invitation, a ministry position, or a large assignment. Meanwhile, opportunities to serve are already around us. Someone needs encouragement. Someone needs prayer. Something needs organizing. A practical need could be met. A person could use your presence. A conversation could benefit from the wisdom God has developed in you. **A gift that is never used cannot serve the people it was given to bless.** Faithfulness often begins much closer than we think.

So today, look at what is already in your hand and what is already within your reach. You do not have to do everything, and you do not have to force an opportunity God has not given you. But don't allow fear, uncertainty, or the desire for something bigger to keep you from being faithful with what is available now. **The question is not whether your contribution looks impressive. The question is whether you are willing to use what God has entrusted to you.** Take the next faithful step and trust God with what He chooses to do through it.

Focus for Today

What God has entrusted to you becomes useful to others when you are willing to put it into action.

Practice

- Ask God to show you one opportunity today to use something He has already entrusted to you.
 - Choose one practical action instead of waiting until you feel completely ready.
 - Encourage, pray for, assist, listen to, or serve someone within your reach.
 - Notice whether fear, uncertainty, or waiting for a bigger opportunity has been keeping you inactive.
 - At the end of the day, reflect on what you learned by simply taking a faithful step.
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Prayer

Lord, thank You for everything You have entrusted to me by Your grace. Thank You for reminding me that what You have given me was not meant merely to be recognized but faithfully used. Give me wisdom to see the opportunities You place in front of me and courage to respond when You call me to act.

Forgive me for the times I have allowed fear, insecurity, uncertainty, or the desire for something bigger to keep me from using what You have already placed in my hands. Keep me from believing that I need a title, platform, or perfect opportunity before I can make a meaningful contribution. Teach me to value simple acts of obedience.

Help me serve without trying to prove myself. Keep me from doing things merely to be noticed or appreciated. I do not want to use what You have given me for my own glory. I want Your grace to work through my life so that other people are strengthened, encouraged, helped, and pointed toward You.

Jesus, thank You that my relationship with You is not earned by what I accomplish. **I am not saved by serving; I serve because You have saved me.** Because You have given Yourself for me, help me freely give what You have entrusted to me. Take what is in my hands and use it **for Your glory alone.**

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Reflection Question

What is one thing God has already placed in my hand that I can stop merely recognizing and begin faithfully using today?