

October 4, 2026

SUNDAY REFLECTION - We Move Forward Together

September Series: We Are The Church

Week Focus: One Heart, One Mission

Scripture – Philippians 1:27 - *“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”*

Devotional Reflection

This week began by looking backward. We remembered what God has done and were reminded not to become so focused on what we need Him to do next that we forget what He has already done. We remembered answered prayers, lessons learned, strength provided, and seasons through which God carried us. Then we gave Him the glory, recognizing that while people may plant and people may water, **God gives the growth**. Remembering God's faithfulness is not about living in yesterday. It is about allowing yesterday's evidence to strengthen today's trust.

Then we looked within. Romans 12:2 reminded us that the goal is not simply to accumulate years, church experiences, sermons, or milestones—the goal is transformation. We asked whether we are becoming more like Jesus in the way we think, speak, forgive, love, serve, respond, and relate to others. We recognized that God has already changed us, while also acknowledging that He is still changing us. **We celebrate progress without pretending we have arrived**. God has been faithful not only to keep us through the journey but also to transform us along the way.

Finally, we looked ahead. We were reminded that a mile marker is worth celebrating, but it was never intended to become a parking space. God's faithfulness behind us gives us courage for the mission ahead of us. And as we move, nobody has to carry everything. Everybody has a part, but nobody has every part. Different gifts, different experiences, different personalities, and different capacities can all be surrendered to the same Lord and directed toward the same gospel mission. **Moving forward together does not mean we all do the same thing; it means we faithfully bring our different parts toward the same mission.**

And now Philippians 1:27 brings the entire journey together. We are called to live worthy of the gospel, stand firm in one Spirit, and strive together for the faith of the gospel. That means our destination cannot simply be a stronger organization, a larger ministry, or another anniversary. **Jesus must remain the center. The gospel must remain the message. God's glory must remain the purpose.** We remember what God has done. We recognize what He has been doing within us. And now, with one heart and one mission, **we move forward together.**

FOCUS FOR TODAY

God's faithfulness behind us should strengthen our faithfulness to the mission ahead of us.

PRACTICE

- **REMEMBER:** Thank God for one specific way He has been faithful during this season.
 - **RECOGNIZE:** Identify one way you can see His transforming work in your life.
 - **MOVE:** Name one step of obedience God is calling you to take next.
 - Consider how **I BELONG, I CARE, and I CONTRIBUTE** are becoming visible in the way you live.
 - Pray, “**Lord, I’m available for what comes next. Keep Jesus at the center of my life and Your mission at the center of what I do.**”
-

PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You for every prayer You have answered, every lesson You have taught, every season through which You have carried us, and every way You have been transforming us. Help us never become so focused on what is ahead that we forget to give You glory for what You have already done.

Continue renewing our minds and transforming our relationships. Teach us to belong, to care, and to contribute. Help us appreciate the different gifts, experiences, and capacities You have placed within Your body. Keep us from comparison, competition, pride, and division. Show each of us our part, and give us the faithfulness to bring it to Your mission.

As we move forward, keep Jesus at the center. Keep the gospel at the center. Keep Your glory as our purpose. We do not know everything that lies ahead, but we know You have been faithful. So give us courage to follow wherever You lead, humility to listen when You speak, and faith to obey when You call.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

REFLECTION QUESTION

As you remember what God has done and recognize how He has transformed you, what is the next faithful step He is calling you to take as you move forward with Him?