

WHATEVER!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU?

God has given each of us gifts and abilities, not for our own glory, but so that we can faithfully use them to serve others and glorify Him.

DAY 1 — RECOGNIZE YOUR GIFTS

Scripture: Romans 12:6

God has given every person something He can use. We may not have the same gifts, personalities, opportunities, or callings as someone else, but we all have something God has placed in our hands.

One of the easiest ways to become discouraged is to compare ourselves with other people. We see someone who sings, teaches, leads, encourages, or serves exceptionally well, and we think, *“I wish I could do that.”*

But God isn’t asking you to be someone else.

The sermon reminds us that we often compare our **behind-the-scenes** with someone else’s **highlight reel**. We don’t see their failures, struggles, practice, or years of development.

God gave different gifts because He designed His body to work together. A foot doesn’t need to become an eye. An ear doesn’t need to become a hand. Every part has a purpose.

Today, stop asking, “Why can’t I be like them?” and begin asking, “God, what have You given me?”

Reflect

- What am I naturally good at?
- What do people regularly come to me for?
- What brings me joy when I am doing it?
- Where have I seen God use me to help someone else?

Today’s Challenge

Write down **three gifts, abilities, or strengths** you believe God has given you. Thank Him for each one.

Prayer

Father, thank You for creating me uniquely and giving me gifts that You can use. Forgive me for comparing myself to others. Help me recognize what You have placed in my hands and see how You want to use my life. Amen.

DAY 2 — DEVELOP YOUR TALENTS

Scripture: 1 Timothy 4:14

Recognizing a gift is only the beginning. God gives the gift, but we have a responsibility to develop it.

There is a difference between **potential and preparedness**.

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A baby may have the potential to walk, but walking doesn't happen overnight. There is crawling, falling, getting back up, taking a step, falling again, and eventually learning to run.

The same is true spiritually.

David was anointed to become king, but before he ever stood before Goliath, he had spent years developing skills as a shepherd. His public victory was built on private preparation.

Some of the most important development in your life may happen where nobody is watching:

- The prayer nobody hears.
- The Bible study nobody knows about.
- The conversation nobody applauds.
- The opportunity to serve when nobody says thank you.

Don't neglect what God has given you. Develop it.

You don't have to be great immediately. **You simply need to be willing to grow.**

Reflect

- What gift or talent has God given me that needs development?
- What could I learn or practice to become better at using it?
- Am I making excuses for not growing?

Today's Challenge

Spend **15–30 minutes today** developing something God has given you. Read, practice, study, encourage, learn, or serve.

Prayer

Lord, thank You for the gifts You have placed in my life. Help me not to neglect them. Give me humility to learn, patience to grow, and discipline to develop what You have given me. Use my preparation for Your purposes. Amen.

DAY 3 — SERVE OTHERS

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10

God doesn't give us gifts primarily for ourselves. He gives us gifts so we can bless someone else.

Think about a flashlight. A flashlight isn't valuable because it shines on itself. Its purpose is to help someone else see. That's what our gifts are supposed to do.

Jesus demonstrated this perfectly when He washed His disciples' feet. The Son of God took a towel. The King became a servant. Jesus didn't simply talk about serving. **He demonstrated it.**

Serving may look impressive, but often it is incredibly ordinary:

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- Making coffee.
- Visiting someone who is lonely.
- Giving someone a ride.
- Cooking a meal.
- Praying with someone.
- Helping at the food pantry.
- Welcoming someone who is new.
- Working with children or teenagers.
- Doing something you don't particularly enjoy because someone else needs it done.

The question isn't simply, *"What can the church do for me?"*

The better question is: **"What can God do through me?"**

Reflect

- Who could I serve with the gifts God has given me?
- Am I waiting for someone to ask before I serve?
- Is there something I could do this week simply because someone else needs it?

Today's Challenge

Do **one intentional act of service today** without expecting recognition or appreciation.

Prayer

Jesus, You came not to be served but to serve. Give me the heart of a servant. Show me someone I can bless today. Help me use what You have given me—not for recognition, but to meet the needs of others and demonstrate Your love. Amen.

DAY 4 — GLORIFY GOD

Scripture: Matthew 5:16

There is a danger that comes even after we recognize our gifts, develop them, and use them to serve others.

We can make it about **ourselves**.

We may begin serving because we love God, but eventually become disappointed when nobody notices.

We can preach and want compliments. We can sing and want recognition. We can give and want our name attached to it. We can lead and become frustrated when someone else receives the credit.

Jesus reminds us that our good works should point beyond ourselves. The goal isn't for people to look at us and say, *"Look how talented they are."*

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The goal is for people to look at our lives and say:

“Look what God has done.”

Think about the moon. The moon is beautiful, but it doesn’t produce its own light. It reflects the light of the sun.

That is a picture of the Christian life.

We don’t exist to say, “Look how bright I am.” We exist to reflect the light of Christ.

Reflect

- Why do I serve—because I love God or because I want recognition?
- How do I respond when someone else receives credit?
- Am I using my gifts to make myself look good or to make Jesus look good?

Today’s Challenge

Do something good today **without telling anyone about it**. Let God receive the glory.

Prayer

Father, forgive me for the times I have used Your gifts for my own recognition. Help me decrease so that You can increase. May my gifts, talents, words, work, and service point people toward You. Let my life reflect the light of Christ. Amen.

DAY 5 — STAY FAITHFUL

Scripture: Colossians 3:23–24

We live in a culture that celebrates success.

Bigger.

Better.

Faster.

More followers.

More views.

More recognition.

But God’s kingdom often measures things differently.

God values faithfulness.

Faithfulness is showing up when nobody applauds.

Faithfulness is doing what is right when nobody sees.

Faithfulness is serving when you’re tired.

Faithfulness is continuing when you don’t see immediate results.

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Faithfulness is trusting God when you don't understand what He is doing.

The sermon reminds us that **nothing we do for Jesus is ever useless**. The prayer wasn't wasted. The conversation wasn't wasted. The meal wasn't wasted. The encouraging text wasn't wasted. The dollar you gave wasn't wasted. The time you served when nobody thanked you wasn't wasted.

God sees it.

Jesus told the servant in Matthew 25:21: "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Notice what Jesus didn't say: "*Well done, my famous servant.*"

He didn't say, "*Well done, my talented servant.*"

He said:

"Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Reflect

- Where am I tempted to give up because I don't see results?
- What has God called me to continue doing?
- Am I more concerned with being successful or being faithful?

Today's Challenge

Identify **one area where you need to remain faithful**. Commit it to God and take the next step of obedience.

Prayer

Lord, help me remain faithful even when nobody notices. When I am tired, strengthen me. When I am discouraged, encourage me. When I don't see results, help me trust You. Take whatever I have—whether big or small—and use it for Your kingdom. May I one day hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Amen.

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MY FIVE-DAY RESPONSE

After completing this devotional, take a few minutes to answer these five questions:

1. What has God gifted me to do?

Recognize your gifts.

2. How can I become better at what God has given me?

Develop your talents.

3. Who can I serve with what God has given me?

Serve others.

4. Am I using my gifts to make myself look good or to make Jesus look good?

Glorify God.

5. Will I continue doing what God has called me to do even when nobody notices?

Stay faithful.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER

Lord, take what You have placed in my hands and use it for Your glory. Help me recognize my gifts, develop my talents, serve others, glorify You, and remain faithful. May my life not draw attention to me, but point people to You. And when my work here is finished, may I hear the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Amen.