

GIFTED — PART ONE: DISCOVER

Week 4: “Put Your Gift to Work”

1 Peter 4:8–11

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.”

— 1 Peter 4:10

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, thank You for the gifts You have placed within each of us. As we gather, help us listen to You and to one another. Show us how we can use what You have given us to serve others and share Your love. Amen.

Theme: Discovering How God Works Through Us

For the past several weeks, we have explored what spiritual gifts are, why God gives different gifts to different people, and how we can begin discerning the ways God has gifted us. This week brings us to the most important step: **using them**.

Spiritual gifts are not trophies to identify or talents to admire. They are expressions of God's grace entrusted to us for the benefit of others.

The goal isn't simply to leave saying, “**Now I know my spiritual gift.**”

The goal is to leave saying, “**Now I know my next step.**”

Secular Quote: *“The purpose of life is to discover your gift. The work of life is to develop it. The meaning of life is to give your gift away.”*

— David Viscott

Starter Question: Think about a time when someone used their abilities, time, personality, or experience to make a meaningful difference in your life. What did they do, and why has it stayed with you?

Digging Deeper:

Read **1 Peter 4:8–11**

1. Peter calls Christians “stewards” of God's grace. A steward takes care of something entrusted to them rather than something they own. How does thinking of your spiritual gifts as something God has *entrusted* to you change the way you view them?

2. Peter says, “serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” Why do you think Scripture connects spiritual gifts so closely with serving other people?

3. Instead of asking only, “What is my gift?” consider the question, “Who can I bless with it?” Who are some people in our church or community who could benefit from the gifts God has placed within you?

Read **Ephesians 4:11–16**.

4. Paul describes church leaders as equipping God's people “for the work of ministry.” How is that different from the idea that pastors and church leaders are supposed to do most of the ministry while everyone else supports or watches?

5. What might change in a congregation if everyone began seeing themselves as a minister rather than simply someone who attends church?

Read **Matthew 25:14–30**.

6. The servants in Jesus' parable receive different amounts, but each is responsible for what has been entrusted to them. What keeps people from using what God has given them—fear, comparison, uncertainty, lack of confidence, waiting to be asked, or something else?

7. Have you ever dismissed something you are good at because it didn't seem “spiritual” enough? How might God use an ordinary skill, interest, life experience, relationship, or passion as part of ministry?

8. Spiritual gifts aren't limited to Sunday morning. Where could gifts such as mercy, encouragement, teaching, hospitality, leadership, generosity, administration, or evangelism make a difference outside the church building?

9. Looking back over this four-week journey, what have you learned about yourself that you didn't recognize when we began?

Actionable — What is my next step?

This week, don't simply identify your gift. **Put it somewhere.**

Complete these four statements:

I believe God may have gifted me in:

I see this gift confirmed when:

One place I would like to explore using this gift is:

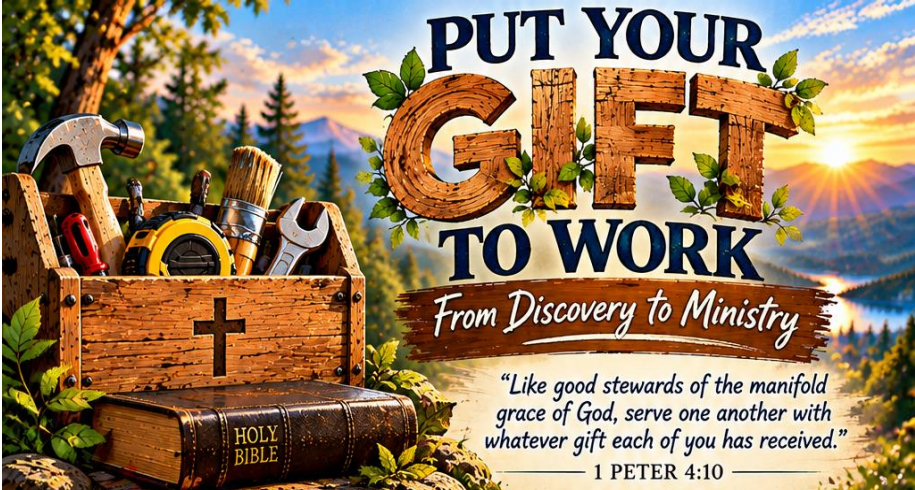
My next step is:

Then make the last answer specific. Rather than writing “*serve more*,” choose something you can actually do: contact someone, visit someone, join a ministry,

offer your help, lead something, invite someone, encourage someone, or explore beginning something new.

Remember: **You don't need to know the entire journey. You only need to take the next faithful step.**

Closing Prayer: God, everything we have comes from You. Take our gifts, abilities, experiences, and lives and use them for Your purposes. Give us courage to take our next step and show us where our gifts can become a blessing to others. Amen.



PUT YOUR GIFT TO WORK

From Discovery to Ministry

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— 1 PETER 4:10 —

 MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 Romans 12:1–8 Offer Yourself to God Begin by offering not just your gifts but your whole life to God. Paul then reminds us that we have different gifts according to the grace given to us. Reflect: <i>What part of my life or giftedness do I need to intentionally place in God's hands?</i>	 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27 Galatians 5:13–14 Use Your Freedom to Serve Paul gives a wonderfully simple picture of Christian life: through love become slaves to one another. Gifts become ministry when love motivates their use. Reflect: <i>Who is one person I can intentionally serve today?</i>
 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28 Ephesians 4:11–16 Equipped for Ministry God equips the whole Church for ministry. Every member contributes something as the Body grows together toward Christ. Reflect: <i>Where could my gifts strengthen someone else or help the Church grow?</i>	 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29 Matthew 25:31–40 Meet Jesus in Your Neighbor Jesus identifies himself with the hungry, thirsty, stranger, sick, and imprisoned. Sometimes using our gifts begins simply by noticing the person in front of us. Reflect: <i>Who around me might Jesus be inviting me to notice?</i>
 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30 Colossians 3:12–17, 23–24 Serve in Everything You Do Ministry isn't confined to a church program. Paul invites us to bring compassion, kindness, patience, love, gratitude, and wholehearted service into ordinary life. Reflect: <i>How could I approach something ordinary today as an opportunity to serve Christ?</i>	 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31 Isaiah 6:1–8 Here I Am. Send Me. End the week with Isaiah's response to God's call: "Here am I; send me!" After four weeks of understanding, exploring, discerning, and serving, this becomes the response of a gifted disciple. Reflect: <i>Where might God be sending me next?</i>