SEA CHANGE CHURCH

THE CURRENT

Rooted in the Spirit · S1E4

Gift Sandwich

A 7-Day Study

"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:7–11 ESV

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller · July 19, 2026

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each week, The Current walks through a piece of Sunday's passage: a short verse study, encouragement, journal questions, and a daily prayer.

Take one day at a time — there's no need to rush.

DAY 1

Sober-Minded for Prayer

> **1 PETER 4:7 ESV**
>
> *"The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers."*

VERSE STUDY

Peter doesn't open this passage with gifts. He opens it with urgency. "The end of all things is at hand" isn't a throwaway line — it's the frame for everything that follows. Whatever you do with your gift, you're doing it on limited time, not unlimited time.

Self-controlled. Sober-minded. Two words, one aim: a clear head in prayer. Not gifts first. Not service first. A clear mind before God, first. Skip this step and everything built on top of it gets shakier.

This is where the whole passage starts building. Before Peter ever says the word "gift," he spends three verses on maturity. That's not padding. That's the foundation the gift gets set on.

TAKE HEART

This isn't available someday once you've got it all figured out — it's available today, exactly where you are. A clear head before God isn't a reward for the mature; it's an invitation open to you right now.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where has urgency — or the lack of it — shaped how seriously you take your walk with God?
2. What tends to crowd out a clear, sober mind before you pray?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, give me a clear head today — not so I can perform or impress anyone, but so I can actually hear You. Quiet the noise competing for my attention, and help me slow down enough to notice You. Thank You for meeting me here, right where I am, without asking me to clean myself up first. Whatever this week holds, let it be built on time spent with You rather than on my own effort. I trust You with the time I don't have and the time I do. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Set aside ten unhurried minutes today for nothing but prayer. No agenda, no request list — just clarity.

NOTES — DAY 1

DAY 2

Love That Covers

> **1 PETER 4:8 ESV**
>
> *"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."*

VERSE STUDY

"Above all" is Peter underlining something right before he talks about supernatural gifts. Before wisdom, before healing, before speaking — love, ranked first, on purpose.

Earnestly isn't a casual word. It means stretched out, straining toward something — not love when it's convenient, but love that covers, the way a blanket covers, fully, not partially. A multitude of sins. Not one or two.

Paul says something almost identical from a different angle: gifts without love are just noise — a gong, a cymbal, nothing that lasts. Peter and Paul are pointing at the same wall from different rooms. Love isn't a nice addition to gifting. It's the room the gifting has to live in.

TAKE HEART

You don't have to love perfectly to be growing in this. Earnest just means you're still reaching, still trying, still willing to stretch — and that's exactly where God meets you.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where in your relationships is love currently more convenient than earnest?
2. Whose mistake have you been asked to cover with love this week — and have you?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

God, stretch my love past convenience today, especially toward someone who's tested it recently. Thank You for covering me first, long before I ever got this right. Show me where I've been keeping score instead of extending grace, and give me the strength to let it go. Help me love earnestly, not because it's easy, but because that's how You've loved me. And when I fall short, remind me that Your love covers that too. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Extend grace today to someone whose mistake you've been quietly holding against them.

NOTES — DAY 2

DAY 3

Hospitality Without Grumbling

> **1 PETER 4:9 ESV**
>
> *"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling."*

VERSE STUDY

Hospitality sounds warm until you read the second half of the sentence: without grumbling. Peter knew exactly what hospitality costs — time, money, inconvenience, a messier house — and named the temptation that comes with it.

This small verse is doing quiet, structural work. It's the third and final maturity marker before Peter gets to gifts: sober prayer, earnest love, ungrudging hospitality. None of them are flashy. All of them are the ground gifts get planted in.

Notice what's absent from this list. No mention of platform, talent, or stage presence. Maturity, in Peter's definition, looks like showing up for people without keeping score.

TAKE HEART

The small, unglamorous things you already do for people count for far more than you think. Maturity rarely looks impressive from the outside — it looks like showing up, again and again, without keeping score.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you offered hospitality with a grumbling heart instead of a willing one?
2. What would it cost you to be more hospitable this week — and is that cost actually the point?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Father, root out any resentment attached to how I serve or host others. Thank You for making me part of a family, not a transaction — for welcoming me long before I had anything to offer You. Give me a genuinely willing heart this week, not a grudging one, even when hospitality costs me time or comfort I'd rather keep for myself. Help me see the people in front of me the way You see them. Thank You for the ordinary chances to love people well that are already in front of me today. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Invite someone into your home, your table, or your time this week — and do it without mentioning the inconvenience.

NOTES — DAY 3

DAY 4

You Are a Steward, Not an Owner

> **1 PETER 4:10 ESV**
> *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."*

VERSE STUDY

"Each" — the same word Paul used in 1 Corinthians 12. No exceptions here either. But Peter adds a word Paul doesn't: steward. Oikonomos in Greek — a manager entrusted with someone else's resources.

A steward cares for something valuable without ever owning it. Picture a ranch hand who treats the herd like his life depends on it, while the cattle belong to someone else entirely. Or a butler handed the keys to a car he'll never actually own. That's the posture Peter is describing — full responsibility, zero ownership.

That distinction should relieve some pressure. Your gift was never yours to protect, hoard, or take credit for. It's on loan, from Someone who's still the owner, for a purpose bigger than your résumé.

TAKE HEART

Your gift was never yours to carry alone. It's on loan from Someone who's still fully present, fully invested, and fully willing to help you steward it well — you were never meant to manage this by yourself.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you treated your gift more like property than a loan?
2. What would change if you thought of yourself as a steward instead of an owner of what you're good at?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Thank You, God, for trusting me with something valuable. I confess I've sometimes treated my gift like property instead of a loan — protecting it, taking credit for it, forgetting where it came from. Keep me faithful with what isn't mine, and help me hold it with open hands. Thank You for trusting me at all, even with my track record. Give me the humility to steward this gift well today, for someone else's good and for Your glory. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Use your gift once today purely in service of someone else, with no thought of what it earns you.

NOTES — DAY 4

DAY 5

The Gift Sandwich

> **1 PETER 4:10–11 ESV**
>
> *"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace… in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."*

VERSE STUDY

Look at the shape of this passage, not just its sentences. Verses 7 through 9 are maturity — sober prayer, earnest love, ungrudging hospitality. Verse 11 ends in glory — "that in everything God may be glorified." Your gift, in verse 10, sits directly between them. A gift sandwich.

That placement isn't accidental. A gift with no maturity underneath it and no glory above it is dangerous — impressive for a season, unstable underneath. Peter doesn't let the gift float free. He locks it between character on one side and purpose on the other.

Here's a detail worth sitting with: your gifts won't exist in heaven. No gift of tongues there, no healing needed, nothing left to administrate. The fruit of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience — will still be there. The gifts are for right now, for this side of eternity, for the work still in front of you.

TAKE HEART

You get to be useful to God in a way that's unique to this life, this moment, this exact version of you. That's not a small thing — it's a window that won't stay open forever, so it's worth stepping through today.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. What's currently underneath your gift — is it resting on maturity, or running ahead of it?
2. Does it change how you use your gift today, knowing it's temporary but your character isn't?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, keep my gift sandwiched — never separated from maturity, never disconnected from Your glory. Thank You for trusting me with today, with this one life, this one window of time to be useful to You in a way that won't exist the same way again. Help me hold gift and character together instead of letting one run ahead of the other. When I'm tempted to chase impact for its own sake, remind me what it's actually for. Thank You that none of this depends on me getting it perfect — it depends on You. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Before you use your gift today, pause and ask what it's actually being used for — your name, or His.

NOTES — DAY 5

DAY 6

Speak and Serve as Christ Supplies

> **1 PETER 4:11 ESV**
> *"...whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies..."*

VERSE STUDY

Two categories cover nearly every gift in Scripture: speaking and serving. Peter doesn't leave either one to self-generated effort. Whoever speaks — as one speaking God's own words. Whoever serves — by strength God supplies, not strength scraped together on your own.

That's a high bar for both halves of the church — the visible gifts up front and the invisible gifts behind the scenes. Neither one runs on personal reserve. Both run on a supply line back to God.

It's worth asking where you've been operating on your own fumes instead of His supply — trying to sound wise instead of depending on Him for the words, or serving until you're depleted instead of drawing on strength that was never yours to begin with.

TAKE HEART

The supply line is already open. You don't have to generate what you need before you start — you just have to show up and draw on what's already been made available to you.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you been speaking or serving on your own strength instead of God's supply?
2. What would it look like to actually depend on Him mid-task, not just before you start?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

God, supply what I don't have today — specifically in whatever I'm about to speak or do. Forgive me for the times I've tried to run on my own strength instead of Yours, and ended up depleted because of it. Thank You that I never have to operate on empty with You — Your strength is available before I even ask. Help me pause mid-task today, not just before I start, and actually depend on You in real time. Whatever I speak or serve in today, let it come from Your supply, not mine. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Before your next significant conversation or task, pause and silently ask God to supply what you don't have.

NOTES — DAY 6

DAY 7

That God May Be Glorified

> **1 PETER 4:11 ESV**
> *"...in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*

VERSE STUDY

"In order that" is the hinge of the whole passage. Everything before it — maturity, gift, stewardship — exists for this one purpose. Not your fulfillment. Not your platform. That God may be glorified.

There's a practical habit worth building here: notice the threshold you cross every day — the door, the garage, the driveway — and let it become a marker. Before you cross it, ask what you're carrying out with you, and who you're being sent to serve. This whole passage is aimed at exactly that kind of intentional going.

Seven days in, the passage still ends where it started: not with your name in the credits, but His. Whatever gift you've identified this week, its finish line was never your own glory. It always belonged to Him — "forever and ever. Amen."

TAKE HEART

You were never carrying the weight of getting this right alone, and you're not carrying it alone going forward either. Whatever gift you've identified this week, Someone bigger than you is already invested in how it turns out.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. What's your version of "the threshold" — a doorway, a drive, a walk to your desk — where you could build the habit of asking what you're carrying out with you?
2. Looking back across this whole week, what's the one gift you're most convinced God has entrusted to you?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Let everything I do with my gift this week — visible or invisible, noticed or unnoticed — end in Your glory, not mine. Thank You for this week, for what You've shown me, and for the gift You've entrusted to me. Help me build the habit of pausing at the threshold, asking what I'm carrying out and who I'm being sent to serve. I don't want this to stay a private reflection — give me the courage to actually use what I've found. Thank You that this was never about my platform, and that You've been patient with me the whole way through. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Take the church's spiritual gifts assessment this week if you haven't already, and tell one person what you discover.

NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

1 Peter 4:10

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