

Simply One Page-God Out Ahead

This piece was created from my own reflections and vision. I used ChatGPT as a tool to help shape the text from my original concepts and structure. The final form is the result of thoughtful revision and my own editorial hand. Mike Haddorff-2601

For those of us who still keep a paper calendar, the one on the wall greeted me this morning with a simple reminder: *Today you start over. Today you begin something new.*

That thought prompted a video segment in my mind. Imagine walking down a busy street and noticing a man talking on one of those old brick-sized cell phones from the earliest days of mobile technology. It looks heavy, awkward, and wildly out of place. Everyone around him carries something smaller, faster, more capable. Yes, he is connected, but only barely, holding on to what once worked.

What I've come to realize is that I'm often that man.

I see it most clearly on the river. I step into the water confident, reaching for what worked last time, the same fly, the same seam, the same approach. Without thinking, I carry yesterday's solution into today's conditions.

But the river gently exposes that habit. The flow is different. The seams have shifted. The temperature has changed. The light is different. And slowly, it dawns on me: I'm fishing today's river with yesterday's toolset. I'm carrying a brick.

The river doesn't reward nostalgia. It responds to attention. When I slow down, when I watch instead of impose, I start asking a different question. Not *What worked before?* but *What's happening right now?* The moment I let go of certainty, I begin to sense what this water is inviting instead.

Faith, I've learned, moves the same way. The biblical story isn't about preserving methods; it's about trusting a living God who is always out ahead. Abraham leaves what is familiar. Israel learns dependence in the wilderness. The prophets disrupt settled assumptions. Jesus himself refuses to fit inherited categories. Again and again, God invites movement, not maintenance.

The danger isn't honoring what once worked. The danger is mistaking it for what must always work. When that happens, we stay loyal to the familiar while missing the deeper connection already being offered.

The calendar is right. Some days really are about starting over, about setting the brick down and opening our hands to what's unfolding now.

Reflection Question

Where in your own journey might you still be carrying what once worked, rather than paying attention to what is being offered today?