BEING USEFUL IN MINISTRY

Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa, D.D.

Published by WOT Publishing

WOT PUBLISHING

Copyright © 2025 by Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa. All rights reserved.

First Edition

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations used in articles or reviews.

Published by WOT Publishing

www.wotpublishing.com

Cover Design: WOT Publishing
Interior Formatting: WOT Publishing

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) and New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible. Where alternate translations are used, they are noted accordingly.

Scripture quotations marked NKJV are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

For inquiries, permissions, or bulk orders:
Email: books@wotmi.org
Web: www.wotpublishing.com
Tel: +256 742 302 566 / +256 786 821 888

Contents

Dedication....1
Introduction....2
Chapter 1: Becoming Useful – The Awakening of Purpose in the New Creation.3
Chapter 2: Vessels of Honour – Living Set Apart in a House of Mixtures....7
Chapter 3: Faithfulness – The Endurance of a Trusted Vessel....11
Chapter 4: Tested and Approved – The Pathway of Mentorship and Commendation....15
Chapter 5: Servanthood – The Posture of Power in the Kingdom....19
Chapter 6: Integrity – The Unseen Strength of a Trusted Vessel....23
Chapter 7: Humility – The Power of a Modest Spirit....27
Chapter 8: Courage – Standing Firm in the Face of Resistance....31
Chapter 9: Wisdom – Navigating Ministry with Discernment and Divine Precision....35
Chapter 10: Patience – Cultivating Endurance for Lasting Impact....39
Chapter 11: Perseverance – Committed to Finishing Well....43
Chapter 12: Pitfalls That Hinder Usefulness – The Silent Dismantling of Vessels 47
Chapter 13: Applying Usefulness in Ministry Today – Finding Your Role in the House....52
Chapter 14: When God Calls Your Name – Being Ready for the Hour of Use....56
Chapter 15: Final Charge – Becoming a Vessel God Can Always Count On....60
Acknowledgement....63
Scripture Index....64
Prayer of Salvation....69
About the Author....70
About the Ministry....71
Other Books by Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa....72

Dedication

To those who have chosen not only to serve in ministry, but to be made by God—

To the pastors, leaders, sons, and stewards who carry responsibility when no one is watching…
To those who labour behind pulpits and behind doors, with clean hands and heavy hearts…
To those who refuse to offer God what costs them nothing…

This book is for you.

And to my dear wife—thank you for creating an atmosphere where I could hear, write, and obey God.
To my children, who continue to teach me the weight of legacy.
To my spiritual father, **Pastor Chris Oyakhilome**, who taught me how to walk with God when no one is clapping.
To the saints and ministers of **Word of Truth Ministries International**, who carry vision with honour, and follow with fire—thank you.

You are proof that vessels can still be found in every generation—ready, trusted, and useful to the Master.

Introduction

Not every vessel in a great house is useful.
Some carry the sacred. Others are barely touched.
Some are called. Others are counted.
But only a few are trusted.

This book is not written for those content with attendance. It is written for those who desire participation. For those who understand that ministry is not a title, a performance, or a season—but a divine trust that demands a certain kind of man or woman to carry it. Being useful in ministry is not a matter of gifting alone. It is a matter of posture, purity, endurance, and faithfulness.

The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, used the language of vessels—some for honour, some for dishonour. He did not say God randomly assigns roles. He said, *"Therefore if anyone cleanses himself... he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master"* (2 Timothy 2:21). That verse does not describe a calling. It describes a choice.

This book is an invitation into that choice.

Each chapter is written to confront, correct, clarify, and commission. We move from theological foundations to practical alignments. From silent threats that hinder usefulness to the postures that prepare men for divine deployment. Whether you are a pastor, a worship leader, an intercessor, a helper, or a hidden steward, this message is for you.

You are not reading this by accident. Something in your spirit has longed to be trusted more deeply by God. Something in you refuses to settle for ordinary participation. You were born to be useful in the house of God—not for applause, but for impact. Not for position, but for eternal purpose.

As you read, don't just highlight truths. Let them highlight you. Let the Spirit speak. Let your hands be prepared. Let your name be remembered in heaven as **a vessel useful to the Master, prepared for every good work**.

Chapter 1: Becoming Useful – The Awakening of Purpose in the New Creation

Called for More Than Presence

There is a great difference between *being present in the house of God* and *being useful to the Master of the house.* While salvation brings us into the family of God, it is not the same as readiness for His most strategic purposes. Many are saved, but not all are *sharpened.* Many are called, but few become *consecrated instruments.*

The call to be useful is not a plea for performance—it is a call to **participation in purpose**. Paul, writing to Timothy, exhorts him to become a vessel *"sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work"* (2 Timothy 2:21). That phrase—**prepared**—implies more than identity. It speaks of readiness, of discipline, of separation. The Master does not randomly pick vessels—He reaches for those who are aligned, available, and *approved through process.*

Usefulness Is Not Earned—But It Must Be Activated

In Christ, we have been made new. *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). But this newness is not the end—it is the beginning of divine functionality. You are not made new just to be—**you are made new to be used**. The New Birth gives you nature; but usefulness demands formation.

You are not being invited into a works-based religion. You are being called into **son-based responsibility**. Grace does not cancel usefulness—it empowers it. It does not dismiss participation—it demands it. You were not born again to watch—you were reborn to **build**, **war**, **carry**, **speak**, and **manifest**.

John Mark: The Story of a Vessel Almost Left Behind

The Scriptures give us a living picture of the journey toward usefulness in the life of John Mark. He began with privilege—closely connected to Barnabas, invited on the apostolic journey with Paul. But something broke along the way. In Acts 13:13, we see him abandon the mission. And in Acts 15:38, Paul refuses to take him again—*he was not deemed dependable.*

This is the story of many believers: gifted, positioned, even anointed—but **unreliable**. And in the kingdom, **unreliability delays deployment**. John Mark was not cast away—but he was *withheld.* Until something changed.

Years later, near the end of his life, Paul writes to Timothy: *"Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry"* (2 Timothy 4:11). Something had shifted. A vessel once marked by retreat had become a man Paul now trusted. Not just as a person—but as a participant in the most sacred labour: **ministry**.

What happened in between? Restoration? Yes. But also *alignment. Formation. Reconnection with identity.* Mark's story is not about one who became qualified. It's about one who finally started walking in what he was already called to carry.

From Potential to Precision

The call to become useful is not about performance—it's about participation. It is not trying to become what you're not—it's about laying aside what you were never meant to carry. Every born-again believer has the potential to be used mightily by God. But not every believer chooses to submit to the processes that unlock that potential.

Usefulness is not reserved for the talented. It is reserved for the *yielded.* It is not about gifting—it is about **formation through fire**, and **dependability under divine pressure**.

This is the message Paul carried through all his writings: that grace empowers purpose, not passivity. That election must be met with

endurance. That being chosen does not eliminate the need for **consecration**.

Divine Usefulness Requires Agreement

The Spirit of God is searching for those who will not only be filled, but *poured out*. For those who will not only pray, but *stand*. For those who will not only confess Christ, but *carry His heart*.

You are not just a member of the body—you are a vessel in the house. And if you will **cleanse yourself** from what dishonours, **lay aside every weight**, and **yield to the shaping of the Spirit**, you will be made *fit for the Master's highest assignments*.

This is not the hour for believers who attend but do not advance. It is the hour for those who become **sharp instruments** in the hands of the King.

Practical Pathways to Becoming Useful

1. **Receive Your Identity, Then Rise into Your Function**
   Don't stop at "I am righteous." Let righteousness birth responsibility. You were born again to function in divine design.
2. **Embrace Formation, Not Just Favour**
   Favour opens doors, but only formation equips you to stand in them. Be trained. Be shaped. Submit to process.
3. **Identify and Lay Aside Every Weight**
   What has slowed your growth? Offence? Pleasure? Pride? Cleanse the vessel. God doesn't use cluttered hands.
4. **Reconnect with Apostolic Vision**
   Find alignment. Don't be a floating believer. Find the house, the fathering, the mission, and the mantle to which you were assigned.

5. **Return from Where You Stopped**
   Like John Mark, God can rewrite your story. But you must return to the place you stopped—*and start again, this time with faithfulness.*

Self-Examination and Prayer

Questions:

1. Am I merely in the house, or am I active in the hand of the Master?
2. Where did I pause in my growth? Where did I retreat from process?
3. Have I allowed grace to become a resting place, instead of a launching place?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for choosing me, calling me, and placing me in Your house. But I ask now to be more than present—I ask to be *profitable*. I want to be a vessel You can trust. A vessel You can reach for without hesitation. Forgive me for where I've drawn back, delayed, or buried what You've given me. I yield to the fire that forms. I embrace the call to function. I declare: I will not settle in the house—I will serve in Your hand. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 2: Vessels of Honour – Living Set Apart in a House of Mixtures

The Great House and the Hidden Warning

When Paul wrote to Timothy, *"In a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth..."* (2 Timothy 2:20), he was not giving a simple household illustration. He was unveiling a kingdom reality. The church, though God's house, contains a mixture—honour and dishonour, truth and error, faith and compromise. And within that house, every vessel must decide: Will I merely dwell here, or will I be made *fit for the Master's highest purposes*?

This was not a call to earn one's place in Christ—Paul had already taught that we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). Rather, it was a sober appeal to those who were already in the house: that they not settle into passivity, but rise into usefulness. There is a **distinction within the house**, and while all are present, *not all are profitable*. To be born of God is one thing; to be forged into an instrument of divine purpose is another.

Paul is not calling for salvation, but sanctification. Not for works to gain access, but for cleansing to gain *precision*. The gold may dwell beside clay in the house—but only the cleansed vessel becomes honourable in the hand of the Master.

Historical Context: A Letter Written in the Shadow of Collapse

Paul's second letter to Timothy was penned during his final imprisonment in Rome. The church was under pressure. Heresies were growing. Hymenaeus and Philetus were spreading doctrinal cancer (2 Timothy 2:17). Some had abandoned the truth altogether. It was in this context—amid rising compromise—that Paul delivered this word.

He wasn't addressing pagans. He was addressing the *household of God*, warning that not all within it were pure, and urging Timothy to raise a