

foundations

Serve

For no one can lay any foundation
other than the one already laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11

**DEVELOPING
WORKERS
FOUNDATIONS**

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Introduction

The purpose of this series of topical Bible studies is to help you lay a foundation for life change that will last for the rest of your life. Life change is about becoming more and more like Jesus.

Foundations follows the same process Jesus used to train His disciples:

1. Come

Come and get to know God and His people. This is the starting point of life change where we learn who God is and the importance of fellowship with other Christians.

2. Grow

Grow in your relationship with God. Learn how to grow spiritually through God's Word and prayer.

3. Serve by giving and caring for others

Learn about your spiritual gifts and abilities and how to give to and serve God and others through your church family.

4. Go and make disciples

Invest in the lives of others and invite them to know the Lord when they are ready. Then we make disciples by helping others go through this process.

This topical Bible study consists of questions that are answered by verses in the Bible. The verses are included for your convenience.

Additional questions with a "Q." beside them are included to stimulate discussion and provide an opportunity to put into practice what you are learning. Sometimes the answers are provided.

A summary is provided at the end of each chapter to provide an opportunity to review what you have learned.

Pray and ask the Lord for understanding and to change your life to be more like Jesus as you study each of the chapters.

Chapter 1. Serve Like Jesus

A mature Christian gives and cares for others just as Jesus did without expecting anything in return. In this section you will discover how God designed you (and all Christians) for ministry and develop and use your God-given gifts and abilities in serving God and others. This is contrary to what you have learned in the world but this is how you will experience deep joy and peace.

*John 15:10 – 12. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and **that your joy may be complete**. My command is this: **Love each other as I have loved you**.*

Q. How does serving someone show that you love them?

Follow the Example of Jesus

1. What reason did Jesus give for coming to the world?

Mark 10:45. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

2. How did Jesus serve people?

a. *Matthew 9:35. Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*

b. *John 13:3 – 5. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

3. What do we learn from Jesus?

John 13:12-17. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- I should not shrink from doing menial tasks.
- I show that Jesus is my Lord by serving others.
- I should allow others to serve me.
- I am blessed by serving others.

4. *Philippians 2:5-8. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

a. Whose attitude should you have?

b. What position did He take?

c. How did He show you the attitude he wants you to have?

He made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant.

He humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.

5. *Philippians 2:3-4. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

a. What does God want you to do?

b. Is there a situation in your life where you are not doing this?

c. What are you going to do about it?

Q. How is it possible to have the attitude God wants us to have and to serve others as described in these verses?

It is in our sinful nature to be selfish, vain, conceited, and self-centered. It is only when we give God control of our lives that we have the will and power to overcome our sinful nature and have the humility to consider others better than ourselves, look out to the interests of others, and be a servant.

What Jesus Wants for You

6. *Mark 1:31. So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.*

a. What did Simon's mother-in-law do after Jesus served her by healing her?

b. How has Jesus helped you?

c. What is your response?

Q. How have you allowed God to change your attitude and actions toward Him and others?

7. Whom should you serve?

a. *John 12:26. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me*

Serve Jesus

b. *Galatians 5:13. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*

Serve other Christians

c. *Galatians 6:10. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.*

Serve all people

d. *Hebrews 13:17, Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

Serve Christian leaders

8. During the Last Supper just before Jesus was crucified, He taught us about serving. *Luke 22:24-27. Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.*

a. What were His disciples arguing about?

Which of them was considered to be greatest

Q. What were the disciples focused on? Why?

Q. What should the disciples have been focused on? Why?

b. How did Jesus show them what they should do?

"But I am among you as one who serves"

Jesus washed their feet

c. How should you conduct yourself?

"the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves"

d. How is this different than the way the world says you should act?

"The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors"

The Joy of Serving

9. What does Jesus promise you if you will obey Him by serving others?

John 15:10 – 12. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Q. Tell of a time you served and the joy it brought.

10. What does Jesus promise you when you give to and serve others?

Luke 18:29 – 30. "I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."

11. Where is the attitude of joy to be found?

Psalms 16:11. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Q. What will happen to our joy of serving if we don't spend regular time with God?

If we don't spend regular time in the presence of God we will never know or we will lose the joy of serving Him.

Serve Others

12. What does God tell you to do?

Proverbs 3:27. Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

1John 3:17. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

13. Why is it important to serve in the little things?

Luke 16:10. Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

It shows how we will do in the big things.

14. How can you become a better listener in order to hear needs that you can meet by serving?

Ask questions to draw people out.

Pay attention, don't be thinking about what you want to say.

Give feedback to let people know that you understand:

- Their facts
- Their logic
- Their feelings

15. How can you become more observant in order to see needs that you can meet by serving?

Look for things that need to be done.

Watch someone who has a servant heart and learn from them.

16. What needs are you aware of that you could meet by serving?

Read the Summary and choose the one thing that means the most to you.

“Serve Like Jesus” Summary

- Follow the Example of Jesus
 - Jesus came to serve, not to be served
 - Jesus served by teaching, preaching, and healing
 - Jesus modeled servanthood by washing the disciple’s feet
 - Jesus humbled Himself as a servant
 - Don’t have selfish ambition or vain conceit
 - In humility consider others better than yourself
 - Look out for the interests of others
- What Jesus Wants for You
 - Serve others in response to what Jesus has done for you
 - You should serve Jesus, other Christians, all people, and Christian leaders
 - Greatness comes through serving
- The Joy of Serving
 - Your joy is made complete by loving and serving others
 - The benefits of serving far outweigh the cost
 - Remain in God’s presence to experience joy in serving
- Serve Others
 - Serve those in need as you are able
 - Learn to hear and see needs that you can meet
 - Serve like Jesus and experience His joy

Chapter 2. I Am a Minister

What Does God Say about Ministry?

Ephesians 4:11-12. (God) has given...pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up.

- God's People are the MINISTERS.
- The Pastors are to PREPARE God's people for ministry.

In the Bible the word "service" and "ministry" are the same word and "servant" and "minister" are the same word.

All of us are called to ministry.

What is Ministry?

Ministry is using whatever God has given you to serve him and the needs of others.

Three Areas of Ministry

1. To people's PHYSICAL needs.

Matthew 25:35-36, 40. (God says) I was hungry and you fed me...thirsty and you gave me a drink...needed clothes and you clothed me... sick and you cared for me...in prison and you visited me...Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me.

2. To people's EMOTIONAL needs.

1 Thessalonians 5:14. warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

3. To People's SPIRITUAL needs.

2 Corinthians 5:18. God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

Colossians 1:28-29 We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The results of mankind turning our back on God and sin entering the world were catastrophic: Hate, war, poverty, disease, and death. But as bad as these things are, spending an eternity in hell separated from God is worse by far. God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for our sin and also to make 12 disciples who would make other reproducing disciples until every person in every nation had a chance to respond to His free gift of eternal life.

Many countries and philanthropic non-Christians give their time and money to meet people's physical and emotional needs but only Christians have the words of eternal life that give people entry into heaven instead of spending an eternity in hell separated from God. We will discover in the "Go" section that our **primary task** in life is to minister to people's spiritual needs by telling them the Good News about God's grace.

*Acts 20:24. The **most important thing** is that I **complete my mission**, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me--to **tell people the Good News about God's grace**.*

The Purpose of Ministry

1 Corinthians 14:12. try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

God wants you to build up the church

Q. What is the church?

The church is the believers the believers in a church and all believers in the world.

The Priority of Ministry

(Why should you be interested?)

1. You've been CREATED for ministry!

Ephesians 2:10. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2. You've been CALLED into ministry!

Galatians 1:15. God, in His grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve Him.

3. You've been GIFTED for ministry!

1 Peter 4:10. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

4. The body of Christ NEEDS your ministry!

1 Corinthians 12:27. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

5. You will be REWARDED for your ministry!

Colossians 3:23, 24. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.

Q. What rewards are there for ministering for the Lord?

A life changing truth about your primary identity

YOU ARE A MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST!

1 Peter 2:5, 9. you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood... you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood. (A priest is a minister)

Q. How does it feel to know that you are a priest?

What Does the Bible Say About How God Has Shaped You?

Job 10:8. Your hands shaped me and made me

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry since you were born. In fact, God started uniquely shaping you even before you were born!

Psalm 139: 14-16. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful... My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place... your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

1. You were SHAPED for a purpose.
2. You are UNIQUE!
3. You are WONDERFULLY COMPLEX!

By reviewing and studying your inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and life experiences, you can discover the ministry God has for you...the *unique* way God intends for you to serve Him.

What God made you to **BE** determines what He intends for you to **DO**. You will understand the **purpose** you were created for when you understand the kind of **person** you are. This is the secret of knowing God's ministry for your life!

HOW GOD CREATED ME WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY

SPIRITUAL GIFT(S)

1 Corinthians 7:7. But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?

HEART

Philippians 2:13. for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?

ABILITIES

1 Corinthians 12:6. There are different kinds of working

Exodus 31:3. I (God)...have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts

WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?

PERSONALITY

1 Corinthians 2:11. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him

WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?

EXPERIENCES

- What SPIRITUAL experiences have I had?
Hebrews 5:12,13. There has been enough time for you to be teachers - BUT you still need to be taught... (you are) without any experience in the matter of right and wrong.
- What PAINFUL experiences have I had?
2 Corinthians 1:4. who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
- What EDUCATIONAL experiences (formal and informal) have I had?
Proverbs 4:13. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.
- What MINISTRY experiences have I had?
2 Corinthians 9:13. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of your HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCE!

SUCCESS IS DOING WHAT GOD MADE YOU TO DO!

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1. Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant.

SPIRITUAL GIFT: A special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every Believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 2:14. Only BELIEVERS have spiritual gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 7:7. Every Christian has at least ONE gift.
- 1 Corinthians 12:27-30. No one receives ALL the gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 12:29-30. No single gift is given to EVERYONE.
- Ephesians 4:7. You cannot EARN/WORK FOR a gift.
- 1 Corinthians 12:11. The HOLY SPIRIT decides what gifts I get.
- 1 Timothy 4:14. I am to DEVELOP the gifts God gives me.
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-2. It is a sin to WASTE your gifts.
- John 15:8. Using my gifts GLORIFIES God and MATURES me.

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

A. Not for my benefit, but FOR OTHERS.

1 Peter 4:10. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Corinthians 12:7. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

B. To produce MATURITY, STABILITY, and UNITY in our church

Ephesians 4:11, 13, 14. It was he who gave (spiritual gifts)... so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature... Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves...

Cautions About Spiritual Gifts

1. Do not confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. *Galatians 5:22, 23*. Do not confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit.
 - "Fruit" shows my Maturity.
 - "Gifts" show my Ministry.
3. Do not confuse gifts with Christian roles.
4. Be aware of expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.
5. *1 Corinthians 12:21*. Do not feel your gift makes you superior to others.
6. Realize that using your gifts without love is worthless!
1 Corinthians 13:1-3. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels... If I have the gift of prophecy... if I have a faith that can move mountains... If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.
7. Recognize that you have both a Primary and Secondary ministry:
 - Your primary ministry is where you are GIFTED.
 - Your secondary ministry is where you are NEEDED as you are available.

Context for Spiritual Gifts

1. **What** does God want us to do?
 - Jesus told us that to be His disciple we must **obey everything** He commanded.
 - The Bible is not a menu from which we choose what we will and will not do.
2. **How** does God want us to accomplish His will for our lives?
 - We accomplish His will for our lives through how He uniquely created us and gifted us.
 - Some people say they don't have to do certain things that God has commanded because they are not gifted in that area.
 - An example is people who say they don't share their faith because they don't have the gift of evangelism.
 - God has commanded all of us to share our faith whether we have the gift of evangelism or not.
 - We lead people to Christ through our own unique gifts.
3. **Where and when** we serve God in different areas depends on **the call of God** in our lives.
 - God may call us to serve in our church or God may call us to go on short term mission trips or even become a missionary to a particular country.
 - God may call us to one area of ministry while our family is young and another area of ministry after retirement.

How to Discover Your Gifts

- STUDY. Read books on spiritual gifts.
- TEST. Experiment with different areas of service
- ANALYZE. Use the "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" Tool in Chapter 3
- REQUEST RESPONSES FROM OTHERS. Ask others what gifts they see in you.
- TAKE TRAINING. Take advantage of learning opportunities

Three Ways God Wants You to Use Your Gifts

1. Through an Ongoing Ministry
2. Through Short-term Projects
3. Through Spontaneous Situations

"I Am a Minister" Summary

- What Does God Say about Ministry?
 - God's people are the ministers
 - The pastors prepare God's people for ministry
- Three Areas of Ministry
 - Physical, emotional, and spiritual needs
 - Our primary task in life is to minister to people's spiritual needs by sharing the gospel
- The Purpose of Ministry
 - Build up the church
- The Priority of Ministry
 - You've been CREATED for ministry!
 - You've been CALLED into ministry!
 - You've been GIFTED for ministry!
 - The body of Christ NEEDS your ministry!
 - You will be REWARDED for your ministry!
- A life changing truth about your primary identity
 - YOU ARE A MINISTER OF JESUS CHRIST!
- What Does the Bible Say About How God Has Shaped You?
 - You were SHAPED for a purpose.
 - You are UNIQUE!
 - You are WONDERFULLY COMPLEX!
- HOW GOD CREATED ME WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY
 - SPIRITUAL GIFT(S): WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?
 - HEART: WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?
 - ABILITIES: WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?
 - PERSONALITY: WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?
 - EXPERIENCES: What spiritual, painful, educational, and ministry experiences have I had?
- Success Is Doing what God Made You to Do!
- SPIRITUAL GIFT: A special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every Believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ.
 - Only BELIEVERS have spiritual gifts.
 - Every Christian has at least ONE gift.
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 - You cannot EARN/WORK FOR a gift.

- The HOLY SPIRIT decides what gifts I get.
- I am to DEVELOP the gifts God gives me.
- It is a sin to WASTE your gifts.
- Using my gifts GLORIFIES God and MATURES me.
- The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
 - Not for my benefit, but FOR OTHERS.
 - To produce MATURITY, STABILITY, and UNITY in our church
- Cautions About Spiritual Gifts
 - Do not confuse gifts with natural talents.
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 - Be aware of expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.
 - Do not feel your gift makes you superior to others. *1 Corinthians 12:21*
 - Realize that using your gifts without love is worthless!
 - Recognize that you have both a Primary and Secondary ministry in your church:
 - Your primary ministry is where you are GIFTED.
 - Your secondary ministry is where you are NEEDED as you are available.
- Context for Spiritual Gifts
 - **What** does God want us to do?
 - Obey all of His commands to accomplish His will for our lives
 - **How** does God want us to accomplish His will for our lives?
 - Through how He uniquely created us and gifted us.
 - We can't choose which commands to obey based on our giftedness
 - **Where** and **when** we serve God in different areas depends on the call of God in our lives.

How to Discover Your Gifts

- **STUDY**. Read books on spiritual gifts.
- **TEST**. Experiment with different areas of service
- **ANALYZE**. Use the "Spiritual Gifts Inventory" Tool in Chapter 3
- **REQUEST RESPONSES FROM OTHERS**. Ask others what gifts they see in you.
- **TAKE TRAINING**. Take advantage of learning opportunities
- Three Ways God Wants You to Use Your Gifts
 - Through an Ongoing Ministry
 - Through Short-term Projects
 - Through Spontaneous Situations

Chapter 3. Spiritual Gifts Are for Serving

What are some of the Spiritual Gifts? The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts (or even their definitions). The four major lists of gifts are found in

- Romans 12:4-8;
- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; and
- Ephesians 4:11-12; and
- 1 Peter 4:9-11,

But there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes. So, we've categorized this list of gifts according to God's purposes. As you read through this list, check off your initial impression concerning yourself.

Remember, you can possess several gifts.

Gifts that Communicate God's Word

(To both unbelievers and believers)

Preaching. ("Prophecy") 1 Corinthians 14:3

The ability to publicly communicate God's word in an inspired and convincing way to unbelievers and yet challenge and comfort believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

Evangelism. Acts 8:26-40

The ability to effectively communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers, causing them to respond. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

Apostle. Romans 15:20

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

Gifts That Educate God's People

Teaching. Ephesians 4:12-13

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

Encouragement. ("Exhortation") Acts 14:22

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and act on Biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

Wisdom. 1 Corinthians 2:1, 6-16

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

Discernment. 1 John 4:1-6

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

Knowledge. Daniel 1:17

The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

Gifts That Demonstrate God's Love**Service.** Acts 6:1-7

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition

Mercy. Luke 10:30-37

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

Hospitality. 1 Peter 4:9-10

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship

Shepherding. ("Pastoring") 1 Peter 5:2-4

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of believers and equip them for ministry.

Giving. 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

Gifts That Celebrate God's Presence**Worship-Related Gifts****Music.** Psalm 150

The ability to celebrate God's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to lead the church family in worship.

Arts & Crafts. Exodus 31:3-11

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

Prayer-Related Gifts**Intercession.** Colossians 1:9-12

The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

Healing. James 5:14-16

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

Miracles. Mark 11:23-24

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

Praying with My Spirit. ("Tongues/Interpretation") 1 Corinthians 14:13-15

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

This gift caused problems in the Corinthian church and Paul had to write an entire chapter of guidelines (1 Corinthians 14). Speaking in tongues must be done under the guidance of Scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:4. Without interpretation, the gift is for personal edification, not for the whole church. "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who preaches edifies the church."

1 Corinthians 14:23. It confuses unbelievers in the service. "...so, if some unbelievers come in, will they not say you are out of your mind?"

1 Corinthians 14:19-20. Preaching (or Prophecy) is a more valuable gift for a worship service than Speaking in Tongues "in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue."

1 Corinthians 14:32-33 "The gift of speaking God's message should be under the speaker's control, because God does not want us to be in disorder, but in harmony and peace."

Gifts That Support All Above Purposes

Leadership. Hebrews 13:7,17, Romans 12:8

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction ("vision") of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplishing a ministry goal.

Administration. ("Organization") 1 Corinthians 14:40

The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to a ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.

Faith. Romans 4:18-21

The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

Spiritual Gifts Inventory

Each statement in the following inventory has five possible responses. Read the statement and decide to what degree the statement is true of you. In the left margin put the number that best fits your response.

This inventory is intended to be a guideline in helping you determine your service gift(s).
(Sign gifts such as tongues, healing and miracles are not included in this inventory.)

The following is true of me.

1. Very Little, 2. Little, 3. Some, 4. Much, 5 Very much

- 1. I have firmly presented the truths of God to people.
- 2. People are able to understand a passage of the Bible when I teach.
- 3. I enjoy doing jobs that help others in their ministries.
- 4. I often encourage people to live Christian lives.
- 5. I enjoy the challenge of giving to meet financial needs in my church and community.
- 6. I am able to motivate groups toward biblical goals.
- 7. I am aware of people who are hurting and know how to respond to their needs.
- 8. I often have insights as to the proper course of action that others should take.
- 9. At times, I have been aware of a situation or an event that others do not understand.
- 10. I have had the confidence to trust God in specific situations even when others saw the situation as hopeless.
- 11. I have the ability to distinguish between spiritual truth and error.
- 12. I do not mind working in the background if I can help others.
- 13. I am able to organize ideas and people for the performing of tasks.
- 14. I enjoy talking about Jesus to those who don't know Him.
- 15. I have been successful in overseeing the spiritual growth of others.
- 16. I enjoy providing a haven for guests and do not feel put upon by unexpected visitors.
- 17. I take prayer requests of others seriously and continue to pray for them.
- 18. I enjoy starting new ministries from scratch.
- 19. I feel closest to God when I am singing or playing music.
- 20. Creative expression seems to come naturally to me.
- 21. I have proclaimed timely and urgent messages from the Bible.
- 22. Answering questions to clarify the truth is my greatest joy.
- 23. I like to accomplish little jobs that help build the body of Christ.
- 24. Other Christians have been stimulated to love and good works by my counsel and encouragement.
- 25. I give cheerfully and liberally to support the Lord's work.
- 26. I enjoy leading others toward goals that result in meeting needs in people's lives.
- 27. Working with people who suffer physical, mental, or emotional problems is fulfilling.
- 28. I usually know how to apply the truth to specific circumstances.
- 29. I have the ability to discover new truths for myself.
- 30. In specific situations I have had the confidence that God would do what seemed unlikely to others.

- ___ 31. I have detected deceptive people and teaching when others have not.
- ___ 32. I enjoy helping others so they are free for other ministries.
- ___ 33. My plans usually result in accomplishing the goal.
- ___ 34. I have had a part in leading others to believe in Christ as their Savior.
- ___ 35. I do all I can to prevent a Christian from being led astray.
- ___ 36. I have a knack for making a stranger feel at ease in my home or at church.
- ___ 37. I pray for others, recognizing their effectiveness depends on it.
- ___ 38. I would rather risk starting new than having the hassle of changing an existing church.
- ___ 39. I enjoy leading others in song, whether vocally or with instruments.
- ___ 40. When I watch a service, I can think of those few "extras" that would have brought the message across more powerfully.
- ___ 41. God uses me to edify and challenge others by boldly sharing the truths of God's work.
- ___ 42. I am able to hold the interest of those I teach.
- ___ 43. I enjoy finding practical ways of helping others.
- ___ 44. I am prepared to give comfort, encouragement, and counsel when people seek my help.
- ___ 45. I am always ready to help individuals and the Lord's work through generous giving.
- ___ 46. I have successfully helped groups work toward their goals.
- ___ 47. I enjoy ministering to sick, helpless, and shut-in persons.
- ___ 48. I have the ability to apply God's truth to difficult situations.
- ___ 49. The insights I possess and share with other people bring changes in attitude and conviction.
- ___ 50. I am able to go on praying and believing that God will act in a situation in spite of contrary evidence.
- ___ 51. I can discern between good and evil in today's world even when it isn't clear to others.
- ___ 52. I like to relieve others of everyday tasks when they have more responsibilities than they can handle.
- ___ 53. I am able to delegate an important task to the right person at the right time.
- ___ 54. I am able to share the gospel in a clear and meaningful way to non-believers.
- ___ 55. The Lord has used me to guide and nurture other believers toward spiritual maturity.
- ___ 56. I tend to be more aware of the needs of a guest than my own.
- ___ 57. I would be pleased if someone asked me to be a prayer partner in their ministry.
- ___ 58. I hope to be involved in starting a new church someday.
- ___ 59. Others say that when I have lead worship it brought them closer to God.
- ___ 60. I enjoy creating an environment where people can meet God.

Enter the number value (1-5) for each of your responses in the inventory next to the corresponding number on the chart. Then add across to find your total for that gift. Scores of 12 and above indicate a strength in a particular gift area.

- 1. ___ 21. ___ 41. ___ = ___ Preaching (Prophecy)
- 2. ___ 22. ___ 42. ___ = ___ Teaching
- 3. ___ 23. ___ 43. ___ = ___ Serving
- 4. ___ 24. ___ 44. ___ = ___ Exhortation (Encouragement)
- 5. ___ 25. ___ 45. ___ = ___ Giving
- 6. ___ 26. ___ 46. ___ = ___ Leadership
- 7. ___ 27. ___ 47. ___ = ___ Mercy
- 8. ___ 28. ___ 48. ___ = ___ Wisdom
- 9. ___ 29. ___ 49. ___ = ___ Knowledge
- 10. ___ 30. ___ 50. ___ = ___ Faith
- 11. ___ 31. ___ 51. ___ = ___ Discernment
- 12. ___ 32. ___ 52. ___ = ___ Helps
- 13. ___ 33. ___ 53. ___ = ___ Administration
- 14. ___ 34. ___ 54. ___ = ___ Evangelism
- 15. ___ 35. ___ 55. ___ = ___ Shepherding (Pastoring)
- 16. ___ 36. ___ 56. ___ = ___ Hospitality
- 17. ___ 37. ___ 57. ___ = ___ Intercession (Prayer)
- 18. ___ 38. ___ 58. ___ = ___ Apostle
- 19. ___ 39. ___ 59. ___ = ___ Music
- 20. ___ 40. ___ 60. ___ = ___ Arts/Crafts

List your spiritual gifts with a score of 12 or above:

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

Note: List your spiritual gifts in your Ministry Profile at the end of Chapter 5

Q. What spiritual gifts do you have?

Q. Were you surprised by what you discovered about yourself?

Chapter 4. Serve Through Your Passions, Abilities, and Personality

Monitoring My Heartbeat

Definition of "Heart"

- Your passion
- Your emotional constitution or disposition
- The vital force or driving impulse

The Bible uses the term "heart" to represent the center of your motivation, desires, and inclinations. Psalm 37:4. *Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

My Heart Determines:

- Why I say the things I do
Matthew 12:34. The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.
- Why I feel the way I do
Hebrews 4:12. The Word of God...examines the thoughts and motives of the heart
- Why I act the way I do
Proverbs 4:23. Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Please circle the three or four that best describe your passion(s).

I Love To:

Design/Develop. I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.

Pioneer. I love to test and try out new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.

Operate/Maintain. I love to efficiently maintain something that is already designed.

Serve/Help. I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.

Acquire/Possess. I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.

Excel. I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.

Influence. I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others.

Perform. I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.

Improve. I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.

Repair. I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.

Lead/Be in Charge. I love to lead the way, oversee, and supervise. I enjoy determining how things should be done.

Persevere. I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.

Follow the Rules. I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.

Prevail. I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

You should be able to support your choice with examples from your achievements.

Example: I feel the basic motivation God put in my heart is to “Acquire/Possess:” My history demonstrates this because:

- I purchased my first car at the age of 16.
- I’ve collected a collection of rare stamps.
- I’ve built up a large cash reserve.
- I’ve acquired options on three properties.

I feel the basic motivation God put in my heart is to:

My history demonstrates this because:

1. The people I would like to help the most are:

- Infants
- Children
- Youth
- Teen moms
- Single moms
- College students
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Singles
- Career women
- Young married
- Refugees
- Parents
- Empty nesters
- Homeless
- Unemployed
- Elderly
- Disabled
- Prisoners
- Poor
- Hospitalized
- Cross Cultural
- Others (specify): _____

2. The issues or causes I feel strongly about are:

- Environment
- Childcare
- Homosexuality
- Discipleship
- AIDS
- Politics
- Violence
- Injustice
- Racism
- Education
- Addiction
- International
- Economic
- Reaching the lost
- Technology
- Health care
- Poverty
- Family
- Abortion
- Hunger
- Literacy
- Church
- Missions
- Physical fitness
- Military
- Others (specify) _____

3. The areas I think I can make the most significant contribution are:

Conclusion

Making a statement of your passion or heart for ministry is not easy for everyone. As you think, pray, and gain more ministry experience, your heart for ministry will gradually become more evident.

Note: List your motivations in your Ministry Profile at the end of Chapter 5

Applying My Abilities

1 Corinthians 12:6. There are different abilities to perform service

Exodus 31:3. I (God gave) skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is “I just don’t have any abilities to offer.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is matching your abilities with the right ministry!

Five True or False Statements about Abilities (Skills and Talents)

1. T or F *People aren’t born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.* This simply is not true. There are a number of skills which seem to be inborn or are developed very early in infancy. When people say, “He just seems to have a natural talent for it,” it’s probably true!
2. T or F *Those skills which must be learned, are learned primarily in the classroom.* Actually, some of your most basic skills were learned at home, “in the street,” or somewhere else outside the classroom.
3. T or F *If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.* Again, this is not true. You are probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of! You need some process of skill identification.
4. T or F *Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn’t use them in ministry.* Hopefully, by the end of this class, you’ll see the fallacy of this idea. Be creative!
5. T or F *Most people only have a very few abilities.* The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from five hundred to seven hundred skills!

How to Discover Your Motivated Abilities

Look over the list of verbs associated with the Specialized Abilities below. Take a minute and circle those abilities you feel you have.

Specialized Abilities

Entertaining ability. To perform, act, dance, speak, magic

Recruiting ability. To enlist and motivate people to get involved

Interviewing ability. To discover what others are really like

Researching ability. To read and gather information/collect data

Artistic ability. To conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings

Graphics ability. To lay out, design, create visual displays or banners

Evaluating ability. To analyze data and draw conclusions

Planning ability. To strategize, design and organize programs and events

Counseling ability. To listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity

Teaching ability. To explain, train, demonstrate or tutor

Writing ability. To write articles, letters or books

Editing ability. To proofread or rewrite

Promoting ability. To advertise or promote events and activities

Repairing ability. To fix, restore, maintain

Feeding ability. To create meals for large or small groups

Recall ability. To remember or recall names and facts

Resourceful ability. To search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed

Counting ability. To work with numbers, data or money

Welcoming ability. To convey warmth, develop rapport or make others feel comfortable

Composing ability. To write music or lyrics

Landscaping ability. To do gardening and work with plants

Decorating ability. To beautify a setting for a special event

Mechanical ability . To operate equipment, tools or machinery ability

Public Relations ability. To handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy

Classifying ability. To systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily.

Managing ability. To supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved.

Note: List your specialized abilities in your Ministry Profile at the end of Chapter 5

Identifying My Personality

In ministry, two factors of your personality are especially influential in terms of how you function in ministry. Those two factors are:

1. How are you energized? (Task-Oriented or People Oriented)
2. How are you organized? (Unstructured or Structured)

How are you energized?

If you are **Task-Oriented**:

- The primary content of your ministry should be accomplishing tasks that serve people.
- Your primary focus should be on task accomplishment.

If you are **People-Oriented**:

- The primary content of your ministry should be more involved with direct people interaction.
- Your primary focus should be on relational issues.

Both Task-Oriented and People-Oriented personality styles value developing relationships and meeting goals, but each has a primary and secondary means of achieving them.

How are you Organized?

If you are **Unstructured**:

- Your ministry position should be generally described.
- Your relationships with others should be spontaneous.

If you are **Structured**:

- Your ministry position should be clearly defined.
- Your relationship with others should be consistent.

How am I Energized Assessment Tool

Circle the number that illustrates how close you are to one of the answers (left or right).

1. I'm more comfortable:
doing things for people 1 2 3 4 5 being with people
2. When doing a task, I tend to:
focus on the goal 1 2 3 4 5 focus on relationships
3. I get more excited about:
advancing a cause 1 2 3 4 5 creating community
4. I feel I have accomplished something when I've:
gotten the job done 1 2 3 4 5 built a relationship
5. It is more important to start a meeting:
on time 1 2 3 4 5 when everyone gets there
6. I'm more concerned with:
meeting a deadline 1 2 3 4 5 maintaining a team

7. I place higher value on:
action 1 2 3 4 5 communication

TOTAL SCORE = _____

Adapted from Network, by Bugbee et.al., page 118

Total score:

20 or less indicates a **Task-Oriented** personality style

21 and above indicates a **People-Oriented** personality style.

The lower the score, the more task-oriented, and the higher the score the more people-oriented.

No score is wrong!!!

How I am Organized Assessment Tool

Circle the number that illustrates how close you are to one of the answers (left or right).

1. While on vacation I prefer to:

be spontaneous 1 2 3 4 5 follow a set plan

2. I prefer set guidelines that are:

General 1 2 3 4 5 specific

3. I prefer to...

leave my options open 1 2 3 4 5 settle things now

4. I prefer projects that have:

variety 1 2 3 4 5 routine

5. I like to:

play it by ear 1 2 3 4 5 stick to a plan

6. I find routine:

boring 1 2 3 4 5 restful

7. I accomplish tasks best:

by working it out as I go 1 2 3 4 5 by following a plan

TOTAL SCORE = _____

Adapted from Network, Bugbee et.al., page 117

Total score:

20 or less indicates an **Unstructured** personality style

21 or above indicated a **Structured** personality style.

Again, no score is wrong!!

From these surveys, you should be able to identify which style best “fits” you:

____ Task/Unstructured ____ Task/Structured

____ People/Unstructured ____ People/Structured

If you are **Task/Unstructured**, you should consider a ministry position that needs you to fulfill a wide variety of responsibilities.

If you are **Task/Structured**, you should consider a ministry position that allows you to know clearly what the goals are and how the task is to be accomplished.

If you are **People/Unstructured**, you should consider a ministry position that gives you the freedom to respond to people spontaneously.

If you are **People/Structured**, you should consider a ministry position that will enable you to interact with people in a more stable or defined setting.

Note: List your personality assessments in your Ministry Profile at the end of Chapter 5

“Serve Through Your Passions, Abilities, and Personality” Summary

- Discover My Passion
 - Things I love to do
 - My past achievements demonstrate areas of my passion
 - People I like to help
 - Issues I feel strongly about
- Applying My Abilities
 - The truth about abilities
 - Many skills are inborn and not learned by experience
 - Many skills are learned outside of a classroom
 - I have abilities that I may not be aware of
 - I can use my work skills in ministry
 - I have hundreds of abilities
 - Discover my specialized abilities
- Identifying My Personality
 - How am I energized?
 - Task accomplishment
 - People interaction
 - How am I organized?
 - Unstructured
 - Structured

Chapter 5. Find Your Place of Service in the Church

Experience

If you are like most people, you have never taken time to sort out and identify the things you are good at and motivated to accomplish. As a result, it is unlikely that you use these talents as completely or effectively as you could. The key to understanding your heartbeat is to look at your past accomplishments.

List and describe your accomplishments since childhood. Some examples are:

“I put on plays for the neighborhood kids with costumes, props, etc. We transformed the shed in back of our house into a fairyland with lighting effects, decorations and princesses.”

“I started a Kool-aid stand in 4th grade and expanded it into three different stands. It was fun and I made money!”

“I had a job as a printer’s assistant and developed a method of cutting stereotypes which was faster and more accurate.”

“I ran for class president and won when I was in school.”

“I have always liked to build things. Before I got married, I completely rebuilt the little apartment I was living in.”

“I successfully led protest marches against toxic wastes in my hometown and got local TV coverage.”

“I set a goal to read fifteen books over the summer and I did.”

What to Include:

- Accomplishments at home, school, work, etc.
- Things you enjoyed doing.
- Things you believe you did well.
 - Give specific details about what you did.
 - Forget what other people think about it.
 - Remember, you’re recalling things you enjoyed doing and did well (accomplishments), not simply pleasant experiences.
 - *Bad Example:* Had a great vacation in Canada
 - *Good Example:* Took some stunning photos during my vacation
 - You do not have to cover every year of your life. Just focus on what you feel are the highlights of things you’ve done.

Experience Worksheet

What have you excelled at both in your past and present?

At Home

In your Neighborhood (Social and Service functions)

At your Workplace (Skills, Responsibilities, Leadership or Team Roles)

In a Church

In the Community

As you've traveled (Short term mission trips, camps, etc.)

Through Special Interests (Hobbies, Social and Service Groups, Leisure)

Note: List your experience in your Ministry Profile at the end of this chapter

Where do I go from here?

1. Commit to use the gifts and abilities God has given you for His glory!
2. Transfer the results from your different self-evaluations to your Ministry Profile form.
3. Learn about ministry opportunities from other people
4. Listen for service opportunity announcements during the worship service.
5. Find your joyful place of service and serve others to become more like Jesus

“Find Your Place of Service in the Church” Summary

- What I have excelled at in the past and present
 - At home
 - In my Neighborhood (Social and Service functions)
 - At my Workplace (Skills, Responsibilities, Leadership or Team Roles)
 - In my church
 - In the community
 - As I've traveled (Short term mission trips, camps, etc.)
 - Through Special Interests (Hobbies, Social and Service Groups, Leisure)
- Where do I go from here?
 - Commit to use the gifts and abilities God has given you for His glory!
 - Learn about ministry opportunities from other people
 - Listen for service opportunity announcements during the worship service

Ministry Profile

In ministry, discovering your spiritual gift(s), your heart or passion for ministry, and your unique personality will help identify the ministry God has for you.

Spiritual Gifts (from *Spiritual Gifts Inventory*)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I feel I have these gifts because:

1.

2.

3.

Heart (What I have a passion for from *Monitoring Your Heartbeat*)

1. The people I would like to help the most are:

2. The issues or causes I feel strongly about are:

3. Where I think I can make the most significant contribution is:

Abilities

1. My specialized abilities include (*Abilities Inventory*)

Personality

This is how I see myself (“How I am Organized” assessment tool):

____ Task/Unstructured

____ Task/Structured

____ People/Unstructured

____ People/Structured

Experience (These are the experiences from my past that I enjoyed and would like to do for the church)

Ministry/Job/Responsibility, Where? Years of experience?

1.

2.

3.

Chapter 6, Serve by Giving

Stewardship

Stewardship is about managing what God has given you.

1. What are some areas God expects you to manage well?
 - a. *Proverbs 3:9-10. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*
 - b. *Romans 12:6. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.*
 - c. *1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*
 - d. *Ephesians 5:15-16. ("every opportunity is also translated as "time") Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

2. What is to be your first priority in life?

Matthew 6:33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

3. What is to be a higher priority than your ministry?

1 Timothy 3:4-5. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

4. How important is work?

- a. *1 Corinthians 10:31. whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God*

Work as if God were your boss (and He is)

- b. *2 Thessalonians 3:7-9. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow.*

5. Number your existing priorities below (1-5).

God's Priorities Existing Priorities

- | | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| 1 | God | _____ |
| 2 | Family | _____ |
| 3 | Ministry | _____ |
| 4 | Job | _____ |
| 5 | Other | _____ |

6. After comparing God's priorities with yours, what changes in your schedule do you need to make?

Periodically evaluate your priorities and make needed adjustments. If you don't manage your priorities, they will manage you.

7. Why is it so important to submit to God in the area of money?

1 Timothy 6:10. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

8. What principle about giving do you learn in

Mark 12:41-44? Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Sacrificial giving is more important than how much you give.

Giving Reveals Your Spiritual Maturity

*2 Corinthians 8:7. But just as you excel in everything... see that you also excel in this **grace of giving.***

Giving is an important part of how you grow spiritually. Teaching about giving was important to Jesus; one out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke and 13 of 38 parables deal with money and managing our possessions.

God does not need your money. He created and owns everything and you are just the manager of His resources.

Psalm 24:1. The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

Matthew 25:20-21. Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

God wants you to give YOURSELF to Him. Giving your MONEY is one way of knowing if you are growing spiritually.

Matthew 6:33. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Romans 12:1. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Why God Wants You to Give

- GIVING MAKES YOU MORE LIKE GOD

John 3:16. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son

- GIVING DRAWS YOU CLOSER TO GOD

Matthew 6:21. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO MATERIALISM

1 Timothy 6:17-19. Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of life that is truly life.

- GIVING STRENGTHENS YOUR FAITH

Luke 6:38. Give, and it will be given to you... For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

- GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN ETERNITY

1 Timothy 6:18-19 ... be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- GIVING BLESSES YOU IN RETURN

Proverbs 22:9. A generous man will himself be blessed

*Proverbs 11:25. **A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.***

- GIVING MAKES YOU HAPPY

Acts 20:35. (Jesus) There is more happiness in giving than receiving.

How Should You Give?

- GIVE WILLINGLY

*2 Corinthians 8:12 For if the **willingness** is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.*

Corinthians 9:7. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion... 2

- GIVE CHEERFULLY

2 Corinthians 9:7 for God loves a cheerful giver!

- GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

*2 Corinthians 8:3-4. they gave as much as they were able, and **even beyond their ability**. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints.*

- GIVE SYSTEMATICALLY

1 Corinthians 16:1-2. Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

- GIVE GENEROUSLY

2 Corinthians 9:6. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

How Much Should You Give?

Tithing means giving 10% of your income and was instituted by God in the Old Testament. We now understand that God wants 100% of who we are and what we have so he can empower us and bless us. Therefore, 10% is also a good starting point for giving in New Testament times. As you understand God's goodness and grace then you will be able to give the right amount with the right attitude.

What Should You Give?

The first part of what you earn, not the leftovers.

*Proverbs 3:9. Honor the Lord by giving him the **first part** of all your income.*

You always spend money on what is most important to you first. Giving from your leftovers is not an action of faith, but of fear.

Where Should You Give?

Give where you worship and to other organizations that advance the cause of Christ.

When Should You Give?

- Give regularly
- It is a good idea to give during the worship service every Sunday
*1 Corinthians 16:2. On the **first day of every week**, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.*
- Giving can be part of your worship experience every Sunday morning!

THE KEY TO GIVING

2 Corinthians 8:5. **THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD**

Based on what God has taught you about giving, decide how much you want to give and begin giving!

“Serve by Giving” Summary

- Stewardship
 - Areas God expects me to manage well
 - Wealth
 - Spiritual gifts
 - My body
 - My opportunities
 - The first priority in my life is God’s kingdom and righteousness
 - My family is a higher priority than my ministry?
 - Work as if God were your boss (and He is)
 - I strive to keep these priorities
 - God
 - Family
 - Ministry
 - Job
 - Other
 - I will periodically evaluate my priorities and make needed adjustments
 - I need to submit to God in the area of money
 - Sacrificial giving is more important than how much you give
- Giving reveals your spiritual maturity
- God wants you to give yourself to Him
- Giving your money is one way of knowing if you are growing spiritually
- Why God wants you to give
 - GIVING MAKES YOU MORE LIKE GOD
 - GIVING DRAWS YOU CLOSER TO GOD
 - GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO MATERIALISM
 - GIVING STRENGTHENS YOUR FAITH
 - GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN ETERNITY
 - GIVING BLESSES YOU IN RETURN
 - GIVING MAKES YOU HAPPY
- How should you give?
 - GIVE WILLINGLY
 - GIVE CHEERFULLY
 - GIVE SACRIFICIALLY
 - GIVE SYSTEMATICALLY
 - GIVE GENEROUSLY
- How much should you give?
 - Tithing (giving 10%) of your income was instituted by God in the Old Testament
 - God wants 100% of who we are and what we have
 - 10% is a good starting point for giving in New Testament times
 - As you understand God’s goodness and grace, you will be able to give the right amount with the right attitude.
- What should you give? The first part of what you earn
- Where should you give?
 - Where you worship
 - To other organizations that advance the cause of Christ
- When should you give? Regularly