

DISCOVER NEW LIFE



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- Where Do I Go From Here?

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The Principle Guiding This Session

My ministry is determined by my S.H.A.P.E.

What God made me to be determines what He intends for me to do. I will understand the purpose I was created for when I understand the kind of person I am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them! By reviewing and studying these factors, we can discover the ministry He has for us...the unique way God intends for us to serve Him.

Two results of discovering the ministry I've been shaped for:

- Fulfillment
- Fruitfulness

begin

What The Bible Says About Ministry

Definition:

- Greek "diakonos" - "to serve"
- Ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.

We minister in three directions:

- To the Lord (Acts 13:2 - 3)
- To believers (Hebrews 6:10)
- To non-believers (Matthew 5:13)

We minister to three areas of needs:

- To people's physical needs (Matthew 25:35 - 36, 40; 10:42)
- To people's emotional needs (1 Thessalonians 5:14)
- To people's spiritual needs (2 Corinthians 5:18; Colossians 1:28 - 29)

The Purpose Of Ministry

"There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:5, 7, 27a

Identifying My Unique S.H.A.P.E.

Five factors that make up who you are:

- **Unwrapping your gift** will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.
- **Monitoring your heartbeat** will help you clarify what you really love to do.
- **Applying your abilities** will help you appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have.
- **Plugging in your personality** will help you see how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry.
- **Examining your experiences** will help you review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill.

Remember:

- Have fun! These are not “tests”! There are no right or wrong answers. The purpose is to show how you are a unique blend!
- Each one is self-evaluating. No one is “rating” you on this. We’re interested in your feelings, not others. However, it may be helpful to ask for additional input from those closest to you **after** you’ve filled in your own responses.
- The value of each of these tools will vary depending on your age, how long you’ve been a Christian, your background, your honesty, and how much time and serious thinking you’re willing to invest in them!
- As you complete each tool, transfer your results to the form called “My Ministry Profile.” You will bring this profile with you to your interview.

S - Spiritual Gifts

“Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.”

1 Corinthians 7:7b

What the Bible says about spiritual gifts:

“Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant.”

1 Corinthians 12:1

Definition of a 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.

The purpose of spiritual gifts:

- Not for my benefit, but for others. (1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 12:7)
- To produce maturity and stability in our Church family. (Ephesians 4:11, 13 - 14)

Cautions about spiritual gifts:

- Don’t confuse gifts with natural talents.
- Don’t confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22 - 23)
 - “Fruit” shows my maturity.
 - “Gifts” show my ministry.
- Don’t confuse gifts with Christian roles.
- Be aware of the “gift projection” tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results.)
- Don’t feel my gift makes me superior to others. (1 Corinthians 12:21)

- Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless!
(1 Corinthians 13:1 - 3)
- Recognize that I have both a primary and a secondary ministry in my church.
 - My primary ministry commitment should be in the area where I am gifted.
 - My secondary ministry includes serving in any other area of the Body where I am needed.

Gifts that communicate God's Word (to unbelievers/believers):

- **Preaching** - the ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that convinces an unbeliever and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will. (1 Corinthians 14:3)
- **Evangelism** - the ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith. (Acts 8:26 - 40)
- **Missions** - the ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture. (1 Corinthians 9:19 - 23; Acts 13:2 - 3)
- **Apostle** - the ability to start new churches and oversee their development. (Romans 15:20)

Gifts that educate God's people:

- **Teaching** - 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. (Ephesians 4:12 - 13)

- **Encouragement** - 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. (Acts 14:22)
- **Wisdom** - 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. (1 Corinthians 2:1, 6 - 16)
- **Discernment** - 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. (1 John 4:1 - 6)
- **Knowledge** - 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. (Daniel 1:17)

Gifts that demonstrate God's love:

- **Service** - 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. (Acts 6:1 - 7)
- **Mercy** - 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. (Luke 10:30 - 37)

- **Hospitality** - 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. (1 Peter 4:9 - 10)
- **Pastoring** - the ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare. (1 Peter 5:2 - 4)
- **Giving** - 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. (2 Corinthians 8:1 - 7)

Gifts that celebrate God's presence (worship/prayer-related):

- **Music** - the ability to celebrate God's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to lead the church family in worship. (Psalm 150)
- **Arts** - 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. (Exodus 31:3 - 11)
- **Intercession** - 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. (Colossians 1:9 - 12)
- **Healing** - 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. (James 5:14 - 16)

- **Miracles** - the ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention in an impossible situation and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer. (Mark 11:23 - 24)
- **Praying in the Spirit** - the ability to pray in a language understood only by God, or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time. (1 Corinthians 14:13 - 15)

Clarification: New Life Church believes that all spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 remain appropriate and affective for ministry in the world today. Most often we are questioned about the gift of tongues. Based on the teachings of the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12:7 - 11), we believe that the spiritual gift of tongues is valid for use today, but is most useful in personal prayer and intercession. If speaking in tongues is part of public gathering, whether in weekend worship, small groups, or prayer meetings, tongues should be followed by the spiritual gift of interpretation, so everyone can understand and be encouraged. We believe Paul the Apostle encouraged Christians to contend for intelligibility in public gatherings, so everyone could understand. But he equally contended for the use of tongues in personal prayer. (1 Corinthians 14)

Taking a Spiritual EKG

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.

Spiritual Gifts I believe I have are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I feel I have these gifts because:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

H - Heart

“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose...”

Revelation 17:7

“For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!” Philippians 2:13

Discover the motivated direction of your heart:

Examine your achievements for a common motivational thread. You might find a key phrase repeated. See if you can match one of the “heartbeats” listed below as samples.

Comments

Remember these are ALL God-given motivations. They are only sinful when used selfishly. Every one of these can be used in effective ministry. Don't be embarrassed to identify a basic heartbeat that doesn't seem spiritual! Almost every one of these can be identified in the ministry of one of the twelve Apostles!

I love to...

- **Design and Develop** - I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.
- **Pioneer** - I love to test out and try new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.
- **Organize** - I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.
- **Operate/Maintain** - I love to efficiently maintain some things that are already organized.
- **Serve or Help** - I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.

- **Acquire and 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 behaviors 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 and Be In Charge** - I love to lead the way, oversee, and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will 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.

Comments

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

What I have heart for, or what motivates me most is:

1. I love to _____
2. I love to _____
3. I love to _____

A - Abilities

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

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

“... our competence comes from God.” 2 Corinthians 3:5b

Applying my abilities:

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

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

Comments

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!

My current vocation is:

Other jobs or skills I have experience in:

I feel I have these specialized abilities:

I have taught a class or a seminar on:

I feel that my most valuable personal asset is:

How to discover your motivated abilities:

Look over your list of accomplishments again. Circle all verbs that denote actions performed while you were doing each achievement.

Now compare those verbs to the list on the next page and check those abilities you feel you have.

26 specialized abilities on your personal profile:

- **Entertaining ability** - to perform, act, dance, speak
- **Recruiting ability** - to enlist and motivate people to get involved
- **Interview ability** - to discover what others are really like
- **Researching ability** - to read, 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
- **Managing ability** - to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved
- **Counseling ability** - to listen, encourage, and guide with sensitivity
- **Teaching ability** - to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
- **Writing ability** - to write articles, letters, 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 faces
- **Mechanical operating ability** - to operate equipment, tools, or machinery
- **Resourceful ability** - to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed

- **Counting ability** - to work with numbers, data, or money
- **Classifying ability** - to systematize and file books, data, records, and materials so they can be retrieved easily
- **Public relations ability** - to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy
- **Welcoming ability** - to convey warmth, develop rapport, making 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 records, and materials so they can be retrieved easily

P - Personality

“No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself.” 1 Corinthians 2:11

Plugging-in your personality:

In the space below, write your name.

Now write your name with your opposite hand.

When you tried to do something that was not natural to you:

- You felt uncomfortable.
- It took extra time and effort.
- You still did a lousy job at it!

Comments

The same things are true when we try to minister in areas that are not suited to our personality. God has wired your temperament in a unique way. This factor is very important in matching you to the right ministry.

It’s obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety - just look around! And there is no “right” or “wrong” temperament. We need opposites to balance the church.

If you haven’t already, please access [“my-personality-test.com”](http://my-personality-test.com) and complete the Myers/Briggs assessment. Record your responses from your Myers/Briggs assessment on your personal profile.

ISTJ	ISFJ	INFJ	INTJ
ISTP	ISFP	INFP	INTP
ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP
ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ

On the next page, you will find brief descriptions of each of the 16 Myers/Briggs personalities.

16 Myers/Briggs personalities:

- **ISTJ “Doing what should be done”** - an organizer, compulsive, private, trustworthy, rules ‘n regs, practical, the most responsible
- **ISFJ “A high sense of duty”** - amiable, works behind the scenes, ready to sacrifice, accountable, prefers “doing”, the most loyal
- **INFJ “An inspiration to others”** - reflective/introspective, quietly caring, creative, linguistically gifted, psychic, the most contemplative
- **INTJ “Everything has room for improvement”** - theory based, skeptical, “my way”, high need for competency, sees world as chessboard, the most independent
- **ISTP “Ready to try anything once”** - very observant, cool and aloof, hands-on practicality, unpretentious, ready for what happens, the most pragmatic
- **ISFP “Sees much but shares little”** - warm and sensitive, unassuming, short range planner, good team member, in touch with self and nature, the most artistic
- **INFP “Performing noble service to aid society”** - strict personal values, seeks inner order/peace, creative, non-directive, reserved, the most idealistic
- **INTP “A love of problem solving”** - challenges others to think, an absent-minded professor, competency needs, socially cautious, the most conceptual
- **ESTP “The ultimate realist”** - unconventional approach, fun, gregarious, lives for here and now, good at problem solving, the most spontaneous

- **ESFP “You only go around once in life”** - sociable, spontaneous, loves surprises, cuts red tape, juggles multiple projects/events, quip master, the most generous
- **ENFP “Giving life an extra squeeze”** - people oriented, creative, seeks harmony, life of party, more starts than finishes, the most optimistic
- **ENTP “One exciting challenge after another”** - argues both sides of a point to learn, brinksmanship, tests the limits, enthusiastic, has new ideas, the most inventive
- **ESTJ “Life’s administrators”** - has order and structure, sociable, opinionated, results driven, producer, traditional, the most hard charging
- **ESFJ “Host and hostesses of the world”** - gracious, good interpersonal skills, thoughtful, appropriate, eager to please, the most harmonizing
- **ENFJ “Smooth talking persuader”** - charismatic, compassionate, sees possibilities for people, ignores the unpleasant, idealistic, the most persuasive
- **ENTJ “Life’s natural leaders”** - a visionary, gregarious, argumentative, systems planner, takes charge, has low tolerance for incompetency, the most commanding

E - Experiences

What painful experiences have I had?

“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life - guard it well!” Proverbs 4:13

What educational experiences have I had?

“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel...”

2 Corinthians 9:13

Examining my experiences:

“And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28

“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.” Philippians 1:12

Comments

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experience, particularly my hurts and problems I’ve overcome with God’s help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we’ve learned in the “school of hard knocks”.

God never wastes a hurt!

He wants you to be open to ministering to people who are going through what you’ve been through!

“(God)... Wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!” 2 Corinthians 1:3 - 4

My Spiritual Journey

This is how and when I became a Christ-follower, and what it has meant to me since then:

Times when I have felt closest to God and meaningful spiritual experiences that stand out in my mind:

My Painful Experience

These are the kind of trials or problems I could relate to and encourage a fellow Christian that is going through:

My Educational Experience

Where I attended school and my favorite subjects:

Seminars or training that has been meaningful to me:

My Ministry Experience

Where I have served in the past (if applicable):

	Name of Church	Where	Position	Years Involved
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

After reviewing the ministries available at New Life Church, I feel I am best “shaped” for:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Comments

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!

Where Do I Go From Here?

- **Apply for Membership or Commit to the Ministry Covenant.** Turn in your signed membership application or covenant tonight.
- **Complete your S.H.A.P.E. self-evaluation.** Then transfer your results to your Ministry Profile form. Please bring this with you to your interview.
- **Schedule an interview.** You will be given an opportunity to schedule an interview at the conclusion of this session.
- **Begin serving!**

Demonstrate Christ-like character.

Demonstrating Christ-like character means we love God with everything that we are, love our enemies and neighbors, care for the marginalized in society, and live by a moral code that honors God. Scripture encourages the moral fiber of a follower of Jesus to include sexual fidelity and sobriety. New Life Church makes the following statements on the next page to clarify our position on some controversial subjects.

Sanctity of Human Life

New Life Church believes that the Bible teaches that all life is sacred, therefore we contend for, and protect the dignity of all life, both born and unborn.

Marriage

New Life Church believes the Bible defines marriage as a loving, covenanted relationship between one man and one woman that is intended to last a life time.

Human Sexuality

New Life Church believes the Bible teaches that all sexual relationships are designed by God and meant to be explored in the context of marriage. The purpose of a sexual relationship is for the emotional bonding of married couples and procreation.

