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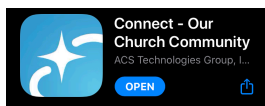
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We at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green (FBCBG) are grateful you have shown interest in joining our fellowship of believers. We know there are a lot of church options out there for you in our surrounding community. Each church has its own unique strengths and weaknesses and FBCBG is no different. It is our hope, as you go through these sessions, you discern whether the Lord is directing you to be an active and vital member of our faith community.

Through these sessions, you will specifically learn how FBCBG strives to be **Christ centered, Gospel driven, joyfully united and prayerfully obedient.**

We fully understand it takes an individual living a transformational life through a relationship with Christ to have these four components displayed in their actions and attitudes. Our goal is to help you understand the basics of transformational living and to understand our expectations of our members.

These sessions consist of six sections each lasting twenty-five minutes and the following will be the breakdown of each section. Please feel free to ask questions during our time together so that we may help you to understand FBCBG.

1. You will learn the overall values, vision and mission of FBCBG.
2. You will learn why the centrality of Jesus is the foundational point for all we do at FBCBG.
3. You will learn we are passionately driven to share the love of Jesus with the world.
4. You will learn the key component of a healthy church is the unity by which the church governs itself.
5. You will learn our greatest strength comes from our time spent in prayer.
6. You will learn the specific expectations of you as a new member and learn about our various ministry opportunities.

We hope this time together will be educational, motivational and helpful in your decision making process to be a member of FBCBG.

(Scriptures: NASB unless otherwise noted)

SECTION #1

WHO IS FBCBG?

The first thing you need to know about FBCBG is what nine core values we have that provide the power for our ministries.

1. Family

We value families, and we believe marriages between a man and a woman built through _____, _____ and _____ through discipleship in God's Word result in strong families. We believe parents are the primary teachers of our children in spiritual matters with the hope that one day they will be a part of the larger family, the _____.

We understand in the world we currently live not every family has a spiritual foundation in Jesus. As a result, we strive to encourage all members of Jesus' family to teach others about our Savior.

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; 3 John 4)

2. Preaching

We value Biblical proclamation of the Scriptures and believe God has called every Christ-follower to be an _____ of the gospel to non-believers for His glory. We believe all who proclaim God's Word before the body of Christ are held _____ to God and the body of Christ. All preaching is founded on the Bible. As a result, we strive to encourage all believers to grow in their relationship with the Lord through His _____ in order to recognize false doctrine.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 10:14; 1 Corinthians 1:17; 2 Timothy 4:2)

3. Worship

We value real worship of the One and only God who is worthy of that praise. We believe this worship flows out of a _____ with the Lord God and is manifest in the spiritual gifts He has given us. Our corporate worship is an overflow of our private worship and can be expressed in many different facets, but not limited to praise, thanksgiving, intercession, fellowship and proclamation. As a result, we promote worship that _____ the body of Christ and which encompasses all aspects of our lives.

(Psalm 84:10; Psalm 100; John 4:24; Romans 12:1-2)

4. Fellowship

We value fellowship of like-minded Christ-followers that nurtures a spirit of _____. We believe fellowship is a gathering of people _____ together through church, community and social events. As a result, we believe our fellowship helps _____ people for encouragement, accountability and growth in the body of Christ.

(Acts 2:42-47; Romans 1:12; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 John 1:7)

5. Tradition

We value Biblical traditions which have been passed down to us through previous _____. We believe when man-made traditions superimpose themselves over the glory of God, we are compelled to create new traditions based on the _____. As a result, we believe our traditions are to inspire us to remain faithful to the call of Christ.

(Matthew 15:3-9; 1 Corinthians 11:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 2 Timothy 1:5)

6. World Missions

We value the call of God to preach the gospel in our city, state, nation and world. We believe God has called us to share His _____ to all people and to cross racial, social and cultural barriers to fulfill that _____. As a result, we provide various means for people to share Jesus through praying for, giving to, and participating in mission opportunities.

(Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Acts 16:9-10; Revelation 7:9)

7. Evangelism

We value evangelism as a specific command from God to share His love with the world. We believe the body of Christ is committed to the spreading of the gospel by _____ or _____. As a result, we encourage every Christ-follower to always be prepared to share their _____ with those around them.

(Isaiah 6:8-9; Matthew 9:37-38; Mark 4; John 3:16)

8. Prayer

We value prayer as the primary method to communicate with God. We believe prayer incorporates _____ to our Lord for who He is, _____ of sin in order to restore a relationship with Him, expressions of _____ to our Lord for what He has done, and _____ for those around us, as well as for our own needs. As a result, prayer helps us to seek, discern and obey the will of God.

(John 14:13-14; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

9. Obedience

We value obedience as an _____ of our true relationship with God. We believe immediate obedience proves His will is _____ and prevents road blocks in our relationship with the Lord. As a result, God is brought glory!

(Jeremiah 7:23; John 14:15; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 5:3)

THE VISION OF FBCBG IS:

- We see a church who is _____ as it teaches traditional biblical values to its families through the preaching of the Word.

The church we see believes in marriage between a man and a woman built through Christ-centered love, accountability and growth from the Bible.

The church we see believes in creating and sustaining traditions that bring glory to God.

The church we see believes in encouraging all believers to grow in their relationship with the Lord through the Holy Spirit.

- We see a church who shares the _____ with its city, state, nation and world.

The church we see believes in the Great Commission which tells us to go and make disciples of all nations.

The church we see believes in using evangelism as a tool to share the love of Jesus.

The church we see believes in equipping every member to be prepared to share their faith through testimony.

- We see a church who is heavily encouraged through _____ and the _____ of the Body of Christ.

The church we see believes a personal relationship with Jesus is necessary for authentic worship.

The church we see believes corporate worship is an extension of personal daily worship with the Lord.

The church we see believes fellowship unites the body of Christ through encouragement, accountability and growth.

- We see a church who communicates with God through _____ as it seeks to discern and _____ the will of God.

The church we see believes prayer should be used to praise God, confess sin, express thanksgiving and intercede for others.

The church we see believes immediate obedience is the proper faithful response to God's will.

The church we see believes prayer and obedience are imperative for the revitalization of the Body of Christ.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT AT FBCBG IS:

FBCBG is Christ centered, Gospel driven, joyfully united, and prayerfully obedient.

OUR LOGO AT FBCBG IS:



The logo is a tree that has been shaped in the form of a globe. It bears in its imagery all the components of our _____ and _____. The Bible uses the imagery of grapes and vines. In the same way, Jesus would be the roots of the tree. If there are no roots, then the tree will die. So, as we are driven to share the Gospel, we prayerfully hope these prospects will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. If they have indeed received Jesus as Lord and Savior, then we joyfully disciple them to be united to the body and Christ. This new believer then begins to grow and as they continue to obey the Lord, the more their passions will match His passions because Christ is the center of their life. As this growing believer grows, they will then obey and start being Gospel driven in order to bring more and more people to Jesus. The more the Gospel is proclaimed, the more excited the total body of Christ becomes and the more joyfully united we become. The more united we are, the more we understand God did not call us to keep the Gospel to ourselves and our community only, but rather to take the Gospel to the world. So, because Christ is the center of our being and we are Gospel driven by His passions, we joyfully become united to share this hope with the world and we prayerfully seek His guidance and join Him where He is already at work. We call this joining Him in this work obedience and the longer we do this, the bigger and healthier our global tree becomes.

SECTION #2

CHRIST CENTERED

Christ centeredness is an all encompassing subject in regards to who Jesus is, what He is like, and what He did. The following is a very brief overview of this very broad subject.

1. Christ is a title given to _____ and it points to His Messianic role as Prophet, Priest and King.

When we speak of Jesus as the Prophet, Priest and King, we need to understand He did not hold these offices in an earthly capacity. As such, we ought to look at the function of His work, as Millard Erickson suggests in his systematic theology work *Christian Theology*, as that of Revealing, Reconciling and Ruling.

A. _____ - Revealing

In Moses' final address to the children of Israel he said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a *prophet* like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. This is according to all that you asked of the Lord your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.' The Lord said to me, 'They have spoken well. I will raise up a *prophet* from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him (Deuteronomy 18:15-18, *italics added*)."

Peter shows Jesus' fulfillment of this role when he said, "Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a *prophet* like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you. And it will be that every soul that does not heed that *prophet* shall be utterly destroyed from among the people (Acts 3:22-23, *italics added*)."

B. _____ - Reconciling

As indicated with the Prophet title and will be shown with the King title, there were Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah holding these titles. When it comes to the Priestly title, no prophetic words are given, but the New Testament provides its own explanation. In Jewish tradition, a priest could only come from the Levitical line and the king could only come from the line of Judah. These two different blood lines did not cross in order to produce Jesus. So, how could Jesus be of a Priestly line?

The book of Hebrews gives this answer when stating, "where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a *high priest* forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 6:20, *italics mine*)."

What one learns in the next

chapter of Hebrews is that the lesser individual pays tithes to the greater individual and Abraham paid a tithe to Melchizedek while Levi was still in his great grandfather's loins. By doing this, Melchizedek's priesthood is a greater priesthood than that of Aaron and Jesus is a Priest of Melchizedek's order.

C. _____ - Ruling

Psalm 45:6-7 reads, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your fellows." This psalm from the choir director was pointing to the divine kingship of Jesus when he wrote "Therefore God [Jesus], Your God [God the Father], has anointed You [Jesus] with the oil of joy above Your [Jesus'] fellows."

The book of Revelation reveals the eternal title given to Jesus as King when it reads, "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the* called and chosen and faithful (Revelation 17:14)."

2. As Messiah or Christ, Jesus is declaring He is _____.

To preface this section, one must understand Jesus is not God the Father nor is He God the Holy Spirit, but He is God the Son. The following, however, is to give some clarifying thoughts regarding these three aspects of God's character. One calls this totality of God's character the Trinity of God. God is One, but He reveals His perfect nature or character in three unique persons. As a result, God is referred to as the Triune God (three in one).

A. God the _____

Jesus' favorite designation of God was *Abba*, which means daddy. Mark 14:36 illustrates this point, "And He was saying, 'Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.'" Jesus obviously had the right to call God *Abba*, but do Christ followers have that same permission? Paul would say, yes, "so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:5-7)."

As our Father, God displays His characteristics of love, mercy, forgiveness, joy, holiness, purity, jealousy and many other traits.

B. God the _____

God speaking of Jesus said at His baptism, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased" (Matthew 3:17)." Even later in Jesus' ministry God said, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" (Mark 9:7)."

It is in understanding Jesus that we have a fuller understanding of God. In Colossians 1:15-20 the Bible states, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I* say, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

C. God the _____

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as the One who would come after Him and it would be to the church's advantage for the Holy Spirit to come (John 16:7). Jesus limited Himself in His incarnation to a singular location, but God the Holy Spirit is omnipresent, which means everywhere. As such, the Holy Spirit can indwell all Christ followers at the exact same time.

The Holy Spirit's job was also clarified by Jesus in the very next few verses when He said, "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged (John 16:8-11)."

3. Christ's _____ is complex. For example, He is . . .

A. _____

Timothy George wrote about God's infinite character this way, "One of the most important things the Bible says about God is that there is much about him that we do not know, and will never be able to know, for God is infinite; and we are not (and never will be). God dwells in 'unapproachable light' (1 Timothy 6:16); his greatness 'no one can fathom' (Psalm 145:3 NIV); his knowledge is too wonderful for us, too lofty for us to attain (Psalm 139:6 NIV). 'To whom, then, will you compare God?' (Isaiah 40:18 NIV) What image will you compare him to? Isaiah asks. The answer is: to no one and no thing, for God is incomparably great, absolutely sovereign over, and radically other than, everything that exists outside of himself. This means that God is irreducible to the world's categories. He is explicable only in himself; his judgments are unsearchable and his paths beyond tracing out (Romans 11:33 NIV)."

B. _____

The historical encounter with God which might best display God's holiness is His encounter with Moses at the burning bush. God informs Moses that the ground on which he is standing is holy ground (Exodus 3:5).

We again return to Timothy George to read his comments regarding this encounter of Moses with God. He wrote, "At God's command, Moses removed his shoes and also hid his face, for he was afraid. Moses had entered a realm of high voltage, and this tells us something important about the nature of God who is about to reveal his personal name. He is not a God to be trifled with, nor approached in a casual, flippant manner, nor sidled up to as one might fraternize with a chum at a football game. For this God is holy, and holiness demands a response of reverence, awe, and reverential wonder."

C. _____

Patrick D. Miller helps us to understand God's mercy as he explains God's wrath and judgment serve a larger purpose, "[which is] the establishment of God's justice, and the renewing and reshaping of his people in the way of holiness. God is 'slow to anger.' God is not to be trifled with, for his judgment is real. But so is his compassion and mercy. He is a God who abounds in steadfast love, as he himself reminded his reluctant Prophet Jonah (Jonah 4:2). Jeremiah, too, knew this message: 'Return, faithless Israel, says the LORD. I will not look on you

in anger, for I am merciful, says the LORD; I will not be angry forever' (Jeremiah 3:12 NRSV)."

4. Christ's _____ consisted of three primary aspects.

A. Birth and _____

Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).

Jesus grew in wisdom and stature as He matured (Luke 2:52).

Jesus lived among humanity and taught them how to have a relationship with God (John 3:16-21).

B. _____ and Burial

Jesus really did die and the process leading up to His death was a complete contradiction to everything He claimed about Himself. Millard J. Erickson wrote, "His status as *prophet* was challenged during his appearance before the high priest: 'Prophesy to us, Christ. Who hit you?' (Matthew 26:68 BSB). His *kingship* and rule were mocked by the inscription put on the cross ('The King of the Jews') and by the taunts of the soldiers ('If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (Luke 23:37 NIV). His *priestly* role was called into question by the scoffing remarks of the rulers: 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One' (Luke 23:35 BSB)."

Jesus' burial proved His death as He was put in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb (John 19:38-41).

C. Resurrection and _____

Jesus' resurrection proved His victory over sin, death and evil (Colossians 2:15 and 1 John 3:8).

At Jesus' ascension He declared He had all authority and that He would always be with His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Jesus now dwells in glory seated at the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:11-13).

SECTION #3

GOSPEL DRIVEN

Gospel driven points to the passion and purpose of the local church. The book of Acts gives us the biblical breakdown for our commission. Before we can understand this mandate, we need to understand what the Gospel is.

OUR SALVATION

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:26-28)."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing "WHY". They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God's purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is "What is the meaning of my life?"

Everyone wants to be happy. People try many ways:

- ➔ Some look for happiness by **acquiring possessions.**
- ➔ Some look for happiness by **experiencing pleasure.**
- ➔ Some look for happiness by **gaining prestige and power.**

But real happiness comes from understanding my

WHY AM I HERE?

1. God made me to _____ me.
 - ◆ *"The LORD appeared to him from afar, saying, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have drawn you with loving kindness' (Jeremiah 31:3)."*
 - ◆ *"...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will... (Ephesians 1:4-5)"*

2. We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God and to _____ God's creation. This makes us special!
- ◆ *"Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17)."*
 - ◆ *"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth' (Genesis 1:27-28)."*
3. When we know and love God and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous _____ in our lives.

Clear Conscience	Power & Strength	Purpose	Security
Romans 8:1	Philippians 4:13	Romans 8:28	Romans 8:38-39

**This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live.
Why then are most people not really happy?**

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Man has a natural desire to _____ and to ignore God's principles for living.

Attitudes we have learned are to look out for your own interests, thinking it's our life so we can do what we want, if it feels good do it, just be happy, and you only live once.

THE BIBLE CALLS THIS ATTITUDE _____

- ◆ *"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has **turned to his own way...** (Isaiah 53:6)"*
- ◆ *"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8)."*

**Sin breaks our close relationship with God.
It causes us to fear God and try to live our lives outside His will.**

When our relationship to God is not right, it causes PROBLEMS in every area of our lives - marriage, career, relationships, finances, etc.

**There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death
(Proverbs 16:25)."**

Even when we know that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him. For example:

- "My mother was a Christian, so..."
- "I'll give up all my bad habits."
- "I'll work real hard and earn it."
- "I'll be religious and go to church."
- "It doesn't matter what you believe, just be sincere."
- "I'm a good person and I do good things."

◆ "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... (Romans 3:23)"

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

◆ "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father **but through Me**' (John 14:6)."

**God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us
back to Himself. If any other way would have worked,
_____ would not have had to come.**

The Way is a Person!

Jesus has already taken care of your _____ problem!

- ◆ "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23)."
- ◆ "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)"

God did this for us because He _____ us and wants us to _____ Him.

- ◆ "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus... (1 Timothy 2:5)"

God has already done His part to restore our relationship to Him. He took the initiative. Now He waits for each of us to individually accept what He has done for us.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. _____ that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.
 - ◆ *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)."*
2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose again, and is alive today.
 - ◆ *"That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved... (Romans 10:9)"*
 - ◆ *"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12)."*
3. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.
 - ◆ *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of work, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)."*
4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be Lord (the director) of your life.
 - ◆ *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12-13)."*
 - ◆ *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me (Revelation 3:20)."*

**Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do,
but by what Jesus already did for us!**

YOU CAN TAKE THESE STEPS BY PRAYING A SIMPLE, BUT SINCERE, PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO GOD.

Here is an example:

"Dear Jesus, I realize I have tried to live life my way. I know I am a sinner and I know I can not save myself. Thank you for loving me and for dying on the cross for my sins. Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, forgive my sins and save my soul. I accept your free give of salvation, I give you my life and I am ready to live my life for you. Take control of my life and make me new. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

**“... for ‘WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED’
(Romans 10:13).”**

MY SALVATION TESTIMONY

(check the one that applies to you today)

- I know for sure that I am saved and will go to heaven when I die.
 - Date & Place where I was when I was a saved:

- I know for sure that I am unsaved and will go to hell when I die.
- I am unsure of my salvation.

If you would like to talk with someone about getting saved or receiving assurance of your salvation, please do so today
(speak with the pastor / leader).

**DON'T PUT OFF THIS DECISION
IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION IN LIFE!**

***“Behold, now is ‘THE ACCEPTABLE TIME,’ behold, now is ‘THE DAY OF SALVATION’...
(2 Corinthians 6:2)”***

Now that we understand salvation, let us look at the book of Acts verse 8 and see our mandate. **We are to tell everyone about Jesus.**

- ➔ Jerusalem - our local community
- ➔ Judea - our state
- ➔ Samaria - our country
- ➔ The uttermost parts of the world - global missions

Joyfully united expresses the harmony and solidarity of the local church. There are three primary ways FBCBG promotes this unity.

SECTION #4

JOYFULLY UNITED

1. WORSHIP

Worship is not a big word, but it encompasses a lot of different aspects of our Christian lives. All things done for God's glory is an act of worship. In other words, singing can be an act of worship. Working at your place of employment can be an act of worship. Fishing, if it causes you to reflect on God, can be an act of worship. For our purposes, however, we want to look at two key components of worship which we call ordinances. They are Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

* BAPTISM

WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

- ➔ To follow the example set by _____.
 - ◆ *"In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan (Mark 1:9)."*

- ➔ Because Christ _____ it.
 - ◆ *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20)."*

- ➔ It demonstrates that I really am a _____.
 - ◆ *"...many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized (Acts 18:8)."*

**Baptism Is The First Step Of Obedience
That Every Believer Should Take!**

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

- ➔ It pictures Christ's _____, _____ and _____.
 - ◆ "...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)"
 - ◆ "...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead (Colossians 2:12)."

- ➔ It pictures my _____ in Christ.
 - ◆ "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4)."

- ➔ It pictures our _____ death and our ultimate _____ resurrection.
 - ◆ "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection... (Romans 6:5)"

Baptism doesn't make you a believer - it shows that you already believe. Baptism does **not** "save" you; **only** your faith in Christ does that.

Baptism is like a... _____ - It's the outward symbol of the commitment you made in your heart. Wearing a wedding ring does not make you married, but does indicate that you are. Baptism does not save you, but it does identify you as being saved.

BAPTISM IDENTIFIES YOU WITH JESUS CHRIST!

WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

- ➔ Because _____ was baptized that way.
 - ◆ "After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water... (Matthew 3:16)"

- ➔ Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.
 - ✦ "...and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water... (Acts 8:38b-39a)"
- ➔ The word *baptize* means "to _____ water." The Greek word *baptizo* means "to immerse or dip under water."
- ➔ It best symbolizes a _____ and _____.
 - ✦ "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures... (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)"

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN WE REFER TO "SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM"?

It is baptism...

- ✓ By _____
- ✓ After _____

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has _____ in Christ.

- ✦ "So then, those who had received his word were baptized... (Acts 2:41)"
- ✦ "Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized... (Acts 8:13)"

CAN INFANTS AND LITTLE CHILDREN BE BAPTIZED?

At FBCBG, we allow anyone who is born-again to be baptized and sometimes that is a young child.

Some churches practice a "*baptism of confirmation*" for infants. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the parents and God on the behalf of the child. The parents commit to raise their child in the faith until the child is old enough to make his or her own personal confession of Christ. This custom began about 300 years after the Bible was

completed.

This is different from the baptism talked about in the Bible, which was only for those who believe. The purpose is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ. As a result, we do not baptize infants, or very little children but we do have baby / child dedication services.

At First Baptist it is a membership requirement that every member must have been baptized the way Jesus demonstrated.

WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

AS _____ AS YOU HAVE _____!

- ◆ *"So then, those who had received his word were baptized... (Acts 2:41)"*
- ◆ *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' [And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God'] (Acts 8:35-38)."*

There is no reason to delay. As soon as you have received Christ into your life, you can and should be baptized. If you wait until you are "perfect", you'll never feel "good enough"!

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

All those being baptized will be given a robe to wear. It would be a good idea to wear a light colored T-shirt and a pair of shorts under your baptismal robe (the robes may be a little transparent after they become wet). We provide towels, hair dryers and changing rooms. Our Baptismal Team assists all those who wish to be baptized in the baptismal room at the time scheduled for your baptism. This assistance includes what to do before, during, and after you are baptized.

* THE LORD'S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders of His death. The two ordinances are: **Baptism** and **The Lord's Supper**. The Lord's Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER? (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

- ➔ It is a _____, not an _____ .
 - ◆ "...that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread... (verse 23)"

- ➔ It is a _____ .
 - ◆ "...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me' (verse 24)."

- ➔ It is a _____ .
 - ◆ "In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me (verse 25)."

- ➔ It is a _____ of faith.
 - ◆ "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (verse 26)."

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- Only those who are already _____ .
- ◆ "For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly (1 Corinthians 11:29)."

**We invite all born-again Christians to join in the Lord's Supper,
not just those who are members of our church.**

HOW DO I PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER?

- ◆ *"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. **But a man must examine himself**, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup (1 Corinthians 11:27-28)."*

By Self-Examination

1 Corinthians 11:28

By Confessing My Sins

1 John 1:9

By Recommitting My Life

Romans 12:1

By Restoring Relationships

Matthew 5:23-24

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Jesus never said when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. At First Baptist Church Bowling Green, we observe the Lord's Supper at least once a quarter, but we also partake every time someone gets baptized.

2. FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship means we are a part of God's Family.

- ◆ *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household... (Ephesians 2:19)"*

KEY TRUTHS

- ➔ The church is a _____.
- ➔ God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.
- ➔ A Christian without a church family is a _____.

Fellowship means _____ in God's _____.

- ◆ *"Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:25)."*

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

- ➔ I _____ in God's family with other believers.
 - ◆ *"...so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another (Romans 12:5)."*

"The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers for praying, sharing, and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord." - Dr. Ray Ortland
- ➔ I need _____ to grow spiritually.
 - ◆ *"Two are better than one... For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up." "And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12)."*
- ➔ I need _____ to grow spiritually.
 - ◆ *"Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17)."*
 - ◆ *"But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13)."*
- ➔ There is _____ when people pray together.
 - ◆ *"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 18:19)."*
- ➔ Christ is _____ when we fellowship together.
 - ◆ *"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst (Matthew 18:20)."*
- ➔ Fellowship is a _____ to the world.
 - ◆ *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another (John 13:35)."*
 - ◆ *"That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me (John 17:21)."*

- ➔ I am _____ to every other Christian!
 - ✦ *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10)."*
 - ✦ *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord (1 Corinthians 12:4-5)."*
 - ✦ *"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:27)."*

HOW CAN CHURCH MEMBERS MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

- Every member needs to be a part of a _____ .
- ✦ *"And every day, in the temple and from house to house... (Acts 5:42)"*

Two Types of Church Meetings



Large group



Small group

WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR SMALL GROUP CLASSES? (Acts 2:42-47)

- ➔ _____
 - ✦ *"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching... (verse 42)"*
- ➔ _____
 - ✦ *"...and to fellowship... (verse 42)"*
- ➔ _____
 - ✦ *"...and to prayer (verse 42)."*
- ➔ _____
 - ✦ *"...and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need (verse 45)."*
- ➔ _____
 - ✦ *"...they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart... (verse 46c)"*
- ➔ _____
 - ✦ *"...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people (verse 47a)."*

- ➔ _____
- ✦ *"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved (verse 47b)."*

3. DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

- ➔ A disciple is a _____.
- ✦ *"...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved... (Acts 16:31)"*

- ➔ A disciple is a _____.
- ✦ *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me (Matthew 16:24)."*

- ➔ A disciple is a _____.
- ✦ *"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you **continue in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free (John 8:31-32)."*

- ➔ A disciple is a _____.
- ✦ *"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you (Mark 5:19)."*

- ➔ A disciple is _____.
- ✦ *"Peter said to them, '**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...' "So then, **those who had received his word were baptized**... (Acts 2:38,41)"*

- ➔ A disciple is a _____.
- ✦ *"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples (John 15:8)."*

- ➔ A disciple should have a healthy _____ between evangelism and discipleship.
- ✦ *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:18-20)."*

TIME IN GOD'S WORD

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17)."

The best way to become a disciple with these characteristics is by spending time in God's Word.

I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD:

- ✦ *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans 10:17)."*

Ways to Hear God's Word:

- ✓ The Bible App
- ✓ Church Services & Studies
- ✓ Websites / Podcasts
- ✓ Sermon Recordings

PROBLEM: We forget most of what we hear after 72 hours.

How To Improve Your Hearing:

- ➔ Be ready and eager to hear God.
 - ✦ (Jesus said) *"He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (Luke 8:8)"*
 - ✦ *"...But everyone must be quick to hear... (James 1:19)"*
- ➔ Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God.
 - ✦ *"So take care how you listen... (Luke 8:18)"*

Parable of the Sower - (Luke 8:4-15)

- ➔ Confess any sin in your life.
 - ✦ *"Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive the word** implanted, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21)."*

- ➔ Take notes on what you hear.
 - ◆ *“For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it (Hebrews 2:1).”*
- ➔ Act on what you hear!
 - ◆ *“But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an **effectual doer**, this man will be blessed in what he does (James 1:25).”*

Barriers to Hearing:

- ❖ **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
- ❖ **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- ❖ **A Pre-occupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

Keep a Spiritual Journal - A Spiritual Journal is a tool to help you organize and retain the blessings of God and the things you have learned.

II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD:

- ◆ *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near (Revelation 1:3).”*
- ◆ *“(The Scriptures) It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes... (Deuteronomy 17:19)”*

You should read God’s Word daily.

Suggestions:

- ✓ Read it systematically.
- ✓ Read it in a Bible without notes.
- ✓ Read it in different translations.
For reading: Good News, Living Bible, Phillips.
- ✓ Read it aloud quietly to yourself.
- ✓ Underline or color code key verses.
- ✓ Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

If you read approximately 20 minutes a day, you can read through the Bible once in a year.

- ◆ *"I have not departed from the command of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food (Job 23:12)."*

III. HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

- ◆ *"...for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily... (Acts 17:11)"*
- ◆ *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15)."*

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you take notes when you study.

IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

- ◆ *"Keep my commandments and live, and my teaching as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart (Proverbs 7:2-3)."*

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE:

- ➔ It helps me resist temptations.
 - ◆ *"Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You (Psalm 119:11)."*
- ➔ It strengthens me when I'm under stress.
 - ◆ *"Remember the word to Your servant, in which You have made me hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your word has revived me (Psalm 119:49-50)."*
- ➔ It helps me make wise decisions.
 - ◆ *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105)."*
- ➔ It comforts me when I'm sad.
 - ◆ *"And Your words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart; For I have been called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts (Jeremiah 15:16)."*

- ➔ It helps me witness to unbelievers.
- ✦ *"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... (1 Peter 3:15)"*

HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE:

- ✓ Pick a verse that speaks to you.
- ✓ Write out the verse on a flash card.
- ✓ Say the reference before and after the verse.
- ✓ Carry some cards with you at all times for review.
- ✓ Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
- ✓ Display your verses in prominent places.
- ✓ Break the verse into natural phrases.
- ✓ Always memorize the verse word-perfect.
- ✓ Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
- ✓ Write down the verse and erase a word at a time.

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING:

- 1. REVIEW**
- 2. REVIEW**
- 3. REVIEW**

We remember what is important to us!

"The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces (Psalm 119:72)."

V. HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

- ✦ *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers (Psalm 1:2-3)."*

Meditation is focused thinking about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

WHY MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?

It is the key to...

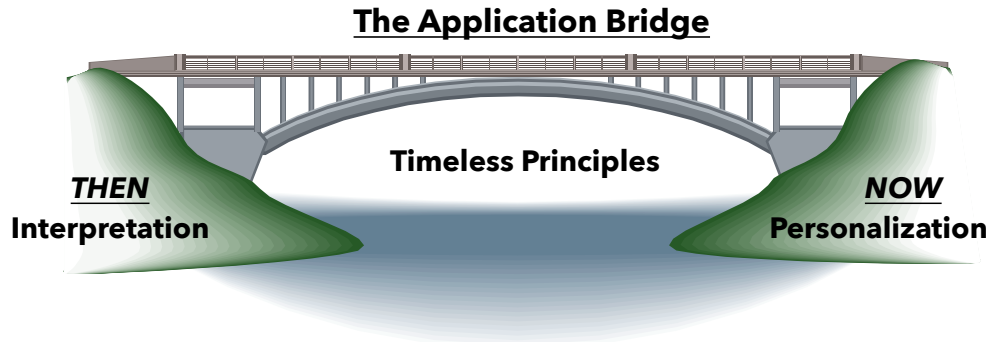
- ➔ Becoming like Christ
 - ◆ *"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life (Proverbs 4:23)."*
 - ◆ *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2)."*
 - ◆ *"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18)."*

- ➔ Answered prayer
 - ◆ *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (John 15:7)."*
 - ◆ *"If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them (John 13:17)!"*

- ➔ Successful living
 - ◆ *"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success (Joshua 1:8)."*

VI. HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD

- ✦ *"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves (James 1:22)."*



1st ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?

2nd ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?

3rd ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?

Then: Write a sentence describing a project or action you will take to apply the truth.

MOST APPLICATIONS WILL FOCUS ON ONE OF THREE RELATIONSHIPS:

1. Relationship With God
2. Relationship With Myself
3. Relationship With Others

FOUR MARKS OF A GOOD APPLICATION PROJECT:

1. It's Personal
2. It's Practical
3. It's Possible
4. It's Provable

SECTION #5

PRAYERFULLY OBEDIENT

Prayerfully obedient is the final component of our mission. There are several aspects with which this key attribute incorporates.

PRAYER

1. Prayer connects us with God.

*"...rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer...
(Romans 12:12)"*

TALKING WITH GOD: HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

➔ **APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE** (Matthew 6:5-8)

- **Be R**_____

- ✦ *"When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full (Matthew 6:5)."*

Don't try to impress _____.

Don't try to impress _____.

- **Be R**_____

- ✦ *"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you (Mathew 6:6)."*

- **Be R**_____

- ✦ *"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. So do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him (Matthew 6:7-8)."*

➔ **USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US**

SIX PARTS OF PRAYER: (Matthew 6:9-15)

1. **PRAISE:** I begin by _____
_____.

- ◆ "...Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name' (Matthew 6:9)."

Two Kinds of Praise:

1. A _____ - Praising God for who He is.
2. T _____ - Praising God for what He has done.

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name (Psalm 100:4 KJV)."

2. **PURPOSE:** I commit myself to _____ and _____ for my life.
 - ◆ *"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10)."*
 - ◆ *"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship (Romans 12:1)."*

Pray for God's will to be done in my life, family, church, ministry, job, future, relationships, nation, etc.

3. **PROVISION:** I ask God to _____ .
 - ◆ *"Give us this day our daily bread' (Matthew 6:11)."*
 - ◆ *"And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)."*
 - ◆ *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (Romans 8:32)"*

Key: _____

Record your requests with the promises you are claiming from the Bible and expect answers.

- ◆ *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:6)."*

4. **PARDON:** I ask God to _____ .

- ◆ *"And forgive us our debts..." (Matthew 6:12)"*

5. **PEOPLE:** I pray for _____ .

- ◆ *"...as we have forgiven our debtors' (Matthew 6:12)."*
- ◆ *"...I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men... (1 Timothy 2:1)"*

If you want to know how to pray for others, study Paul's prayers for others: see Ephesians 1:15-19; Colossians 1:3-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3.

Make a prayer list of people for whom you want to pray. (ie: you might pray for different people on different days of the week)

6. **PROTECTION:** I ask for _____ .

- ◆ *"And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.' (Matthew 6:13)"*
- ◆ *"...because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4)."*

Believers face a spiritual battle everyday. Satan wants to defeat you through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day.

2. Prayer undergirds our ministries.

After we pray, we need to be obedient in ministry.

MINISTRY: *Definition: Greek "diakonos" means "to serve."*

THEREFORE, ministry is using whatever God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.

WE MINISTER IN THREE DIRECTIONS:

1. To _____
 - ◆ *"While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them' (Acts 13:2)."*

2. To _____
 - ◆ *"For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints (Hebrews 6:10)."*

3. To _____
 - ◆ *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men (Matthew 5:13)."*

WE MINISTER TO THREE AREAS OF NEED:

1. To people's _____ needs.
 - ◆ *"(God says) 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' '...Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me' (Matthew 25:35-36, 40)."*

2. To people's _____ needs.
 - ◆ *"...admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone (1 Thessalonians 5:14)."*

3. To people's _____ needs.
 - ◆ *"Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... (2 Corinthians 5:18)"*

THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY:

- ◆ *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)."*
- ◆ *"But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired (1 Corinthians 12:18)."*

- ★ God wants to use me to _____ .

THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY: (Why should I be interested?)

- ➔ I've been _____ for ministry.
 - ◆ *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (Ephesians 2:10)."*

- ➔ I've been _____ for ministry.
 - ◆ *"...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity... (2 Timothy 1:9)"*

- ➔ I've been _____ to ministry.
 - ◆ *"But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace... (Galatians 1:15)"*
 - ◆ *"Therefore I... implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called... (Ephesians 4:1)"*

A LIFE CHANGING TRUTH

MY PRIMARY IDENTITY:

I AM A _____ OF JESUS CHRIST!

- ➔ I've been _____ for ministry.
 - ◆ *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10)."*

- ➔ I've been _____ for ministry.
 - ✦ (Jesus said) *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."* (Matthew 28:18-19)"

- ➔ I'm _____ to minister.
 - ✦ *"...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many* (Matthew 20:28)."

- ➔ I'm to be _____ for ministry.
 - ✦ *"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ* (Ephesians 4:11-12)."

- ➔ The body of Christ _____ my ministry.
 - ✦ *"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it* (1 Corinthians 12:27)."
 - ✦ *"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest'* (Matthew 9:36-38)."

Ministry always functions in the context of the _____ .

- ➔ I am _____ for my ministry.
 - ✦ *"So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God* (Romans 14:12)."

- ★ The Parable of the Talents - (Matthew 25:14-30)

- ➔ I will be _____ for my ministry.
 - ✦ *"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve* (Colossians 3:23-24)."

3. Prayer emboldens us to be obedient. This obedience is accomplished as we surrender and learn God's plan for our lives.

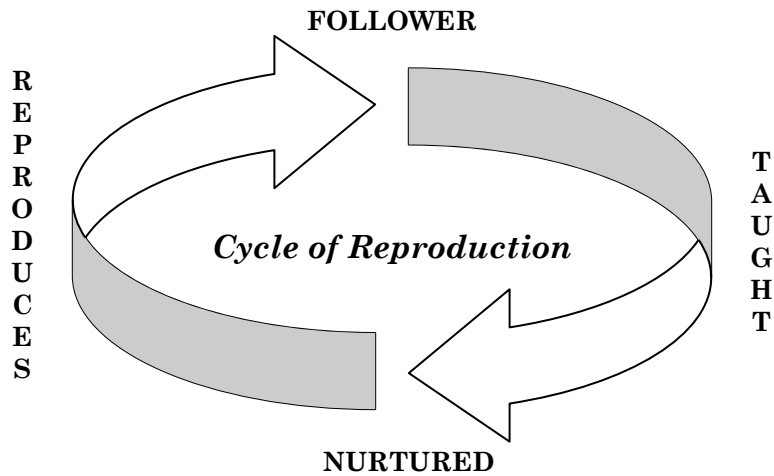
- A. God equips us with gifts.
- B. Gifts are used to edify the body.
- C. Gifts are used to embrace the lost.

Understanding the Reproducing Process

- ❖ **Reproduce:** 1. To produce an image or copy. 2. To recreate
- ❖ **Attitude of a Reproducer:** A willingness to pour our life into another person and share our life with him. A desire to live for the next generation.
- ❖ **Action of a Reproducer:** To step into another's life and develop that person as if he had to take your place in life.

WHY REPRODUCE?

- ➔ To "_____ in others."
 - ◆ *"For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands (2 Timothy 1:6)."*
- ➔ To _____ those already serving.
 - ◆ *"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor (Ecclesiastes 4:9)."*
- ➔ To better _____ each other.
 - ◆ *"...contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality (Romans 12:13)."*
- ➔ To _____ the church spiritually and numerically.
 - ◆ *"...from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love (Ephesians 4:16)."*



- ➔ To _____ to God.
 - ◆ "My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples (John 15:8)."

WHO SHOULD BE A REPRODUCER?

E _____ B _____ - A _____ C _____

- ◆ "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me' (John 15:1-4)."

WHO CAN REPRODUCE REPRODUCERS?

Those who _____ in Christ and His words.

- ◆ (Jesus said) "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you' (John 15:5-7)."

- ➔ **Reproducers need more** _____ from their lives to have more _____ in their lives.

SIX TRUTHS ABOUT SHARING YOUR FAITH

Truth #1 - It's Simple

- ➔ It's simply speaking those things which we have seen and heard.
 - ✦ "...for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard' (Acts 4:20)."
 - ✦ (Jesus said) "...for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you... (Acts 26:16)"

- ➔ It's simply being a witness to what you have experienced.
 - ✦ "...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8)."
 - ✦ "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses (Acts 2:32)."
 - ✦ "The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself... (1 John 5:10)"

PRINCIPLE:

You don't have to possess a degree in fishology to fish!

Truth #2 - It's Seeking

- ➔ Jesus is a seeker.
 - ✦ "For the Son of Man has come to **seek** and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)."

- ➔ Satan is a seeker.
 - ✦ "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking** someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8)."

- ➔ Finders are seekers.
 - ✦ "Ask, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7)."

PRINCIPLE:
You won't catch fish if you don't wet a line!

Truth #3 - It's Sowing

- ➔ The Lord of the Harvest
 - Jesus was a sower.
 - ✦ *"And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, (Jesus said) 'Behold, the sower went out to sow...'* (Matthew 13:3)"
 - ✦ *"Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field' (Matthew 13:24)."*
 - ✦ *"He (Jesus) presented another parable to them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field...'* (Matthew 13:31)"
 - ✦ *"And He (Jesus) said, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man... (Matthew 13:37)"*
 - Jesus sowed the Word of God.
 - ✦ *"Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God (Luke 8:11)."*
- ➔ The Law of the Harvest
 - ✦ *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap (Galatians 6:7)."*
 - ✦ *"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary (Galatians 6:9)."*
 - ❖ Law #1 - You reap what you sow.
 - ❖ Law #2 - You reap later than you sow.
 - ❖ Law #3 - You reap more than you sow.

PRINCIPLE:
**All farmers know that the seed must go in
before the crops come out!**

Truth #4 - It's Smart

- ➔ A soul-winner is wise.
 - ✦ "...And he who is wise wins souls (Proverbs 11:30)."

PRINCIPLE:
Soul-Winners are shining stars!

Truth #5 - It's Satisfying

- ➔ Great fulfillment is found in doing God's will.
 - ✦ "Meanwhile the disciples were urging Him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But He said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples were saying to one another, 'No one brought Him anything to eat, did he?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. 'Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, 'lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together' (John 4:31-36)."

PRINCIPLE:
The soul-winning reaction: SATISFACTION!

Truth #6 - It's Supernatural

- ➔ The Masterplan of Salvation is the Father's.
 - ✦ "...everyone whose name has not been written **from the foundation of the world** in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain (Revelation 13:8)."
- ➔ The Magnet of Salvation is the Son's.
 - ✦ "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men to Myself** (John 12:32)."

- ➔ The Mover of Salvation is the Spirit.
 - ✦ *"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He **will guide you into all the truth**... (John 16:13)"*

- ➔ The Miracle of Salvation is the new birth.
 - ✦ *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God' (John 3:3)."*

PRINCIPLE:
Salvation is naturally supernatural!

SECTION #6

STRUCTURE & EXPECTATIONS

In light of this information, we now need to see how FBCBG is structured and what our expectations of members are. The following explains this information:

"...for God is not a God of confusion but of peace..." (1 Corinthians 14:33)

"But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:40)."

The structure of the church should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions.

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE:

➔ THE CHURCH IS A F _____

- ◆ *"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer (Acts 2:42)."*
- ◆ *"...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3)."*
- ◆ *"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another (Romans 14:19)."*

A top priority in a fellowship is _____ and _____.

➔ **THE CHURCH IS A F_____**

◆ *"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit... (1 Peter 3:8)"*

★ See also Galatians 6:10; Hebrews 2:10-12; 1 Peter 4:17

So, we operate on the basis of _____ not _____.

◆ *"Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity (1 Timothy 5:1-2)."*

➔ **THE CHURCH IS A B_____**

◆ *"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:27)."*

★ See also Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23; Colossians 1:18; 2:19

WE ARE A BODY–NOT A BUSINESS!
WE ARE AN ORGANISM–NOT AN ORGANIZATION!

Therefore, we function on the basis of _____ not _____.

◆ *"For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly... (Romans 12:4-6)"*

In an organization, _____ becomes the focus.

BUT in an organism, _____ is the focus.

At First Baptist, we have a simple structure so we can:

M_____ Ministry and M_____ Maintenance.

◆ *"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:11-12)"*

- The people are the M_____.
- The Pastor and staff are the A_____.

We hope to have many different ministries in our church begun and operated by members.

➔ **THE CHURCH IS A F_____**

- ◆ *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28)."*

Jesus' favorite description of the Church

- ★ See also Matthew 25:33; 26:31; John 10:1-30

Therefore, it is cared for and led by S_____.

- ◆ *"So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, '**Tend My lambs.**' He said to him again a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, '**Shepherd My sheep.**' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me?' Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, 'Do you love Me?' And he said to Him, 'Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.' Jesus said to him, '**Tend My sheep**' (John 21:15-17)."*

Four different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders:

POIMEN: _____ EPISCOPOS: _____
PRESBUTEROS: _____ DIDASKOLOS: _____

- ◆ *"Therefore, I exhort the elders among you... shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness... (1 Peter 5:1-2)"*

OUR AFFILIATION

★ Florida Baptist Convention

Southern Baptist Churches in Florida who are associated together -
www.flbaptist.org

★ Southern Baptist Convention

Southern Baptist Churches - www.sbc.net

WHAT IS THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION?

- ★ It is the largest association of Christian churches in Florida and in the United States.
- ★ It is the most diverse association of churches.
- ★ It is one of the fastest growing groups.

WHY NOT JUST BE AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH?

We are an independent church! Every SBC church is completely autonomous. There is no denominational control or hierarchy, as there is in most other denominations. Each church is self-governed and determines its own affairs.

For example:

- ★ Every SBC church chooses its own pastor.
- ★ Every SBC church owns its own buildings and assets.
- ★ Every SBC church determines its own programs.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF AFFILIATING WITH THE SBC?

- ★ It allows us to identify with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible. Unlike other groups, the SBC has no man-made 'creed'. The Bible is our only authority.
- ★ It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. We help support thousands of missionaries with a strategy to reach people in all countries around the world.

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

C3: Carrying Christ to Our Community	Local mission projects and community outreach, as well as church fellowship to share the Gospel, build relationships and strengthen our community both in and outside the walls of our church.
Ecuador Missions	Strategic Coordinating Church Mission Trips to share the Gospel, disciple and equip believers to continue the mission in and around Tabacundo.
ECHO Ministries	Providing foster and adoptive families with clothing needs for the children.
Hardee Help Center	A local organization dedicated to working together with community agencies and churches to assist individuals and families in our county who are experiencing short-term hardships by offering relief, hope and healing during these difficult seasons of life.
SendMeMissions	A coordinated and organized local effort to unite the Body of Christ to serve others, and to change lives through Christ. Partner with local and global organizations to unite people together to make a difference by serving others to change lives through Christ.
111 Project / Care Portal	Improving safety, permanency, and well-being for all children in Polk, Highlands, and Hardee counties through foster care, adoption, prevention and community. Connecting and engaging the church to be the solution to the needs of foster and adoptive families.
Hardee County Ministerial Association	A non-denominational outreach partnership between local churches and pastors with the objective of sharing Christ to our community.
Anthony & Sharon Rivers	Missionary family serving in Kenya through the International Mission Board.
Florida Baptist Convention Cooperative Program	Providing support to our state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention missions and ministries. A percentage of our undesignated receipts supports these efforts.
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	Providing support for mission efforts in North America. One hundred percent of gifts given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are used to support Southern Baptist missionaries across the US and Canada.
Florida Baptist Children's Home	Providing Christ-centered services to children and families in need. One hundred percent of gifts given to the Mother's Day/Children's Home Offering are used to support them.

Maguire State
Missions Offering

State Missions Offering reaching out into our state with the Gospel. One hundred percent of gifts given to the Maguire State Missions Offering are used for these efforts.

Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering

Providing support for international mission efforts among unreached peoples and places. Giving enables Southern Baptist missionaries to be sent to share the Gospel, make disciples and multiply churches. One hundred percent of gifts given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering are used for these efforts.



MEMBERSHIP

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

At First Baptist, we ask you to commit to church membership for four reasons:

1. A B _____ Reason: *Christ is committed to the church.*

✦ *"...Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... (Ephesians 5:25)"*

2. A C _____ Reason: *It is an antidote to our society.*

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything... a job... a marriage... our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of church "shoppers and hoppers." Membership swims against the current of America's "consumer religion". It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A P _____ Reason: *It defines who can be counted on.*

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and recommends voter registration. Membership defines our family.

4. A P _____ Reason: *It produces spiritual growth.*

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you're not committed to any specific church family.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER OF FBCBG?

At First Baptist, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We, therefore, expect our members to follow the commands of Christ.

BIBLICAL EXPECTATIONS

1. I will P_____ the unity of my church by...

- ✓ Acting in love toward other members.
- ✓ Refusing to gossip.
- ✓ Following the leaders.

- ✦ *"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds... (Hebrews 10:24)"*
- ✦ *"Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus... (Romans 15:5)"*
- ✦ *"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart... (1 Peter 1:22)"*
- ✦ *"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear (Ephesians 4:29)."*
- ✦ *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you (Hebrews 13:17)."*

2. I will S_____ the responsibility of my church by...

- ✓ Praying for its growth.
- ✓ Inviting the "unchurched" to attend.
- ✓ Warmly welcoming those who are new with us.

- ✦ *"We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers... (1 Thessalonians 1:2)"*
- ✦ *"... 'Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, so that my house may be filled' (Luke 14:23)."*
- ✦ *"Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God (Romans 15:7)."*

3. I will S_____ the ministry of my church by...

- ✓ Discovering my gifts and talents. *(There is a Spiritual Gift Survey at the end of this book which is a great tool for discovering your gifts.)*
- ✓ Being equipped to serve.
- ✓ Developing a servant's heart.

- ◆ *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10)."*
- ◆ *"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers... to the building up of the body of Christ... (Ephesians 4:11-12)"*
- ◆ *"...do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:4-7)."*

4. I will S_____ the testimony of my church by...

- ✓ Attending faithfully.
- ✓ Living a godly life.
- ✓ Giving regularly.

- ◆ *"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24-25)."*
- ◆ *"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:1-2)."*
- ◆ *"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed... (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)."*

TITHING

"On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper... (1 Corinthians 16:2)"

Giving Reveals My Spiritual Maturity

"But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness... see that you abound in this gracious work also (2 Corinthians 8:7)."

GIVING/TITHING is mentioned _____ times in the Scriptures.

If God said something one time, you would consider it to be of great importance.

Obviously, we can surmise that **giving** is of **major importance** to God.

WHY GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE (Seven Benefits to My Life):

1. **GIVING** makes me _____ .
 - ◆ *"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son... (John 3:16)"*
2. **GIVING** draws me _____ .
 - ◆ *"...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21)."*
3. **GIVING** is the antidote to _____ .
 - ◆ *"Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17)."*
4. **GIVING** strengthens _____ .
 - ◆ *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5)."*
 - ◆ *"Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine (Proverbs 3:9-10)."*
 - ◆ *"Give and it will be given to you... for by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return (Luke 6:38)."*
5. **GIVING** is an investment _____ .
 - ◆ *"Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they*

may take hold of that which is life indeed (1 Timothy 6:18-19)."

6. **GIVING** blesses me _____ .

- ✦ "The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered (Proverbs 11:25)."
- ✦ "He who is generous will be blessed... (Proverbs 22:9)"

7. **GIVING** _____ .

- ✦ (Jesus said) "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)."
- ✦ "Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so willingly, for they made their offering to the LORD with a whole heart... (1 Chronicles 29:9)"

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING:

➔ What is tithing?

- ✓ "Tithe" means a _____ part.

➔ What is the difference between a "tithe" and an "offering?"

- ✓ A "tithe" is giving _____% of my gross income.
- ✓ An "offering" is anything I give in _____ to my tithe.

➔ Is tithing a New Testament principle?

- ✓ Tithing was initiated before the Old Testament Law.
 - ✦ "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand. **He gave him a tenth of all** (Genesis 14:18-20)."
- ✓ More is _____ under grace than under law!

WHY SHOULD I TITHE ? (eight reasons from God's Word)

1. Because God _____ .

- ✦ "Thus all the tithe of the land... is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD (Leviticus 27:30)."

2. Because Jesus _____ .

- ✦ "...For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others (Matthew 23:23)."

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has _____ .
 - ◆ "...the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and your flock, so that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always (Deuteronomy 14:23)."
4. Tithing reminds me that _____ was given to me by God.
 - ◆ "But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth... (Deuteronomy 8:18)"
5. Tithing expresses my _____.
 - ◆ "What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me? (Psalms 116:12)"
 - ◆ "Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you (Deuteronomy 16:17 NIV)."
6. God says that refusing to tithe is _____ from Him!
 - ◆ "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings... Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... (Malachi 3:8,10)"
7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove He _____ and wants to bless you!
 - ◆ "'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,' says the LORD of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows' (Malachi 3:10)."
8. Tithing proves that I _____.
 - ◆ "(Jesus said) "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments (John 14:15)."
 - ◆ "But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also (2 Corinthians 8:7-8)."

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

- ➔ The _____ part of what I earn, not the _____ .
 - ◆ "Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine (Proverbs 3:9-10)."

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHE?

- ➔ Where I _____.
 - ◆ "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... (Malachi 3:10)"

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE?

- ➔ On _____.
- ✦ *"On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper... (1 Corinthians 16:2)"*

HOW TO REMEMBER

- ✓ Set up autopay through Realm
- ✓ Keep a ledger book - Account #1: My Tithe
- ✓ Use weekly envelopes
- ✓ Teach your children to tithe

GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

- ➔ **GIVE** _____
- ✦ *"For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints... (2 Corinthians 8:3-4)"*

- ➔ **GIVE** _____
- ✦ *"For if the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have (2 Corinthians 8:12)."*
- ✦ *"Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion... (2 Corinthians 9:7a)"*

- ➔ **GIVE** _____
- ✦ *"...for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7b)."*

- ➔ **GIVE** _____
- ✦ *"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6)."*

The Key To Giving

"...BUT THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD..."

2 Corinthians 8:5

- ◆ *"Thus all the tithes of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD (Leviticus 27:30)."*
- ◆ *"On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper... (1 Corinthians 16:2)"*
- ◆ *"Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ... (Philippians 1:27a)"*
- ◆ *"...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near (Hebrews 10:25)."*

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

At First Baptist, we have many opportunities for you to serve and be a part of the Body of Christ.

But, before we get into these opportunities, it is important that we all understand that every believer is “called” not just pastors and missionaries.

WHO IS CALLED TO SERVE

Rick Warren’s Devotional, “*We Serve God by Serving Others*” explains being “called” to serve this way:

- “The Bible says everyone is called to serve God by serving others.
- ‘*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 (Galatians 5:13).*’
- We are not saved **by** serving, but we are saved **for** serving.
- The Apostle Paul gives three insights related to this:

1. The basis for serving others is salvation. Paul says, ‘You were called to be free.’

- You cannot serve God until you’ve been set free by Jesus. It’s the prerequisite for serving. Until you experience the transforming power of God’s grace in your life, you’re too enslaved by your own hurts, habits, and hang-ups to think much about others.
- Without the freedom of forgiveness, you’ll end up serving for the wrong reasons: trying to earn the approval of others, trying to run away from your pain, trying to remedy your guilt, trying to impress God. Service motivated by these illegitimate reasons is bound to leave you burned out and bitter in the end.

2. The barrier to serving others is selfishness. Paul warns, ‘Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature.’

- The number one reason we don’t have the time or energy to serve others is that we’re preoccupied with our own agendas, dreams, and pleasures.
- Only a small minority of people use their lives to serve others, but Jesus said, ‘*If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live (Mark 8:35 LB).*’

3. The motive for serving is love. Paul says, 'Serve one another in love.'

- This is an important key to building community: 1 Corinthians 13:3 MSG records, 'No matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.'
- God is far more interested in **why** you serve others than in how well you serve them. He's always looking at your heart, serving willingly and eagerly out of love for Jesus and gratitude for all He's done for you.
- You are most like Jesus when you're serving others. After washing his disciples' feet, Jesus said, 'I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you' (John 13:14-15 NLT)."

WAYS TO SERVE AT FIRST BAPTIST

Below are listed many of the ministry opportunities, along with a brief description, for serving at First Baptist. Please be in prayer as to how God would have you serve. If you have any questions or want more information about a ministry please let us know and we would be glad to help.

The following ministries are filled by volunteers, both leaders and helpers and can be added to at any time throughout the year. *(Members are able to become "leaders" after being a member of FBCBG for at least 6 months and in regular attendance.):*

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY (NURSERY)

(Sunday Mornings from 9:30 am - 10:30 am & 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, Sunday Evenings from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

Objective: To care for and teach children from birth to age 4 in a safe and thriving environment for growth physically, emotionally and spiritually.

CHILDREN'S SMALL GROUPS

(Sunday Mornings from 9:30 am - 10:30 pm)

Objective: To teach children from age 5 through 6th grade about the love of Jesus and how to have a relationship with Him through Bible stories, crafts and activities in a safe and thriving environment for spiritual growth.

B.O.L.D.

(Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

Objective: To teach children from K - 6th grade about the love of Jesus and how to have a relationship with Him through Bible stories, crafts and activities in a safe and thriving environment for spiritual growth.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

(Sunday Mornings from 10:30am - 12:00 pm)

Objective: To teach children from K - 4th grade about the love of Jesus and how to have a relationship with Him through Bible stories, games, crafts, & music in a safe and thriving environment for spiritual growth.

YOUTH

(Sunday Mornings from 9:30 am - 10:30 am, Sunday Evenings from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Wednesday Evenings from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm)

Objective: To teach youth from 7th - 12th grade about the love of Jesus and how to have a growing relationship with Him through Bible study and activities in a safe and thriving environment for spiritual growth.

ADULT SMALL GROUP LEADERS

(Sunday Mornings from 9:30 am - 10:30 am)

Objective: To lead and teach adults through Bible study and discussion (class settings of different age groups).

GREETER MINISTRY

(Sunday Mornings from 9:15 am - 9:30 am and 10:30 am - 10:45 am)

Objective: To welcome guests and members at all church entrances prior to morning worship services with a smile and greetings, and to offer assistance if needed.

HOSPITALITY / BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

Objective: To help *as needed* in the kitchen with preparing, serving, setting up and cleaning up for all church hosted events and for all family dinners for memorial services.

The following ministries are elected for one year of service from January - December each year. Our Nominating Committee is responsible for overseeing the selection of members for each of these, please contact the church office or let one of the committee members know if you are interested:

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Objective: Schedule and plan events for the spiritual and relational growth of women at FBCBG.

MEN'S MINISTRY

Objective: Schedule and plan events for the spiritual and relational growth of men at FBCBG.

BAPTISM TEAM

Objective: Assist with the baptismal services in our church and make sure the baptismal rooms are adequately ready for such services.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Objective: Monthly review the expenses of the church and annually prepare the following year's budget.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Objective: Liaison between congregation and staff. Also responsible for reviews and discipline of staff.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Objective: Develop the vision and create the plan to meet that vision for local ministry to those outside of FBCBG.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Objective: Oversee all internationally related ministries of FBCBG.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Objective: Seek the Father to determine who is spiritually gifted to serve in various areas of ministry for the health and betterment of FBCBG.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Objective: Responsible for the upkeep and physical health of our facilities.

REALM CONNECT

FBCBG'S CHURCH FAMILY APP

Let's get connected. ✨

Download our Connect app today.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update your personal information Communicate with groups & teams Follow church announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look up members Manage giving Create and join events
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Let's be the church... together.

We are excited to share with you how you can join our online community. Realm Connect allows us to be better connected with each other and our community. We encourage all of our members and guests to take part and connect with us.

Realm allows us to give you access to your personal profile (you can view your information, make updates as needed, & post a profile picture - *please add a picture of yourself*) & allow you to join in a new way the groups of which you are already a part (ie: your small groups, committees, ministries, etc) or may chose to be added to later. This allows you access to the newsfeed and notifications; it also makes it possible for you to communicate within your group(s). Realm is a great way to see what's going on at FBCBG and is the best way to sign up for events, trips, Wednesday Suppers, etc.

ONLINE GIVING is available through Realm as well. You may make a one time gift, schedule giving, and/or viewing your personal giving history. You can also access online giving through our website at www.fbcbgfl.com. You may also give via text messaging - just text FBCBG to 73256 and you will receive messages to give step by step.

Giving made easy!

Download our Connect app today.

one click	recurring
24/7/365	pledges
track all gifts	special offerings

Please take the time to go online to <https://onrealm.org/fbcbg/> (type in the url - not the search bar & include the backslash at the end). (Keyword: fbcbg) There you will be able to create your own login & view your profile. Just click Register Now - enter your email address - create a password. It will ask you to check your email - click the link in the email to complete the process & then you can login - it will ask you to verify your birth date (*this is how the system matches you with your profile - if it does not verify, we do not have your birth date. Please contact the church office before proceeding*). (Note: If a guest is registering, then they will need to add their information to create a profile.) Once you have logged in, on the right by your name is a drop down arrow. Please go there and click My Profile (preview/edit if necessary - if there is a pencil tool, please use it when editing so that info is in the correct fields). Settings allow you to see what info you will receive (you may edit this as well).

You may also download the app on your cell phone or devices at your app store. Just search **Connect - Our Church Community (ACS Technologies)**.

BACKGROUND SCREENINGS

It is our responsibility to protect the children / students we serve and minister to at FBCBG. We, therefore, require anyone who would like to work with children / students to complete a Background Screening prior to serving in those ministries. We will need your email address to send you a Request for Authorization from Verified First (who we partner with through Realm) in order for your background screening to be completed..

AFTER COMPLETING THIS CLASS AND AS YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE BODY OF CHRIST AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOWLING GREEN, YOU CAN SAY:

- 1.** That you are born again.
- 2.** That you have been baptized.
- 3.** That you serve in the body of Christ based on your spiritual giftedness.
- 4.** That you financially support the church.
- 5.** That you submit to the Holy Spirit's promptings in your life.
- 6.** That you tell others about Jesus.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING PLUGGED IN @ FBCBG!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING WITH YOU!**

DISCOVER YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS!

GENE WILKES

Ken Hemphill defines a spiritual gift as “an individual of grace from the Father that enables you to serve Him and thus play a vital role in His plan for the redemption of the world.” Peter Wagner defines a spiritual gift as “a special attribute given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God’s grace for use within the context of the Body.” I like to use this definition: A spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers which empowers them to serve the body of Christ, the church.

Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:9-11 contain representative lists of gifts and roles God has given to the church. A definition of these gifts follows.

Leadership - Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish the goals and purposes of the church. Leadership motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals (Romans 12:8).

Administration - Persons with the gift of administration lead the body by steering others to remain on task. Administration enables the body to organize according to God-given purposes and long-term goals (1 Corinthians 12:28).

Teaching - Teaching is instructing members in the truths and doctrines of God’s Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11).

Knowledge - The gift of knowledge manifests itself in teaching and training in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and explain the precious truths of God’s Word. A word of knowledge is a Spirit-revealed truth (1 Corinthians 12:28).

Wisdom - Wisdom is the gift that discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the body and applies His teachings and actions to the needs of the body (1 Corinthians 12:28).

Prophecy - The gift of prophecy is proclaiming the Word of God boldly. This builds up the body and leads to conviction of sin. Prophecy manifests itself in preaching and teaching (1 Corinthians 12:10; Romans 12:6).

Discernment - Discernment aids the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the body. Discernment tests the message and actions of others for the protection and well-being of the body (1 Corinthians 12:10).

Exhortation - Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry (Romans 12:8).

Shepherding - The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Ephesians 4:11).

Faith - Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Corinthians 12:9).

Evangelism - God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically. This gift builds up the body by adding new members to its fellowship (Ephesians 4:11).

Apostleship - The church sends apostles from the body to plant churches or be missionaries. Apostles motivate the body to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11).

Service/Helps - Those with the gift of service/helps recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7).

Mercy - Cheerful acts of compassion characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church (Romans 12:8).

Giving - Members with the gift of giving give freely and joyfully to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift (Romans 12:8).

Hospitality - Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease. They often use their home to entertain guests. Persons with this gift integrate new members into the body (1 Peter 4:9).

God has gifted you with an expression of His Holy Spirit to support His vision and mission of the church. It is a worldwide vision to reach all people with the gospel of Christ. As a servant leader, God desires that you know how He has gifted you. This will lead you to where He would have you serve as part of His vision and mission for the church.

Gene Wilkes is pastor of Legacy Church, Plano, Texas. This article was adapted from [Jesus on Leadership: Developing Servant Leaders](#), by Gene Wilkes (LifeWay Christian Resources 1998).

SPIRITUAL GIFT SURVEY

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This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers. The Spiritual Gifts Survey consists of 80 statements. Some items reflect concrete actions; other items are descriptive traits; and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Your response choices are:

5 – Highly characteristic of me / definitely true for me

4 – Most of the time this would describe me / be true for me

3 – Frequently characteristic of me / true for me - about 50 percent of the time

2 – Occasionally characteristic of me / true for me - about 25 percent of the time

1 – Not at all characteristic of me / definitely untrue for me

-
- _____ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
- _____ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.
- _____ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.
- _____ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.
- _____ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.
- _____ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when necessary.
- _____ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.
- _____ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.
- _____ 9. I enjoy studying.
- _____ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.
- _____ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.
- _____ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.
- _____ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.
- _____ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.

- _____ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.
- _____ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.
- _____ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.
- _____ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.
- _____ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- _____ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- _____ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.
- _____ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- _____ 23. I am a cheerful giver.
- _____ 24. I spend time digging into facts.
- _____ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.
- _____ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- _____ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- _____ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- _____ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other lands.
- _____ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.
- _____ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- _____ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- _____ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.
- _____ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- _____ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- _____ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- _____ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.
- _____ 38. I am a generous giver.
- _____ 39. I am able to discover new truths.
- _____ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.
- _____ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.
- _____ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- _____ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- _____ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- _____ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.
- _____ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- _____ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.

- _____ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.
- _____ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.
- _____ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- _____ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.
- _____ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- _____ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.
- _____ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- _____ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- _____ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- _____ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- _____ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- _____ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- _____ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- _____ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- _____ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- _____ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.
- _____ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.
- _____ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- _____ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- _____ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- _____ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- _____ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- _____ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- _____ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- _____ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- _____ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.
- _____ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- _____ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- _____ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.
- _____ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- _____ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.

- _____ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- _____ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seems impossible.

SCORING YOUR SURVEY

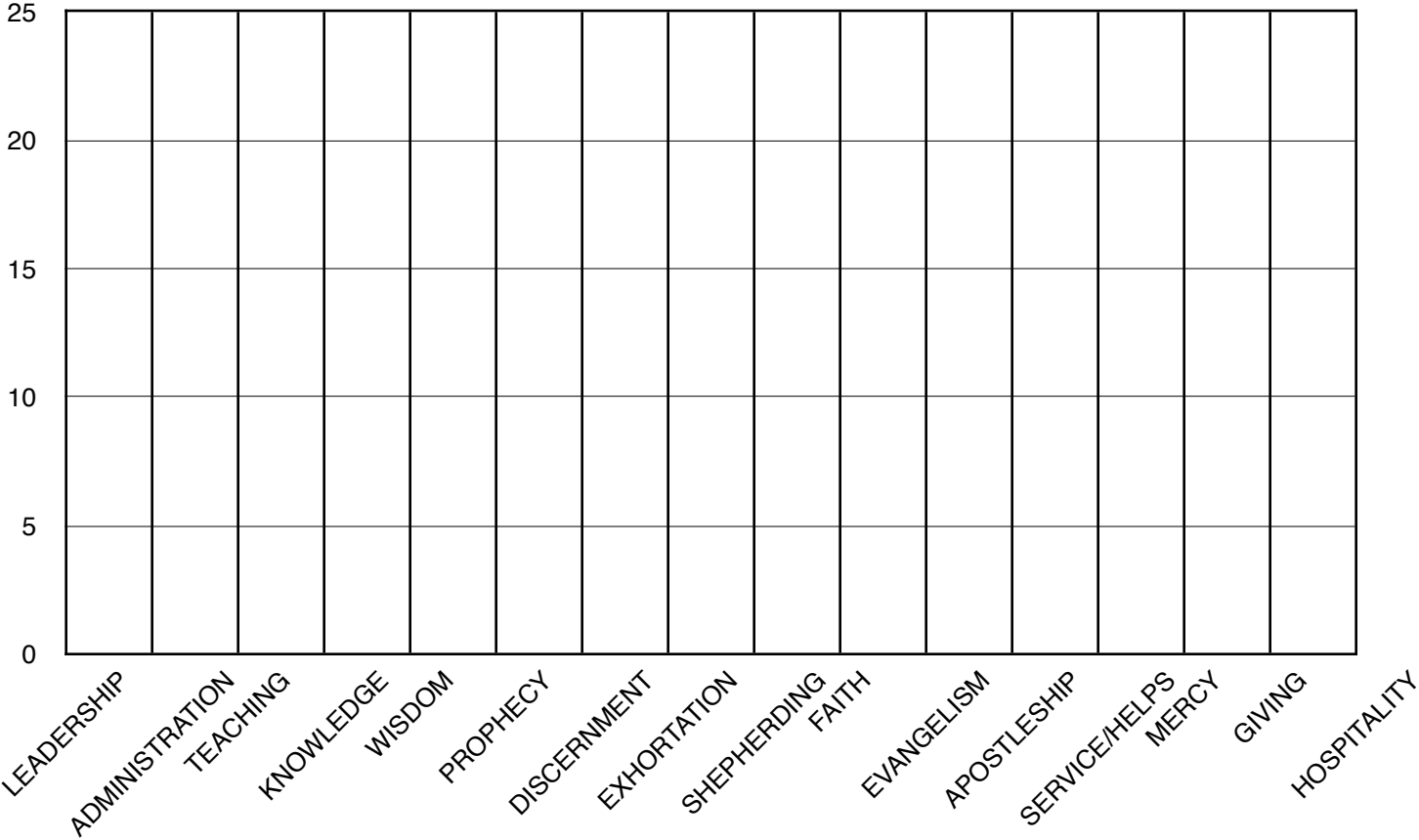
Follow these directions to figure your score for each spiritual gift:

1. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the line.
2. For each gift, add the numbers together and put the total on the TOTAL line.

LEADERSHIP	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 6		Item 16		Item 27		Item 43		Item 65		TOTAL
ADMINISTRATION	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 1		Item 17		Item 31		Item 47		Item 59		TOTAL
TEACHING	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 2		Item 18		Item 33		Item 61		Item 73		TOTAL
KNOWLEDGE	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 9		Item 24		Item 39		Item 68		Item 79		TOTAL
WISDOM	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 3		Item 19		Item 48		Item 62		Item 74		TOTAL
PROPHECY	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 10		Item 25		Item 40		Item 54		Item 69		TOTAL
DISCERNMENT	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 11		Item 26		Item 41		Item 55		Item 70		TOTAL
EXHORTATION	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 20		Item 34		Item 49		Item 63		Item 75		TOTAL
SHEPHERDING	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 4		Item 21		Item 35		Item 50		Item 76		TOTAL
FAITH	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 12		Item 28		Item 42		Item 56		Item 80		TOTAL
EVANGELISM	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 5		Item 36		Item 51		Item 64		Item 77		TOTAL
APOSTLESHIP	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 13		Item 29		Item 44		Item 57		Item 71		TOTAL
SERVICE/HELPS	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 14		Item 30		Item 46		Item 58		Item 72		TOTAL
MERCY	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 7		Item 22		Item 37		Item 52		Item 66		TOTAL

GIVING	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 8		Item 23		Item 38		Item 53		Item 67		TOTAL
HOSPITALITY	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	+	_____	=	_____
	Item 15		Item 32		Item 45		Item 60		Item 78		TOTAL

GRAPHING YOUR PROFILE



1. For each gift place a mark across the bar at the point that corresponds to your TOTAL for that gift.
2. For each gift shade the bar below the mark that you have drawn.
3. The resultant graph gives a picture of your gifts. Gifts for which the bars are tall are the ones in which you appear to be strongest. Gifts for which the bars are very short are the ones in which you appear not to be strong.

Now that you have completed the survey, thoughtfully answer the following questions.

The gifts I have begun to discover in my life are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- After prayer and worship, I am beginning to sense that God wants me to use my spiritual gifts to serve Christ's body by _____
_____.
- I am not sure yet how God wants me to use my gifts to serve others. But I am committed to prayer and worship, seeking wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts I have received from God.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.

ANSWER KEY

SECTION ONE:

CHRIST CENTERED LOVE
ACCOUNTABILITY
GROWTH
BODY OF CHRIST
AMBASSADOR
ACCOUNTABLE
HOLY WORD
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
UNIFIES
UNITY
BONDING
CONNECT
GENERATIONS
WORD OF GOD
GOOD NEWS
GREAT COMMISSION
PUBLIC PREACHING
PERSONAL WITNESS
FAITH
PRAISE
CONFESSION
THANKSGIVING
INTERCESSION
OUTWARD EXPRESSION
ABOVE ALL
CHRIST CENTERED
GOSPEL
WORSHIP
FELLOWSHIP
PRAYER
OBEY
VISION
MISSION

SECTION TWO:

JESUS
PROPHET
PRIEST
KING
GOD
FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT
NATURE
INFINITE
HOLY
MERCIFUL
LIFE
LIFE
DEATH
ASCENSION

SECTION THREE:

PURPOSE IN LIFE
LOVE
ENJOY
MANAGE
BENEFITS
BE HIS OWN BOSS
SIN
JESUS CHRIST
SIN
LOVE
KNOW
ADMIT
BELIEVE
ACCEPT
ASK

SECTION FOUR:

CHRIST
COMMANDED
BELIEVER
DEATH
BURIAL
RESURRECTION
NEW LIFE
PHYSICAL
BODILY
WEDDING RING
JESUS
NEW TESTAMENT
GO UNDER
BURIAL
RESURRECTION
IMMERSION
SALVATION
BELIEVED
SOON
BELIEVED
SIMPLE ACT
ELABORATE CEREMONY
REMINDER
SYMBOL
STATEMENT
BORN AGAIN
FAMILY
MEMBER
CONTRADICTION
PARTICIPATING
FAMILY
BELONG
ENCOURAGEMENT

ANSWER KEY - page 2

ACCOUNTABILITY
POWER
PRESENT
WITNESS
OBLIGATED
SMALL GROUP CLASS
BIBLE STUDY
FELLOWSHIP
PRAYER
SUPPORT
SPECIAL EVENTS
PRAISING
OUTREACH
BELIEVER
FOLLOWER
LEARNER
WITNESS
BAPTIZED
REPRODUCER
BALANCE

SECTION FIVE:

REAL
OTHERS
GOD
RELAXED
REVEALING
EXPRESSING MY LOVE TO GOD
ADORATION
THANKSGIVING
GOD'S PURPOSE
WILL
MEET MY NEEDS
BE SPECIFIC

FORGIVE MY SINS
OTHERS
SPIRITUAL PROTECTION
THE LORD
OTHER BELIEVERS
UNBELIEVERS
PHYSICAL
EMOTIONAL
SPIRITUAL
BUILD UP HIS BODY
CREATED
SAVED
CALLED
MINISTER
GIFTED
AUTHORIZED
COMMANDED
PREPARED
NEEDS
CHURCH FAMILY
ACCOUNTABLE
REWARDED
STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD
SUPPORT
SERVE
GROW
BRING GLORY
EVERY BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN
ABIDE
ELIMINATION
CONCENTRATION

SECTION SIX:

FELLOWSHIP
HARMONY
UNITY
FAMILY
RELATIONSHIPS
RULES
BODY
SPIRITUAL GIFTS
ELECTED OFFICES
MAINTENANCE
MINISTRY
MAXIMIZE
MINIMIZE
MINISTERS
ADMINISTRATORS
FLOCK
SHEPHERDS
SHEPHERD/PASTOR
OVERSEER/BISHOP
ELDER (MATURE ONE)
TEACHER
BIBLICAL
CULTURAL
PRACTICAL
PERSONAL
PROTECT
SHARE
SERVE
SUPPORT
637
MORE LIKE GOD
CLOSER TO GOD
MATERIALISM

ANSWER KEY - page 3

MY FAITH
FOR ETERNITY
IN RETURN
MAKES ME HAPPY
TENTH
10
ADDITION
REQUIRED
COMMANDED IT
COMMENDED IT
FIRST PLACE IN MY LIFE
EVERYTHING
GRATITUDE
STEALING
EXISTS
REALLY LOVE HIM
FIRST
LEFTOVERS
WORSHIP
SUNDAY
SACRIFICIALLY
WILLINGLY
JOYFULLY
GENEROUSLY