



# SANCTUARY

Fall Study

# Welcome to Life Verse!

We serve a God who is for us, with us, and lives in us. As a follower of Jesus, His Spirit now lives in us, permeating our being, growing our character, conforming us to the image of Christ and bearing spiritual fruit. Our life is a verse of the Good News of God.

God has personally woven us together. He has wired us and uniquely gifted us for His glory and our good. Our uniqueness is a part of His redemptive process in the world. Our passions, abilities, personalities, and experiences are all combined into our Life Verse to reach a lost and dying world. But, we are not alone in this calling. Our Verse is combined with other Verses in the larger context of life. When sung together our lives make a glorious song that proclaims the wonder, majesty, and greatness of our God.

The following pages are designed to equip you in further understanding the work of the Spirit in your life. As you work through this material that accompanies our Sunday morning messages, you'll become more aware of how God has shaped and is still shaping you. You'll get the chance to discover your spiritual gifts and learn more about how your abilities, personalities, and experiences all can be used to make a joyful noise for our King.

Expectant!

Craig Bowler,  
Pastor



# Discovering my God-Given Verse for Ministry

## What you can expect from these next weeks of study...

- A stronger relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- A deeper understanding of the truth that you are created to serve.
- Discovery of your Verse – your SHAPE – for ministry.
- Encouragement to develop and use your God-given gifts and abilities in serving Him and others through our church family.
- An opportunity to begin serving in a ministry that best expresses and honors whom God made you to be.

## What this study doesn't provide for you...

Education can be dangerous if it misfires. Here are some misconceptions we aim to avoid:

- Life Verse isn't a pass/fail test or a quick 5-step process to unlocking the secret of your life. Nor is it the final word on how to live a "With God" life.
- God created us to be flexible, dynamic people, therefore our Verse – our SHAPE, will change over time. New experiences and convictions take us in different directions. The Gift Giver can, at His discretion, empower us for any ministry, any time. The key is to stay in step with the Spirit, and open to His leading at all times.
- This study isn't a spiritual way to determine your Christian "to do" list. Our conduct and character are so intertwined; this study is about who we are as God's own people.
- Our Verse isn't just something we put to work on Sundays or when we're in the church building. Who God designed us to be is meant for every part of our lives, all the time.

*God has shaped each person in turn. - Psalm 33:15 (MSG)*

Unless noted, all verses quoted are from The New International Version Bible, 1984.

# Life Verse – SHAPED for Ministry

## What is ministry?

In the New Testament, the Greek word for ministry is diakonos, which means, “to serve.” Ministry is using whatever God has given you to serve Him and the needs of others. God is interested in the whole person, so our ministries at Sanctuary reflect His concern. Specifically, we minister to three areas of need:

- People’s **physical** needs

*‘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, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ - Matthew 25:35-36, 40.*

- People’s **emotional** needs

*And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. - 1 Thessalonians 5:14*

- People’s **spiritual** needs

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 Corinthians 5:18-21*

## Who does ministry?

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13*

The role of the staff is to pastor, shepherd, and equip the laity to do the ministry of the Church.

*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. - 1 Corinthians 12:7 (MSG)*

## Why do we do ministry?

The priority of ministry is evidenced in God's Word. Each of us...

- Is **created** for ministry

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

- Is **saved** for ministry

*God has saved us and called us to a holy life, not because we deserved it, but because of His own purpose and grace. - 2 Timothy 1:9*

- Is **called** into ministry

*I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. - Ephesians 4:1*

- Is **gifted** for ministry

*God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings. - 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)*

- Is to be **prepared** for ministry

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13*

- Is **blessed** in our ministry

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

- Is **needed** by the body of Christ to be God's minister

*Each of us is part of the one Body of Christ...The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary!...So God put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important. All of you together are the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it. - 1 Corinthians 13: 21-22, 24b, 27 [TLB]*

## The Spirit's work in us and through us

God calls us to serve Him as He works through us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The New Testament understands the Holy Spirit to be the assurance of the risen Lord Jesus indwelling believers. The Holy Spirit is the Helper.

*But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you...But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that He will receive what He will make known to you. - John 16:7, 13-14*

Jesus loves us lavishly and values relationship over everything else.

*How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the children of God! And that is what we are! - 1 John 3:1*

God has been molding and shaping each of us for ministry since before we were born.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. - Psalm 139:14-16*

When it comes to ministry, your function flows out of the way God formed you.

He would not give each of us inborn abilities, talents, gifts, passion, and life experiences and then not use them!

*Before I made you in your mother's womb, I chose you. Before you were born, I set you apart for a special work. - Jeremiah 1:5*

Will you trust God's design and intent for your life?

*What right do you have, a human being, to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: 'Why did you make me this shape?' A potter can do what he likes with the clay!  
- Romans 9:20-21*

More than anything else, God uses relationships to minister to people. At Sanctuary, we minister in three directions.

- **To the Lord**

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. - Romans 12:1*

*God paid a great price for you. So use your body to honor God.*  
- 1 Corinthians 6:20 (CEV)

We minister to the Lord through worship – our spirit responding to God's Spirit.  
Deep touching deep. Soul touching soul.

- **To other believers**

*Serve one another in holy love. - Galatians 5:13*

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. - 1 John 3:16*

We minister to other believers through discipleship and fellowship.

- **To unbelievers**

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20*

We minister to unbelievers through ministry and evangelism.

*“Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.” - Warren Wiersbe, On Being a Servant of God.*



## Discovering Your Life Verse...

- Open yourself to God through His Word and through prayer.

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. - Philippians 4:8-9*

- Trust that God desires you to be a channel for His love in ministry.

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. - Romans 12:1*

- Eliminate competing distractions.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2*

- Evaluate your strengths and weaknesses.

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. - Romans 12:3*

- Cooperate with other believers.

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. - Romans 12:4-5*

## Discovering the SHAPE of your Verse...

*There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

### **Spiritual Gifts** – What am I gifted to do?

Unwrapping your gift(s) will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.

*...Each person has his or her own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*

- 1 Corinthians 7:7b

### **Heart** – With whom do I love to serve?

Monitoring your heartbeat will help you clarify and identify what you really love to do.

*God has put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose....* - Revelation 17:17

### **Abilities** – What talents and skills do I have?

Applying your abilities will help you appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have.

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

### **Personality** – What is my unique expression of ministry?

Plugging into your personality will help you see how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry.

*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is; everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful....*

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 (MSG)

### **Experiences** – How does my past and present impact my ministry?

Examining your experiences will help you review your history to discover how God has prepared you for a unique ministry that only you can fulfill.

*God helps us in our troubles, so we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.* - 2 Corinthians 1:4 (GNT)



A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to all believers to be used to serve Christ and others, building up the Kingdom of God.

*Now about spiritual gifts, I do not want you to be ignorant.*

- 1 Corinthians 12:1

### Ten Principles About Spiritual Gifts...

**1. Only believers have spiritual gifts.**

*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

- 1 Corinthians 2:14

**2. Every Christian has at least one gift.**

*But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.*

- 1 Corinthians 7:7b

**3. No one receives all the gifts.**

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?*

- 1 Corinthians 12:27-30

**4. No single gift is given to everyone.**

**5. You can't earn or work for a spiritual gift.**

*But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.*

- Ephesians 4:7

**6. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts we get.**

*All of these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.* - 1 Corinthians 12:11

7. **Each of us is to develop the gifts God has given us.**  
*Do not neglect your gift... 1 Timothy 4:14*
8. **It's a sin to waste the gifts God gives.**  
*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. - 1 Corinthians 4:2*
9. **Using our gifts glorifies God, helps others, and grows us individually.**  
*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*  
- John 15:8
10. **Our gifts tell us what we need from others.**  
*But God made our bodies with many parts, and He has put each part just where He wants it ... The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."*  
- 1 Corinthians 12:18, 21 [NLT]

## The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

- Spiritual gifts don't exist for my benefit but for the benefit of others.

*Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the spiritual gift you have received from God.*

- 1 Peter 4:10 [GNB]

*The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.*

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 [TLB]

- Spiritual gifts produce maturity and stability in our church family, and further God's Kingdom.

*It was He who gave gifts to people... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind.*

- Ephesians 4:11, 13-14 [GNB]

## Cautions about Spiritual Gifts

- Don't confuse gifts with natural talents. Every human being has abilities by virtue of being made in God's image, naturally stemming from our physical birth.
- Don't confuse gifts with the fruit of the Spirit.

*But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. - Galatians 5:22-23*

- Don't confuse some gifts with Christian roles. Some gifts are also roles all Christians share. Through His gifts, God has empowered some people to be role models.

Spiritual Gift	Christian Role
Giving	<i>Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2 Corinthians 9:7</i>
Serving	<i>... serve one another in love. - Galatians 5:13</i>
Evangelism	<i>... and you will be my witnesses. - Acts 1:8</i>
Exhortation	<i>...but let us encourage one another. - Hebrews 10:25</i>
Mercy	<i>Rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn. - Romans 12:15</i>

- Be aware of expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results. Understanding gifts helps us respect different ministries.
- Don't feel like your gift makes you superior or inferior to others.

*The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.... - 1 Corinthians 12:21-22*

- Realize that using your gifts without love is worthless.

*I may be able to speak the languages of mortals and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains—but if I have not love, I am nothing... it does no good. - 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 [GNB]*

Our conduct (what we do) and our character (who we are) work together like two oars in a row-boat. With just one, we end up going in circles, accomplishing nothing. As we grow in our relationship with God, He will mold our character and conduct to His. Christian maturity is a life-long process.

# New Testament Foundations for Spiritual Gifts

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts or even their definitions. The four major lists are found in these New Testament passages:

1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 28-30

Romans 12:3-8

Ephesians 4:11-12

1 Peter 4:9-11

These lists are not meant to be exhaustive. There are other passages that mention or illustrate spiritual gifts.

The following material provides some additional information on some of the spiritual gifts. You may find this helpful in better understanding or confirming your spiritual gift(s). As you prayerfully read through this list, check off your initial impressions concerning yourself. Remember, you can have many gifts.

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

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Develop strategies or plans to reach identified goals
- Assist ministries to become more effective and efficient
- Create order out of organizational chaos
- Manage or coordinate a variety of responsibilities to accomplish a task
- Organize people, tasks, or events

References: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Exodus 18:13-26

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Apostleship** – The special ability to introduce the gospel to another culture or race, and then nurture the converts in Christian discipleship.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Pioneer and establish new ministries or churches
- Adapt to different surroundings by being culturally sensitive and aware
- Desire to minister to unreached people in other communities or countries
- Demonstrate authority and vision for the mission of the Church

References: 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12; Romans 1:5; Acts 13:2-3

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Discernment** – The special ability to distinguish between truth and error; to discern the spirits, differentiating between good and evil, right and wrong; also to see the tree in the forest.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Distinguish truth from error, right from wrong, pure motives from impure
- Identify deception in others with accuracy and appropriateness
- Determine whether a word attributed to God is authentic
- Recognize inconsistencies in a teaching, preaching, or interpretation
- Are able to sense the presence of evil

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 5:1-4; Matthew 16:21-23

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Encouragement** – The special ability to present truth so as to strengthen, comfort, or urge to action those who are discouraged or wavering in their faith.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Come to the side of those who are discouraged, to strengthen and reassure them
- Challenge or comfort others to trust and hope in the promises of God
- Urge others to action by applying Biblical Truth
- Motivate others to grow and develop their potential
- Emphasize God's promises and confidence in His will

References: Romans 12:8; Acts 11:22-24; Acts 15:30-32

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift



**Evangelism** – The special ability to effectively communicate the gospel to unbelievers so that they respond in faith and move toward discipleship.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Communicate the message of Christ with clarity and conviction, in a positive, non-threatening way
- Seek out opportunities to talk to unbelievers about spiritual matters
- Challenge unbelievers to faith and to become fully devoted followers of Christ
- Adapt their presentation of the gospel to connect with the individual's needs
- Seek opportunities to build relationships with unbelievers

References: Ephesians 4:11; Acts 8:26-40; Luke 19:1-10

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

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

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Believe the promises of God and inspire others to do the same
- Act in complete confidence of God's ability to overcome obstacles
- Demonstrate an attitude of trust in God's will and His promises
- Advance the cause of Christ because they go forward when others will not
- Ask God for what is needed and trust Him to provide for those needs

References: 1 Corinthians 12:9, 13:2; Hebrews 11:1; Romans 4:18-21

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Giving** – The special ability to contribute money and resources to the work of the Lord with cheerfulness and liberality. People with this gift do not ask “How much money do I need to give to God?” but rather, “How much money do I need to live on?”

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Manage their finances and limit their lifestyle in order to give as much of their resources as possible
- Support the work of ministry with sacrificial gifts to advance God’s purposes here and now
- Meet tangible needs that enable spiritual growth to occur
- Provide resources generously and cheerfully, trusting God for His provision
- May have a special ability to make money so that they may use it to further God’s work

References: Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-13; Luke 21:1-4

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Healing** – The special ability to be God’s means for restoring people to wholeness. Spiritual healing is God’s work of offering persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationship.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Have faith in the power of God
- Bring restoration to the sick and diseased; serve as a channel of God’s love
- Authenticate a message from God through healing
- Use it as an opportunity to communicate a biblical truth and to see God glorified
- Pray, touch, or speak words that miraculously bring healing to one’s body, mind, emotions, spirit, and relationships, instantaneously or over time

References: 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28, 30; Acts 3:1-16; Mark 2:1-12

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Helps** – The special ability to accomplish practical and necessary tasks, which free up, support, and meet the needs of others.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Serve behind the scenes wherever needed to support the gift and ministries of others
- See the tangible and practical things to be done and enjoy doing them
- Senses God’s purpose and pleasure in meeting everyday responsibilities
- Attach spiritual value to practical service
- Enjoy knowing that they are freeing up others to do what God has called them to do

References: 1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:7, 16:1-2; Acts 6:1-4

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

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

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Provide an environment where people feel valued and cared for
- Meet new people and help them to feel welcomed
- Create a safe and comfortable setting where relationships can develop
- Seek ways to connect people together into meaningful relationships
- Set people at ease in unfamiliar surroundings

References: 1 Peter 4:9-10; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1-2

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Intercession** – The special ability to consistently pray on behalf of and for others, seeing frequent and specific results and not becoming discouraged in the process.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause over extended periods of time
- Have a daily awareness of the spiritual battles being waged and pray; are convinced God moves in direct response to prayer
- Pray in response to the leading of the Spirit, whether they understand it or not
- Exercise authority and power for the protection of others and the equipping of them to serve

References: Romans 8:26-27; John 17:9-26; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Colossians 1:9-12, Colossians 4:12-13

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Knowledge** – The special ability to bring truth to the Body through a revelation or biblical insight.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Receive truth which enables them to better serve the Body
- Search the scriptures for insight, understanding, and truth
- Have an unusual insight or understanding that serves the church
- Organize information for teaching and practical use
- Gain knowledge which was not attained by natural observation or means

References: 1 Corinthians 12:8; Mark 2:6-8; John 1:45-50

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Leadership** – the special ability to cast vision, motivate, and direct people to harmoniously accomplish the purposes of God.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Provide direction for God's people or ministry
- Motivate others to perform to the best of their abilities
- Present the “big picture” for others to see
- Model the values of the ministry
- Take responsibility and establish goals

References: Romans 12:8, Hebrews 13:17, Luke 22:25-26

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Mercy** – the special ability to cheerfully and practically help those who are suffering or are in need; compassion moved to action.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Focus upon alleviating the sources of pain or discomfort of suffering people
- Address the needs of the lonely and forgotten
- Offer love, grace, and dignity to those facing hardships and crisis
- Serve in difficult or unsightly circumstances and do so cheerfully
- Concern themselves with individual or social issues that oppress people

References: Romans 12:8, Matthew 5:7, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 10:25-37

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Miracles** – the special ability to be used as God’s instrument to appropriate an extraordinary amount of God’s power in such a way that Christ is glorified, and the message of the gospel is authenticated.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Speak God’s truth and have it authenticated by an accompanying miracle
- Express confidence in God’s faithfulness and ability to make His presence known
- Bring the ministry and message of Jesus Christ with power
- Claim God to be the source of the miracle and honor Him

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-29, John 2:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Prophecy** - the special ability to publicly communicate God’s Word in an inspired way that convinces unbelievers, and both challenges and comforts believers; the ability to persuasively declare God’s will.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Expose sin or deception in others for the purpose of reconciliation
- Speak a timely word from God causing conviction, repentance, and edification
- See truth that others often fail to see and challenge them to respond
- Warn of God’s immediate or future judgment if there is no change
- Understand God’s heart and mind through experiences He takes them through

References: Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 13:2, 2 Peter 1:19-21

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

**Shepherding** – the special ability to nurture, care for, and guide people toward ongoing spiritual maturity and becoming like Christ.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Take responsibility to nurture the whole person in their walk with God
- Provide guidance and oversight to a group of God's people
- Model with their life what it means to be fully devoted follower of Jesus
- Establish trust and confidence through long-term relationships
- Lead and protect those within their span of care

References: Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 5:1-4, John 10:1-19

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Teaching** – the special ability to understand, clearly explain, and apply the Word of God, causing greater Christ-likeness in the lives of listeners.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Communicate biblical truths that inspires greater obedience to the Word and equips believers for ministry
- Challenge listeners simply and practically with the truths of scripture
- Present the whole counsel of God for maximum life change
- Give attention to detail and accuracy
- Enjoy preparing through extended times of study and reflection

References: Romans 12:7, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29, Acts 18:24-28, 2 Timothy 2:2

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Tongues** – the special ability to speak, worship, or pray in a language unknown to the speaker. People with this gift may receive a spontaneous message from God which is made known to this body through the gift of interpretation.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Express (with an interpretation) a word from the Spirit which helps the Body
- Communicate a message given by God for the church
- Speak in a language they have never learned and do not understand
- Worship the Lord with unknown words too deep for the mind to comprehend
- Experience an intimacy with God which inspires them to serve and encourage others

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-30, 13:1, 14:1-33. Acts 2:1-11

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift

**Interpretation** – the special ability to make known to the Body of Christ the message of one who is speaking in tongues.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Respond to a message spoken in tongues by giving an interpretation
- Glorify God and demonstrate His power through this miraculous gift
- Build up or encourage the Body by interpreting a timely message from God
- Understand an unlearned language and communicate that message to the Body of Christ

References: 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:5, 14:26-28

- I'm pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don't think I have this gift



**Wisdom** –the special ability to understand God’s perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way; the ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

Distinctives: People with this gift

- Focus on the unseen consequences in determining the next steps to take
- Receive an understanding of what is necessary to meet the needs of the Body
- Provide divinely given solutions in the midst of conflict and confusion
- Hear the Spirit provide direction for God’s best in a given situation
- Apply spiritual truth in specific and practical ways

References: 1 Corinthians 12:8, James 3:13-18, 1 Corinthians 2:3-14, Jeremiah 9:23-24

- I’m pretty sure I have this gift
- I may have this gift
- I don’t think I have this gift

## *For reflection...*

- Be praying for God's inspiration as you seek to discover your unique giftedness. Remember, God isn't the author of fear or chaos, so let Him have both and you can be on your way!
- Continue to review this list from time to time. The process is just beginning so look to God for guidance. You don't have to figure anything out on your own.
- Share your findings with a trusted friend. So often we fail to recognize a gift we have that is very obvious to someone who knows us well.
- Start experimenting with different ministries. See if you are making an impact for the common good, i.e.,

If you think your gift is teaching, ask, "Are people learning?"

If you think your gift is hospitality, ask, "Do people feel at home?"

If you think your gift is administration, ask, "Do others feel more organized when I am around?"

If you think your gift is leadership, ask, "Do others look to me for leadership and vision and feel led to follow my directions?"

If you think your gift is mercy, ask, "Do others feel heard and sympathized with and when they talk with me?"

- Remember, this a process!



The Bible uses the term “heart” to represent the center of our desires, motives, feelings, and attitudes.

*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*  
- Psalm 34:4.

Our heart determines...

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

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. Each person has a slightly different pattern. Likewise, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others. The fact that we care deeply about some things more than others is by design. If all of us had the same passion for the same issues or people, needs would go unmet.

This God-given motivation serves as an internal guidance system for our lives. Every human heart seeks purpose for living. Each of us has a deep longing or desire to make a difference. If we are walking in faith with God, He will provide a means to fulfill that ministry desire of our heart. While our spiritual gifts answer the question, “What will I do?”, your unique heartbeat identifies where and with whom you will serve.

When we harmonize our heart with our work, two important things happen:

- Passion - excitement and enthusiasm grow and become infectious
- Community - unity with the people you work with

# Taking a Spiritual EKG

## Directions:

- Prayerfully consider your answers to the following questions
- Complete the assessment on your own
- There are no right or wrong responses
- Don't be concerned about "whether" you can do it or "how" it can be done
- Complete the assessment as if you have no obstacles to fulfilling your heart's desire

## Questions:

1. If I could snap my fingers and know that I couldn't fail, what would I do?

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2. At the end of my life, I'd love to be able to look back and know that I'd done something about...

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3. If someone were to mention my name to a group of my friends, what would they say I'm really interested in or passionate about?

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4. What I would most like to do for others is:

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5. The people group I would like most to help are :

- |                                       |   |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infants      | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Parents   | <input type="checkbox"/> Singles      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Moms    | <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed          | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugees     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced     | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Marrieds   | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Women | <input type="checkbox"/> Empty Nesters    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents      | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly          | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobless      | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor             | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners    | <input type="checkbox"/> College Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Children     |

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Environment
- Discipleship
- Violence
- Education
- Economic Issues
- Healthcare
- Abortion
- Church
- Childcare
- AIDS
- Injustice
- Addictions
- Reaching the lost
- Poverty
- Hunger
- Word of God
- Homosexuality
- Politics
- Racism
- International Affairs
- Technology
- Family Literacy

Others: \_\_\_\_\_

The following exercise may help you uncover a theme from your experiences, which will give you insight into your heart. List five to seven positive experiences you've had in your life and briefly describe what you did and why it was meaningful to you. Think from childhood to present. These experiences may have taken place at home, work, school, or during your free time. It may have been a clock you fixed or a dress you made. It may have been a puzzle you put together or an award you received. It may have been helping some friends move, building a house, winning an election, or giving to someone in need. Remember, these are experiences that you enjoyed doing and through which you felt fulfilled.

Five to seven positive experiences...	Why this experience is meaningful to me...

Next, read through what you have written and look for any underlying theme. If one or two come to mind, write them in the space below.

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Examine your achievements for a common motivational thread. You might find a key phrase repeated.

If you need more help in identifying your heart, look for patterns in your answers. For example, can you see any themes? Does a particular age group keep coming up? Is there a need that keeps surfacing? Are you serving in a similar role in different areas? Can you prioritize your concerns? Perhaps the following list will help:  
I love to...

- **Design/Develop** – I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.
- **Pioneer** – I love to test and try out new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.
- **Organize** – I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.
- **Operate/Maintain** – I love to efficiently maintain something that is already organized.
- **Acquire/Possess** – I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.
- **Excel** – I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.
- **Influence** – I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others.
- **Perform** – I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.
- **Improve** – I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.
- **Repair** – I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.
- **Persevere** – I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.
- **Follow the rules** – I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.
- **Prevail** – I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

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

Based on my answers to the above questions, I sense I have a heart for:

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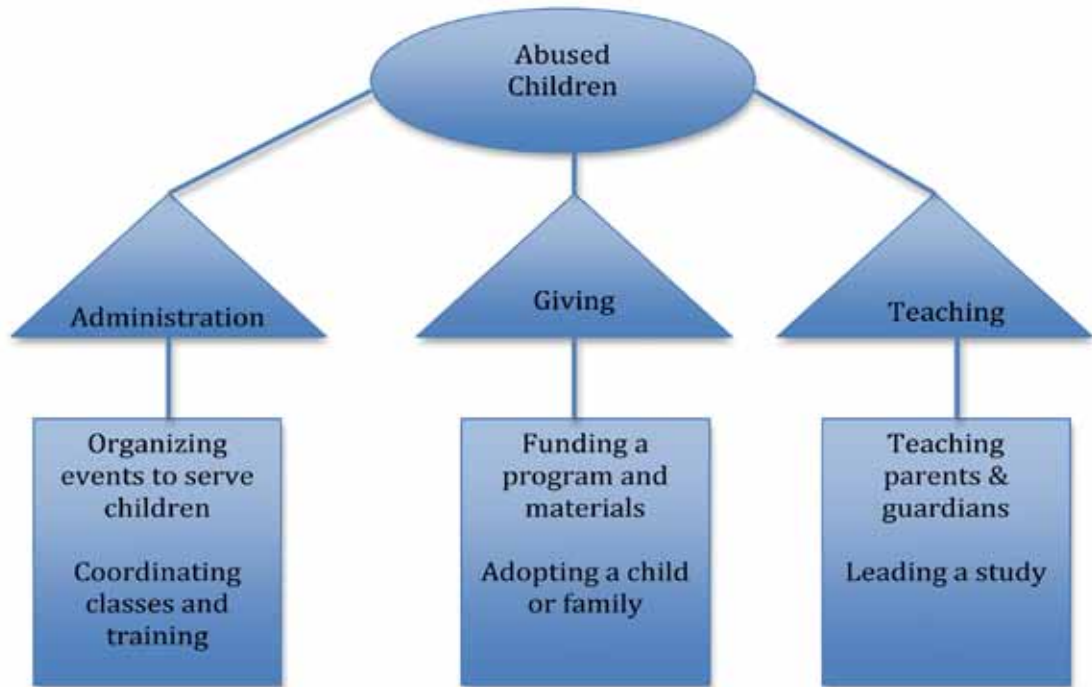
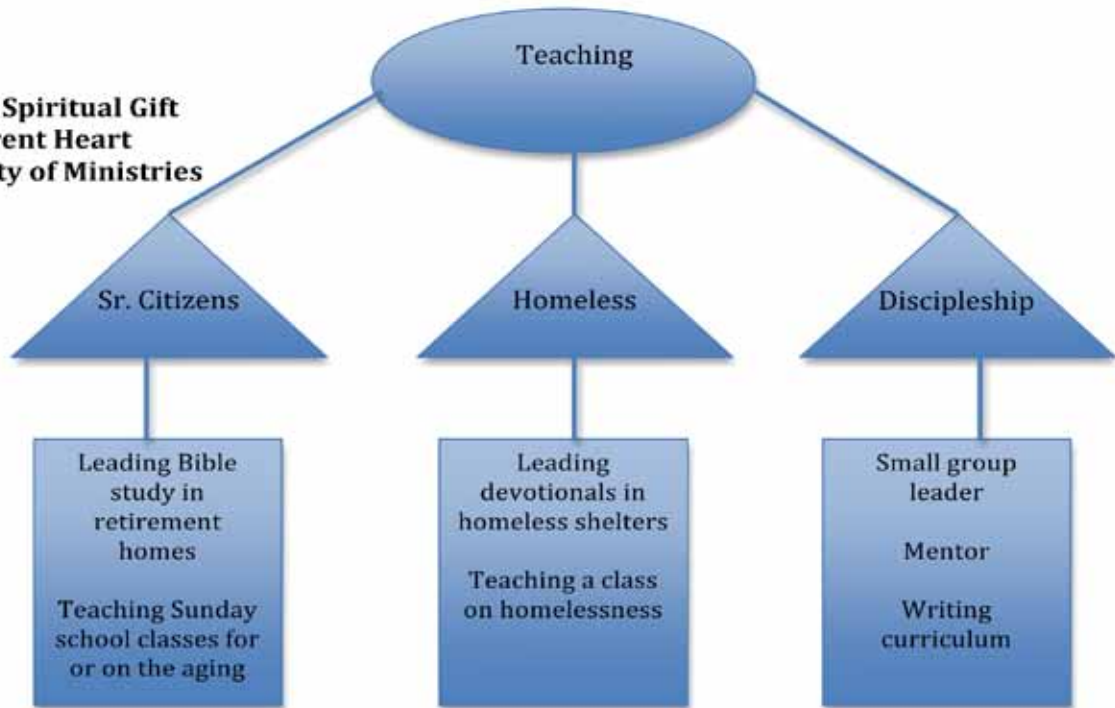
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This is just the beginning of the process of identifying and clarifying your Heart's desire for ministry. As you think, pray, and gain more ministry experience, your passion will become clearer over time. The more completely you commit your heart to God, the more completely the desires of your heart mirror God's desire and plan for your life.

*For God has put it into their hearts to accomplish His purpose...*  
- Revelation 17:17



**Same Spiritual Gift  
Different Heart  
Variety of Ministries**





Did you know that the abilities to do amazing things on a computer, to beautifully arrange flowers, or to repair a car engine, are not spiritual gifts? Yet God has blessed each of us with special talents and the knack for certain skills that we need to use to glorify Him, and to help and serve others. Your abilities are the natural talents you were born with.

*Then Moses said to the Israelites, “See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts – to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. And He has given both him and Oholiab, son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers – all of them master craftsmen and designers. So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.” – Exodus 35:30-36:1*

*God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.*  
- Romans 12:6a [NLT]

*There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service.* - 1 Corinthians 12:6 [ESV]

## Five Misconceptions About Abilities...

- **People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.**  
This simply is not true. There are a number of skills which seem to be inborn, or are developed very early in infancy. When people say, "He just seems to have a natural talent for it", or "She has a knack for that", it is probably true!
- **Those skills which must be learned are learned primarily in the classroom.**  
Actually, some of your most basic skills were learned at home, "in the street", or somewhere else outside the classroom.
- **If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.**  
Again, this is not true. You are probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of! You need some process of skill identification.
- **Skills that I use at work are only usable at work, home or school. I couldn't use them in ministry.**  
Hopefully, by the end of this study, you will see the fallacy of this idea. Be creative!
- **Most people only have a very few abilities.**  
The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from 500 to 700 skills!

## How to Discover Your Abilities

Thoughtfully and prayerfully answer the questions below. Don't consider any skill or ability of too little importance to mention!

1. My current vocation is:
2. Other jobs or skills in which I have experience:
3. I feel my most valuable personal asset is:
4. I've taught classes in the following subjects:

5. From the following list, I feel I have these specialized abilities (check any and all that apply):

- Entertaining: to perform, act, dance, speak
- Music: to make music by using voice or instruments
- Carpentry: to create wooden items or work with wood
- Craft: to create items by sewing, needlework and craft supplies
- Recruiting: to enlist and motivate people to get involved
- Interviewing: to discover what others are really like
- Researching: to read, gather information, collect data
- Artistic: to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings
- Graphics: to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners
- Evaluating: to analyze data and draw conclusions
- Planning: to strategize, design, and organize programs and events
- Managing: to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved
- Counseling: to listen, encourage, and guide with sensitivity
- Teaching: to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
- Writing: to write articles, letters, books
- Editing: to proof-read or rewrite
- Promoting: to advertise or promote events and activities
- Repairing: to fix, restore, maintain
- Feeding: to create meals for large or small groups
- Recall: to remember or recall names and faces
- Mechanical operating: to operate equipment, tools or machinery
- Resourceful: to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
- Counting: to work with numbers, data or money
- Classifying: to systematize and file books, data, records, and materials so they can be retrieved easily
- Public Relations: to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy
- Welcoming: to convey warmth, develop rapport, make others feel comfortable
- Composing: to write music or lyrics
- Landscaping: to do gardening and work with plants
- Decorating: to beautify a setting for a special event



*For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.*  
- Psalm 139:13

## The Impact of Personal Style

Your personal style influences every part of your life...

- Your spiritual life - how you relate to God
- Your emotional life - how you feel
- Your personal life - how you relate to others
- Your actions - what you do, and how you do what you do.

We use our personal style to interpret and understand everyone and everything that touches our lives. It is like a frame that molds every action we take. It is also the foundation for our unique “structure”. Though we may have the same personal style as another – just like two different-looking houses may share a similar foundation- our individual experience is what makes each of us unique.

## Understanding Personal Style

Why is it important?

- It helps us understand ourselves. People often see only their strengths or their weaknesses. An accurate picture of both is necessary to understand your design.
- It helps us understand and adapt to others. Knowledge of the personality of others helps you learn to appreciate others for the unique way God has designed them. Instead of frustration, you can learn to anticipate their weaknesses as well as utilize their strengths.
- It helps direct us to the tasks that best utilize our own style.  
Personality influences how you work. Knowing your personal style allows you to either choose tasks that best match your style, or adapt the tasks to your style.

Our assessment tool was created by Fred Littauer. This assessment divides personalities into four broad categories: Sanguine, Choleric, Melancholy, and Phlegmatic. It is important to realize that one is not better than another --- all have strengths and weaknesses.

# Popular Sanguine

**Emotions** ---- POSITIVE: optimistic, talkative, storyteller (in great detail), good sense of humor, enthusiastic, cheerful, likes variety, emotional, demonstrative, changeable, dramatic

NEGATIVE: exaggerates, dwells on trivia, egotistical, naïve, controlled by circumstances, never grows up, can't remember names, loud

**Relationships** ---- POSITIVE: extrovert, makes friends easily, exciting, followed, apologizes quickly and easily, holds no grudges, likes spontaneous activities

NEGATIVE: hates to be alone, forgets obligations, wants to be popular, looks for credit, dominates conversations, interrupts and doesn't listen, fickle and forgetful, makes excuses, repeats stories

**Work** ---- POSITIVE: energetic, enthusiastic, great idea person, starts well and big, inspires others to join, charms others to work, volunteers readily, creative and colorful

NEGATIVE: little follow-through, talks rather than works, forgets obligations, undisciplined, evaluates by feelings, easily distracted, wastes time talking

**Church** ---- looks for fun, activity, and lively worship; short sermons

# Perfect Melancholy

**Emotions** ---- POSITIVE: deep, serious, analytical, genius-prone, artistic or musical, creative, sensitive to others, self-sacrificing, conscientious, idealistic

NEGATIVE: pessimistic, moody, enjoys being hurt, false humility, low self- image, self-centered, too introspective, guilt feelings, persecution complex

**Relationships** ---- POSITIVE: deep relationships, content to stay in background, avoids being center of attention, faithful, devoted, good listener, deeply concerned, compassionate

NEGATIVE: introvert, lives through others, insecure, withdrawn, remote, critical, suspicious, antagonistic, vengeful, unforgiving

**Work** ---- POSITIVE: schedule-oriented, high standards, perfectionist, organized, economical, good at seeing the problem, creative problem solver, finishes what they start, likes charts and schedules

NEGATIVE: depressed over lack of perfection, hesitant to start projects, mired in details, prefers analysis or preparation to actual work, hard to please, standards too high, needs approval

**Church** ---- enjoys serious worship services, detailed bulletins and sermon outlines



# Powerful Choleric

**Emotions** ---- POSITIVE: born leader, dynamic, energetic, compulsive need for change, strong-willed, decisive, unemotional, independent, self-sufficient, confident, capable

NEGATIVE: bossy, impatient, quick-tempered, impetuous, enjoys controversy and arguments, inflexible, unsympathetic

**Relationship** ---- POSITIVE: outgoing, little need for friends, excels in emergencies, will lead and organize, is usually right

NEGATIVE: tends to use people, dominates others, knows everything, can do everything better, too independent, can't apologize, may be right, but unpopular

**Work** ---- POSITIVE: goal-oriented, organizes well, sees the whole picture, delegates, moves quickly to action, makes the goal, stimulates activity, thrives on opposition

NEGATIVE: no tolerance for mistakes, doesn't analyze details, makes rash decisions, rude or tactless, manipulative, demanding, workaholic

**Church** ---- needs orderly church with good organization and effective programs, likes brief sermons that apply to others, struggles giving God control.





# Peaceful Phlegmatic

**Emotions** ---- POSITIVE: easy-going, calm, cool, patient, well-balanced, consistent, quiet, witty, sympathetic, kind

NEGATIVE: unenthusiastic, fearful, worried, indecisive, avoids responsibility, strong-willed, selfish, compromising, self-righteous

**Relationships** ---- POSITIVE: easy to get along with, pleasant, inoffensive, good listener, dry sense of humor, many friends, compassionate and concerned

NEGATIVE: dampens enthusiasm, stays uninvolved, unexciting, indifferent to plans, judges others, sarcastic, resists change

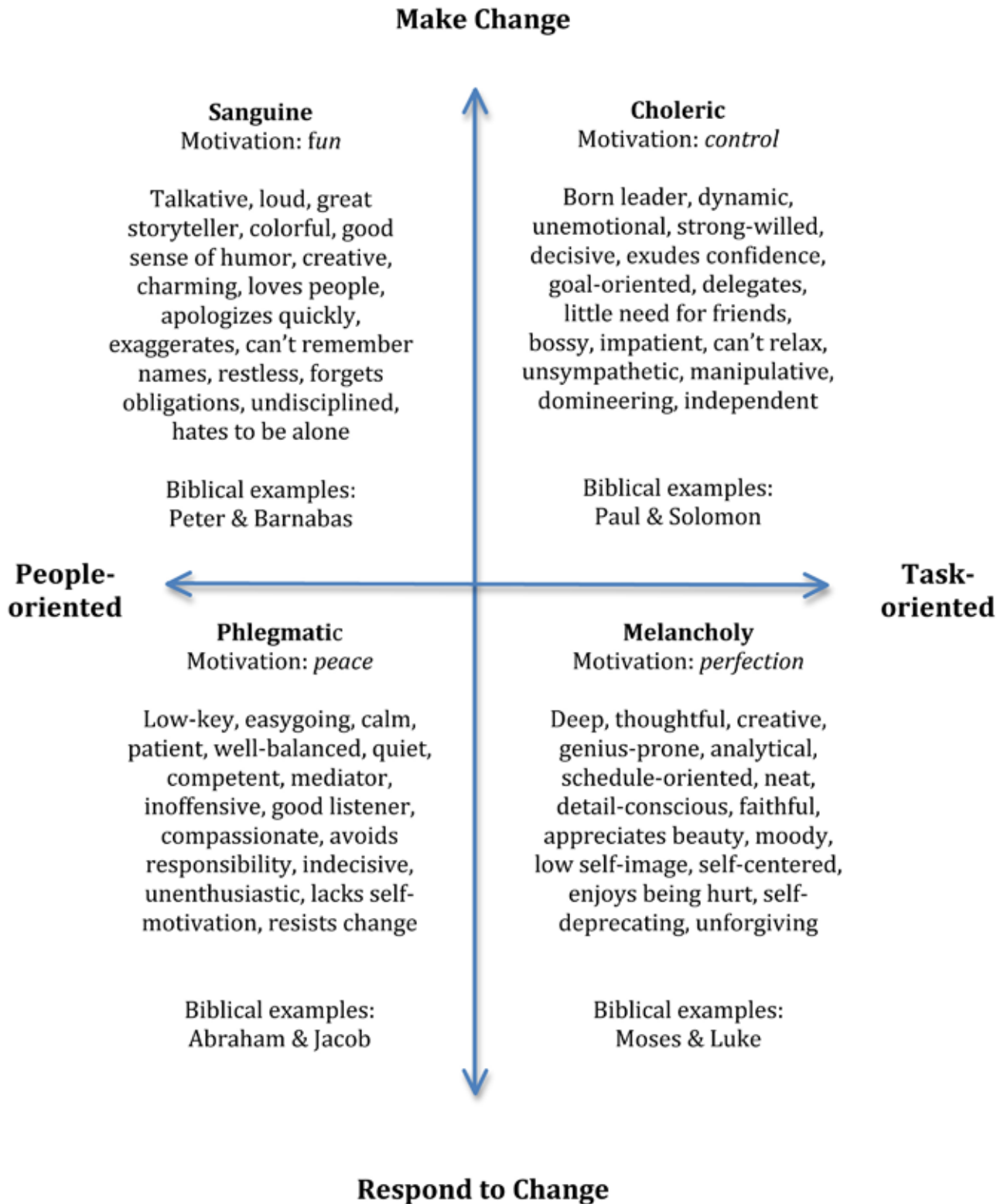
**Work** ---- POSITIVE: competent, steady, peaceful, diplomatic, administrative ability, mediator, avoids conflict, good under pressure, finds the easy way

NEGATIVE: not goal-oriented, lacks self-motivation, hard to get moving, resents being pushed, lazy and careless, discourages others, would rather watch

**Church** ---- relaxed worship, not too dressy or demanding, pleasant easy-going sermons

# Personalities

## Personalities





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

*God wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does He do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!*

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 [TLB]

In determining your SHAPE for serving God, you should examine at least six kinds of experiences from your past:

- **Family experiences:** What did you learn growing up in your family?

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- **Educational experiences:** What were your favorite subjects in school?

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- **Vocational experiences:** What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?

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Experience is not what happens to you.  
It is what you do with what happens to you.  
- Aldous Huxley

- **Spiritual experiences:** What have been your most meaningful times with God?

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- **Ministry experiences:** How have you served God in the past?

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- **Painful experiences:** What problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned from?

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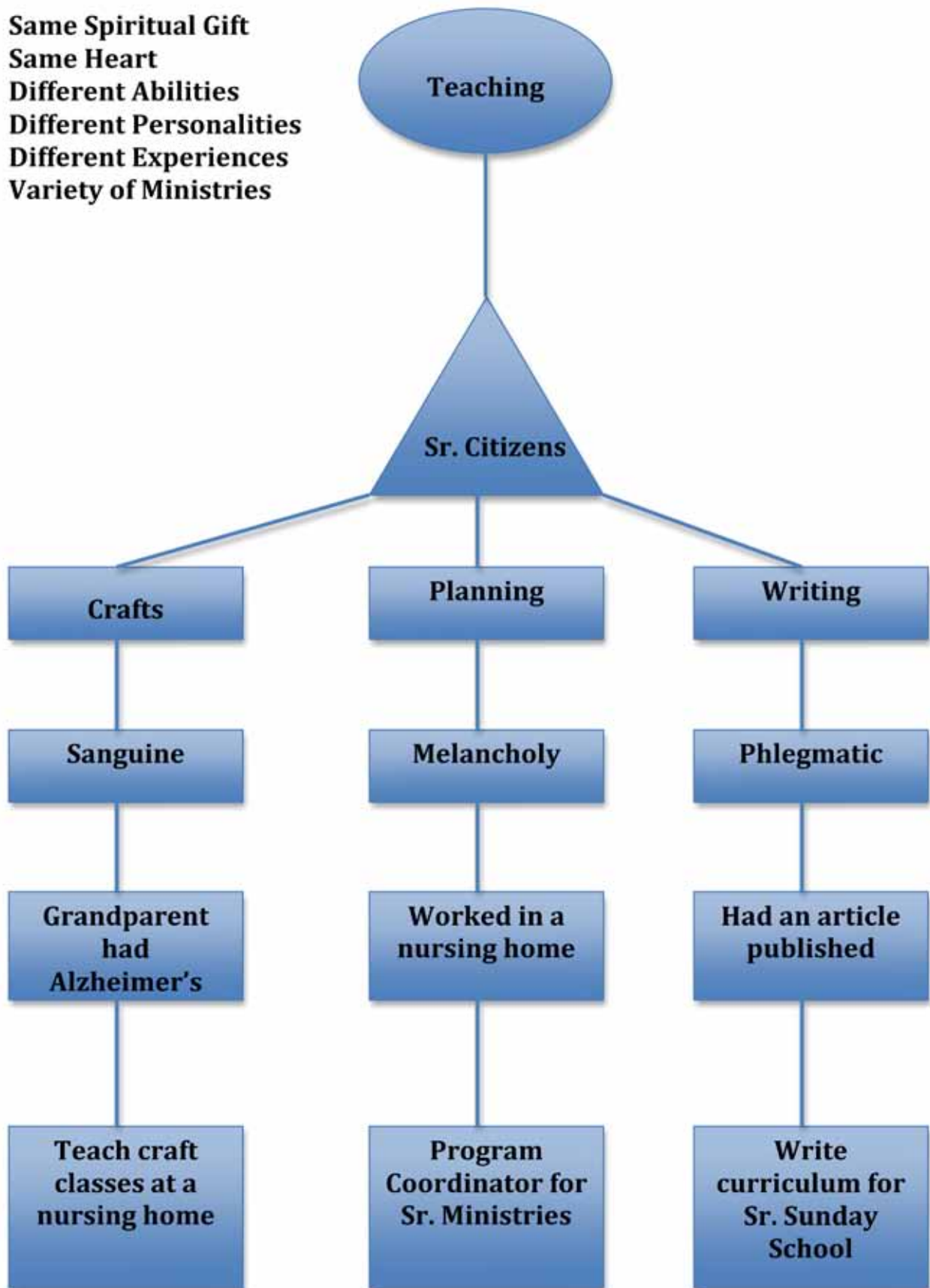
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God never wastes a hurt! He intentionally allows you to go through painful experiences to equip you for ministry to others. The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life---the ones you've wanted to hide and forget---are the experiences God wants to use to help others. They are your ministry!

- Rick Warren  
*The Purpose Driven Life*

Same Spiritual Gift  
Same Heart  
Different Abilities  
Different Personalities  
Different Experiences  
Variety of Ministries



# Distinguishing a Servant's Heart

What motivates me to serve?

*And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul...*

- Deuteronomy 10:12

*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. - Matthew 5:16*

*It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.*

*The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; so He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him....*

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

- John 13:1-5, 12-17

*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people. - Ephesians 5:27*

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance human, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*

- Philippians 2:5-8





What are the differences between ministering with a Servant's Heart and ministering with a Worldly Heart?

<b>Heart Check</b>		
	<b>Worldly Heart</b>	<b>Servant Heart</b>
Serves out of:	<b>OBLIGATION</b> It's an "I have to" attitude.	<b>OBEDIENCE</b> It's an "I want to serve God!" attitude.
Is motivated to serve by a concern for:	<b>WHAT OTHERS SEE</b> -what will others say if I don't serve, or -if I don't serve in this ministry, or -I don't serve in this way, or -I don't commit in this area?	<b>WHAT GOD SEES</b> With a Servant Heart, we serve because we have a relationship with God. We understand that ultimately we have an audience of <b>ONE</b> .
Serves with the attitude of:	<b>"IT'S NOT MY JOB!"</b> Seeks to do the minimum necessary to get by and fulfill the basics	<b>"WHATEVER IT TAKES"</b> Willing to go outside the "job description"
Has a ministry mind-set that says:	<b>"ME FIRST"</b> Wants to advance their own agenda and asks, "What's in it for me?"	<b>FATHER FIRST</b> Servants look up and say, "Lord, what would <b>You</b> have me do at this time? God, how could my life best honor <b>You</b> ? How can I make a difference today in the way <b>You</b> have enabled me to touch lives?"
Serves with a spirit of:	<b>PRIDE</b> When we serve out of a worldly heart, we look at what we did and say, "Hey, I did that, I have something to offer, aren't I something? I...I...I..."	<b>HUMILITY</b> "God did that! <b>God</b> has given me a spiritual gift and has filled me with His Spirit to empower me for the faithful and meaningful expression of that gift. <b>God</b> has used me to have an impact in a person's life."
The results are:	<b>SELF-SEEKING</b> Builds up self, draws attention to themselves	<b>GOD-HONORING</b> Gives God the glory and says, "Isn't He wonderful?"

# I have a Servant's Heart when...

- I choose to be a servant.  
*"When we choose to serve we are still in charge. We decided whom we will serve and when we will serve.... But when we choose to be a servant we give up the right to be in charge. There is a great freedom in this. When we choose to be a servant we surrender the right to decide who and when we will serve. We become available and vulnerable".* – Richard Foster
- Trusting Jesus with who I am, I can step to the back of the line for the right reasons.  
*"When there is a task to do, I will gladly do it, whether or not it is in my job description. I do not care who gets the credit. My desire is to glorify God."* – James T. Draper, Jr.
- I stop making excuses.  
*I think: My friends aren't serving ... They don't need or deserve my service ...  
It's just not convenient for me to serve right now ...*
- I am willing to sacrifice.  
*Whenever we have the opportunity, we have to do what is good for everyone, especially for the family of believers.*  
- Galatians 6:10 [GW]
- My service is "unto the Lord" every hour and every day.  
*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord.*  
- Colossians 3:23
- I am willing to meet the need(s) of the moment.  
*"A real servant responds to the Spirit's prompting without waiting to be asked. It takes some thing out of the value of our service when we have to be begged an goaded into service!"*  
– James I. Draper, Jr.
- God gets the glory!  
*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*  
- 1Corinthians 10:31  
  
*"If you can explain what's going on , God didn't do it!"* – Bob Cook

Again, please remember that this is a process. We are all working toward these goals!

Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a trip. He called together his servants and gave them money to invest for him while he was gone. He gave five bags of gold to one, two bags of gold to another, and one bag of gold to the last- dividing it in proportion to their abilities – and then left on his trip. The servant who received the five bags of gold began immediately to invest the money and soon doubled it. The servant with two bags of gold also went right to work and doubled the money. But the servant who received the one bag of gold dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money for safekeeping. After a long time, their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of gold said, "Sir, you gave me five bags of gold to invest, and I have doubled the amount." The master was full of praise. "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"

Next came the servant who had received the two bags of gold, with the report, "Sir, you gave me two bags of gold to invest, and I have doubled the amount." The master said, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!"

Then the servant with the one bag of gold came and said, "Sir, I know you are a hard man, harvesting crops you didn't plant, and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth and here it is."

But the master replied, "You wicked and lazy servant! You think I'm a hard man, harvesting crops I didn't plant and gathering crops I didn't cultivate? Well, you should at least have put my money into the bank so I could have some interest. Take the money from this servant and give it to the one with the ten bags of gold. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- Matthew 25:14-28 [NLT]

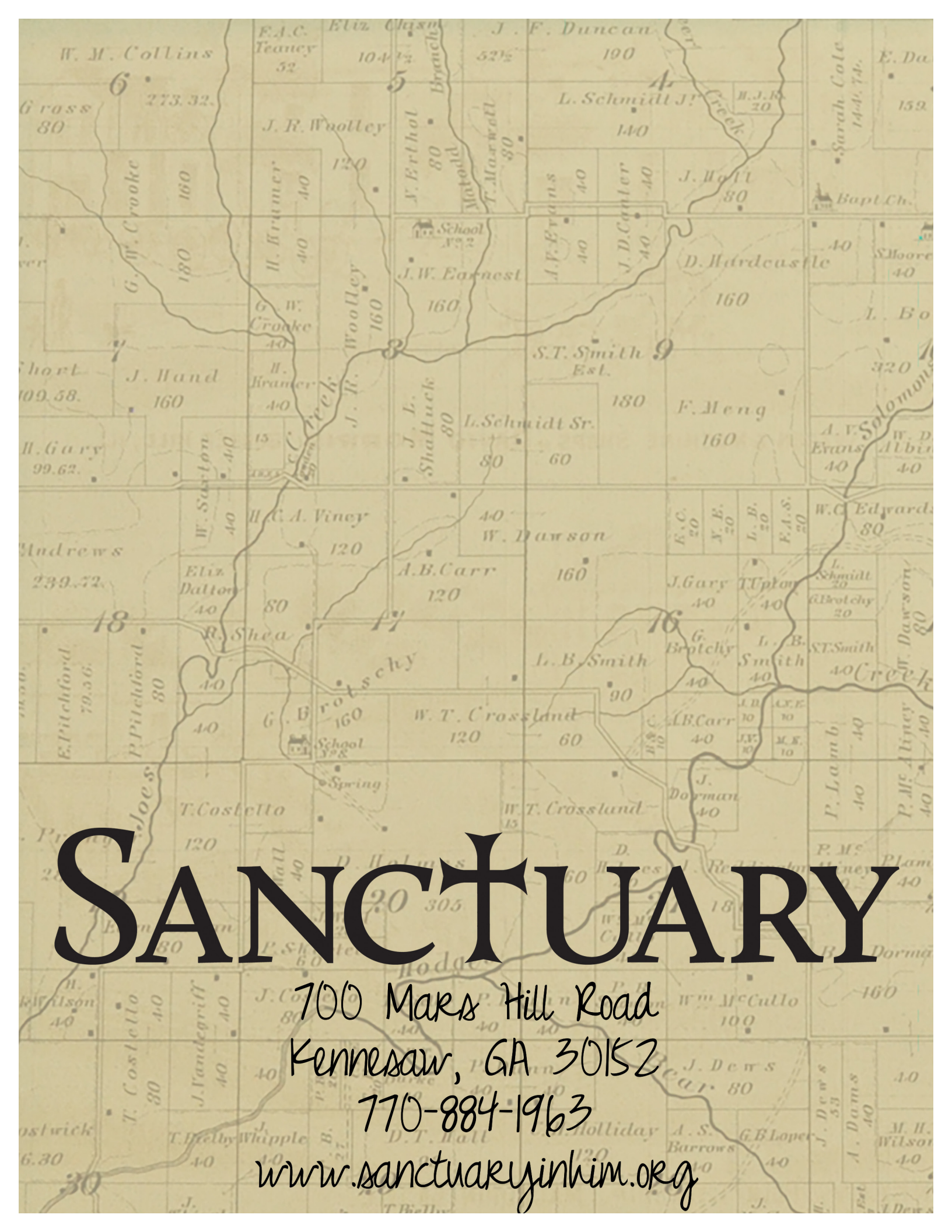
**What will you do with the Life Verse the Master has given you?**

Please Lord, be with me when I am fearful to make me faithful;  
Be with me when I am faithful to make me fruitful;  
Be with me when I am fruitful to make me humble.

For it is only by your grace that I was chosen to serve you;  
Only by your strength that I am even able to serve;  
Only by your faithfulness that I am still serving you today.

-Ken Gire  
*Moments With the Savior*





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