

FOUNDATION • MATURITY • MINISTRY • MISSION

Growth Track

EVERYONE IS CREATED ON PURPOSE,
FOR A PURPOSE.

Written by Pastor Rick Warren and adapted for
Turning Point Church by Pastor Jeff Wickwire



Foundation

THE BASIS FOR THIS CLASS

*"...You are a **member** of God's very own family... and you belong in **God's household** with every other Christian."*

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

KEY TRUTHS:

The church is _____.

God expects you to be a _____ of a church family.

A Christian without a church family is a

_____.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I commit myself to _____ and to the

_____.

WHAT MAKES TURNING POINT CHURCH A FAMILY?

FOUR THINGS UNITE US:

- Our Salvation [What God has done for us]
- Our Statement [Why we exist as a church]
- Our Strategy [How we fulfill our purpose]
- Our Structure [When and where we fulfill our purpose]

Our Salvation

*For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and we who have been **baptized into union with Christ** are enveloped by him. We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—**we are Christians; we are one in Christ Jesus.***

Galatians 3:26–28 (TLB)

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 & power.

But true happiness comes from understanding my _____.

I. WHY AM I HERE?

1. God made me to _____ me!

I have loved you with an everlasting love!

Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

Even before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ...because of His love. God had already decided that through Jesus Christ He would make us His children – this was God’s pleasure and purpose.

Ephesians 1:4–5 (GNB)

2. We were created to _____ a personal relationship with God and to _____ all the rest of God’s creation. This makes human beings special!

So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said, "...live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge."

Genesis 1:27-28 (TLB)

God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6:17

Jesus said, "I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness!"

John 10:10

3. When we know and love God, and live in harmony with His purpose for our lives, it produces tremendous benefits in our lives:

Clear Conscience

Romans 8:1

Life & Peace

Romans 8:6

Help with Weakness

Romans 8:26

Purpose

Romans 8:28

Confidence

Romans 8:31

Security

Romans 8:39

Power & Strength

Philippians 4:13

Fulfillment

Philippians 4:19

Freedom

John 8:32,36

This is the kind of lifestyle God intends for us to live. Why, then, aren't most people truly happy?

II. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

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

- "Look out for #1. Do your own thing."
- "If it feels good, do it – regardless of what God says about it"
- "It's my life and I'll do what I please!"

The Bible calls this attitude _____.

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way.

Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)

If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth.

1 John 1:8 (GNT)

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

The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.

Isaiah 59:2 (TLB)

All have sinned and fall short of God's glorious ideal.

Romans 3:23

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

When people have **problems**, they often try many different ways of coping before they turn to God.

There are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death.

Proverbs 16:25

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

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

III. WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

*Jesus Christ said, "I **am the way**, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except **through Me**."*

John 14:6

God Himself came to earth as a human being to bring us back to relationship with Him. If any other way would have worked, Jesus Christ would not have had to come. The Way is a Person!

Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

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

God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

God is on one side and all people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus is between them to bring them together, by giving His life for all mankind.

1 Timothy 2:5

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

IV. 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 just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong.

1 John 1:9

2. _____ that Jesus died to pay for your sins, that He rose again and is alive today.

If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name [than Jesus] by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

3. _____ God's free gift of salvation. Don't try to earn it.

For it is by grace you are saved, through faith; and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not as a result of works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8,9

Our relationship to God is not restored by anything we do, but on the basis of what Jesus has already done for us!

4. _____ Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the director [Lord] of your life.

To all who receive Him, He gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust Him to save us. All those who believe this are reborn! Not a physical rebirth... but from the will of God!

John 1:12-13

Jesus says, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..."

Revelation 3:30

You can take these steps by praying a simple prayer of commitment to God:

"Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me, even when I've ignored you and gone my own way. I realize I need you in my life and I'm sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me.

Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please help me to understand it more. As much as I know how, I want to follow you from now on. Please come into my life and make me a new person inside. I accept your gift of salvation. Please help me to grow now as a Christian."

Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13

 *God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us.*

The Importance of Being Baptized

I. WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

1. To follow the example set by _____.

At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river.

Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ _____ it.

Jesus said, "Go, then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and then teach them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:19-20

3. It demonstrates that I truly am a _____.

...many of the people who heard Him believed and were baptized.

Acts 18:8

We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.

1 John 2:3

II. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM?

1. It illustrates Christ's _____ and resurrection.

Christ died for our sins...He was buried...and He rose again.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.

Colossians 2:12

2. It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

By our baptism, then, we were buried with Him and shared His death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... so also we may live a new life!

Romans 6:4

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 wedding ring – it's the outward symbol of the commitment you have made in your heart.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.. It is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8,9

III. WHY BE BAPTIZED BY IMMERSION?

1. Because _____ was baptized that way.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water.

Matthew 3:16

2. Every baptism in the _____ was by immersion.

For instance:

..then both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water...

Acts 8:38–39

3. The word “baptize” means “to _____ water.”

The Greek word **baptizo** means “to immerse or dip under water”.

4. It best symbolizes a burial and resurrection.

The founders of denominations agree:

- **Martin Luther:** "I would have those who are to be baptized to be entirely immersed, as the word imports and the mystery signifies."
- **John Calvin:** "The word 'baptize' signifies to immerse. It is certain that immersion was the practice of the ancient church."
- **John Wesley:** "Buried with Him, alludes to baptizing by immersion according to the custom of the first church."

IV. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has _____ in Christ.

So then, those who had received his word were baptized;...

Acts 2:41

Simon himself believed and was baptized...

Acts 8:13

But when they believed Philip as he was preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were being baptized.

Acts 8:12

At Turning Point Church, we wait until our children are old enough to believe and understand the true meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice a "baptism of confirmation" for children. This ceremony is intended to be a covenant between the child's parents and God on behalf of the child. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until the he or she is old enough to make their 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 old enough to understand and believe. The purpose of Biblical baptism is to publicly confess your personal commitment to Christ.

V . WHEN SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed!

Those who believed.. were baptized... that day!

Acts 2:41

Then Philip began with the scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water, and the man said, "Look, here is water! Why shouldn't I be baptized right now?"

Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may."

The man answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So they went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

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"!

Can my family be baptized together?

Yes! If each family member understands fully the meaning of baptism, and each one has personally placed his or her trust in Christ for salvation, we encourage families to be baptized at the same time. It is a wonderful expression of commitment. Young children who wish to be baptized are asked to meet with our Children's Pastor for a pre-baptism conversation.

However, it is important to remember that baptism is a personal statement of faith, not a family tradition. It is usually not wise to delay your baptism while waiting on other family members to accept Christ, particularly children. This puts undue pressure on them and delays your obedience.

Will I have to say anything?

No. At the beginning of the service, the pastor will lower you briefly just under the surface of the water, and then you can leave the baptistry, dry off, and watch the others. We encourage you to invite your relatives and friends to attend your baptism.

What if I have special needs?

Any of our pastors can perform a private baptism if needed because of special circumstances.

The Meaning of the Lord's Supper

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

I. WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

1. It is a _____.

The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread ...

1 Corinthians 11: 23

2. It is a _____.

...and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you; eat it in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11: 24

3. It is a _____.

In the same way, He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; drink it to remember me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

4. It is a _____.

For whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back.

1 Corinthians 11:26

II. WHO SHOULD TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER?

Only those who are already _____.

So anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment upon himself.

1 Corinthians 11:29

III. 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 will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.

1 Corinthians 11:27–28

I can prepare myself by:

Self Examination

1 Corinthians 11:27

Confessing My Sins

1 John 1:9

Re-commitment

Romans 12:1

Restoring Relationships

Matthew 5:23–24

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

The Bible never specifies when or how often believers should observe the Lord's Supper. Turning Point Church observes the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of each month.



Whenever you eat the bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes back.

TPC Statements

Let there be real harmony among you so there won't be any split in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:10 (TLB)

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

The purpose of our church is summarized in a single sentence based on two key scriptures:

WE BELIEVE A GREAT COMMITMENT TO THE GREAT

_____ **AND THE GREAT**

_____ **WILL GROW A GREAT CHURCH!**

The Great Commandment:

Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart.. soul... and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:36-40

The Great Commission:

Jesus said: "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."

Matthew 28:19-20

- To "love God with all your heart" is **WORSHIP**.
- To "love your neighbor as yourself" is **MINISTRY**.
- To "go ... make disciples" is **EVANGELISM**.
- To "baptize..." is to **INCORPORATE INTO FELLOWSHIP**.
- To "teach them ... all things" is **DISCIPLESHIP**.

TURNING POINT CHURCH EXISTS:

1. To _____ God's presence (worship)
2. To _____ God's love (ministry)
3. To _____ God's Word (evangelism)
4. To _____ God's family (fellowship)
5. To _____ God's people (discipleship)

I. WE EXIST TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE

WORSHIP: _____

Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.

Matthew 4:10

The Father seeks worshippers...and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24

Expressions of Worship

- Singing (Ephesians 5:19)
- Commitment (Romans 12:1-2)
- Praying (Psalm 95:6)
- Hearing the Word (John 17:17)
- Giving (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)
- Baptism (Romans 6:3-4)
- Meditating (Habakkuk 2:20)
- Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Turning Point's Worship Style

Celebration

Psalm 122:1

Inspiration

Isaiah 40:31

Preparation

Ephesians 4:11-12

II. WE EXIST TO DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE & INCORPORATE GOD'S PEOPLE

MINISTRY: _____

By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.

John 13:35

1 John 3:16–17, Matthew 25:34–40, Hebrews 13:16, Romans 12:13

The heartbeat of _____ is our _____.

Every member is urged to be a part of one.

Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities... and there are different kinds of service to God.... All of you together form the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:4–5,27 (TLB)

At Turning Point Church:

Every member is a _____.

Every task is _____.

Every member is a "10" in _____.

III. WE EXIST TO COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

EVANGELISM: _____

His intent was that through the church the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.

Ephesians 3:10

Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask to be saved unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells him?

Romans 10:13–14 (TLB)

WHY OUR CHURCH MUST NEVER STOP GROWING

1. Because _____

The Lord is patient, not wanting anyone to perish, but wanting everyone to come to repentance..

2 Peter 3:9

2 Corinthians 5:14, Luke 15:3–10, Matthew 9:12–13

2. Because _____

Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full.

Luke 14:23 (TLB)

..you will be my witnesses...

Acts 1:8

3. Because _____

Under Christ's control, the whole Body is nourished...and grows as God wants it to grow.

Colossians 2:19 (GN)

I [Jesus] will build my church.

Matthew 16:18

UNBIBLICAL EXCUSES FOR NOT GROWING:

- "God isn't interested in numbers"
- "Our church wants quality, not quantity"
- "Large churches are impersonal"

We believe our church must grow _____ and

_____ at the same time.

And the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached to the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Matthew 24:14

IV. WE EXIST TO EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

DISCIPLESHIP: _____

Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go onto maturity...

Hebrews 6:1

Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

How does this happen?

[God has given]... some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all ...become mature... like Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- In essential beliefs, we have unity.

There is one body and one Spirit,,there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all.

Ephesians 4:4-6

- In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty.

Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God..So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

Romans 14:1,4,12, 22

- In all our beliefs, we show charity.

...if I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and have the faith that can move mountains - but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.

1 Corinthians 13:2 (Phillips)

ESSENTIAL BELIEFS WE HOLD:

1. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

| [Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

2. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God and is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

| [Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 1:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13](#)

3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation and provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we should seek to live under His control daily.

| [2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13,14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18](#)

4. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error.

| [2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:2-3; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 30:5](#)

5. ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. Humans are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

| [Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2](#)

6. ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must individually accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment we receive Jesus Christ into our life by faith.

| Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6,1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

| John 10:29, 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

8. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

| John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

WHAT WE PRACTICE:

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

THE BIBLE IS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY.

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.

2 Timothy 3:15

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision should be "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

THE AUTONOMY OF EACH LOCAL CHURCH.

Christ is the head of his Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life...

Colossians 1:18 (GN)

Christ is the recognized head of our church; not any person, group, or religious organization. While we recognize the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. When relating to our "sister churches", we encourage each congregation to determine its own strategy, structure, and style.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER.

Christ loves us, and by his death he has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God...

Revelation 1:6 (GN)

You are...the King's priests...God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God...

1 Peter 2:9 (GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

THE HABIT OF TITHING.

A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.

Leviticus 27:30

At Turning Point Church we practice tithing for the support of Christ's body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

IMMERSION.

For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

Colossians 2:12 (NLT)

We practice baptism by immersion under water – the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

DAILY TIME WITH GOD.

I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

We believe the only way it is possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right. See also Philippians 2:13 and Ephesians 5:18.

TELLING OTHERS ABOUT CHRIST.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings into our sphere of influence. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

TPC Strategy

Yes, I [Paul] try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some. I do everything to spread the Good News and share in its blessings.

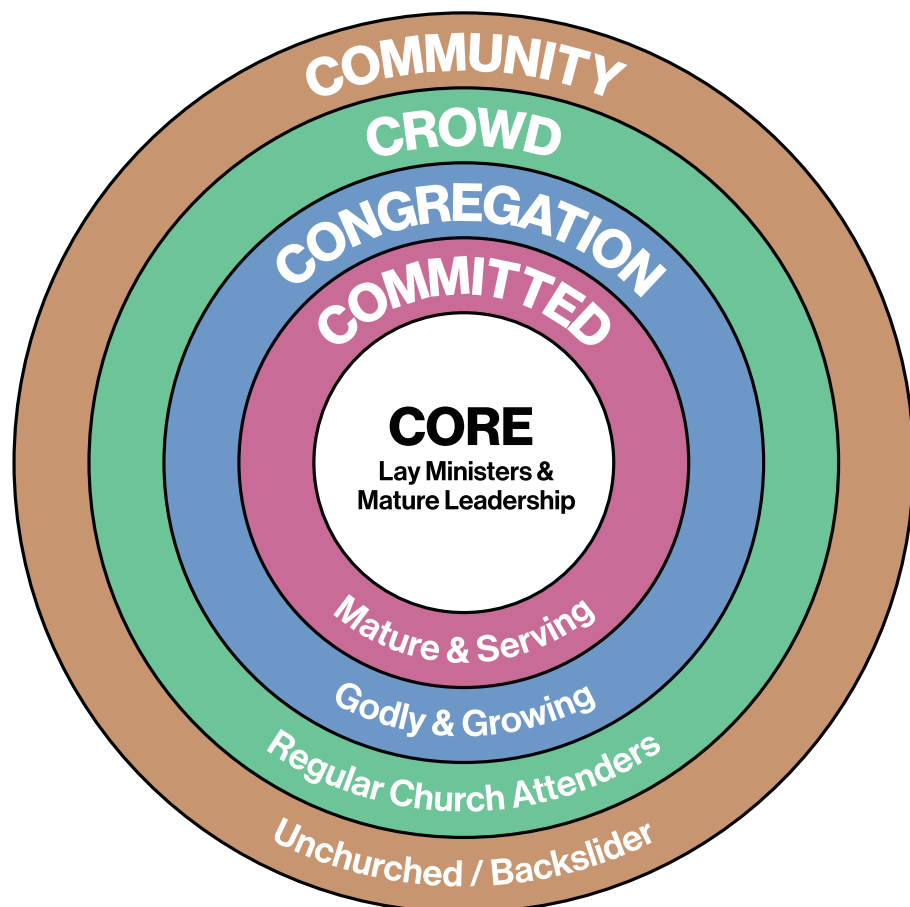
1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NLT)

WHO ARE WE TRYING TO REACH?

..Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him.

1 Corinthians 9:22 (LB)

FIVE CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



Turning Point Church's objective is to keep moving people toward the center by encouraging personal spiritual commitments. Specifically, we call people to four basic covenants:

TURNING POINT CHURCH'S FOUR COVENANTS

1. THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT:

A commitment to _____ and to _____.

You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

We are all parts of Christ's body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others.

Romans 12:4-5 (LB)

2. THE MATURITY COVENANT:

A commitment to the _____ necessary for spiritual growth.

Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18

Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.

1 Timothy 4:7

3. THE MINISTRY COVENANT:

A commitment to discovering and using my God-given gifts and abilities in _____ God and others.

God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...

1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

There are different kinds of service to God . . . together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:5,27 (LB)

4. THE MISSIONS COVENANT:

A commitment to _____ the Good News with others.

... you will be my witnesses for me... to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8 (GN)

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do it with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:15

WHY DO WE HAVE THESE COVENANTS?

We become what we are _____.

 *You are members of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.*

TPC Structure

For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

1 Corinthians 14:33–34

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED

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

1. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

They continued steadily learning the teaching of the apostles, and joined in the fellowship...

Acts 2:42

The top priorities in a fellowship are _____ and _____.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:3

So let us concentrate on the things that make for harmony and growth of our fellowship together.

Romans 14:19 (Phillips)

ANY attitude that causes disunity is sin.

See also Colossians 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Timothy 2:14; Proverbs 17:14; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27, 2:1–3; Colossians 2:2; Philippians 4:2; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 14:33; John 13:34–35; 2 Timothy 2:23; Romans 15:5–6; Romans 12:16–18; Colossians 3:13–14; Psalm 133:1.

A good church structure will promote unity and downplay _____.

[Often]...your meetings do more harm than good because I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you...

1 Corinthians 11:17–18

2. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

And now this word to all of you: You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.

1 Peter 3:8 (TLB)

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

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

Don't reprimand a senior member of the church, appeal to him as a father. Treat the young men as brothers, and the older women as mothers. Treat the younger women as sisters...

1 Timothy 5:1–2 (Phillips)

3. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:23, Ephesians 1:22–23, Colossians 1:18, 2:19

We are a body, not a business!

We are an organism, not an organization!

We function on the basis of _____ not _____.

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 who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We each have different gifts according to the grace given us.

Romans 12:4–6

In an organization “maintenance” becomes the focus.

But in an organism “ministry” is the focus.

At Turning Point, we have a simple structure so we can maximize _____ and minimize _____.

God gave ... some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Ephesians 4:11–12

OUR STRUCTURE:

The people are the _____.

The pastors are the _____.

4. THE CHURCH IS A _____.

This was Jesus' favorite description of the church.

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

As such, it is cared for and led by _____.

Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Do you really love me?" "Yes, Lord" said Peter. "Then take care of my sheep."

John 21:16-17

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

- "POIMEN" _____
- "PRESBUTEROS" _____
- "EPISCOPOS" _____

To the elders I say... Be shepherds of God's flock, serving as overseers...

1 Peter 5:1-2

Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived he said to them... Guard yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be pastors of the church of God...

Acts 20:17-18, 28

See also Titus 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 5:17



*For God is not a God of disorder,
but of peace... Everything should
be done in a fitting and orderly way.*

Maturity

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS:

...that you may become mature Christians and may fulfill God's will for you.

Colossians 4:12b (Phillips)

We are not meant to remain as children... But we are meant to hold firmly to the truth in love, and to grow up in every way into Christ, the head.

Ephesians 4:14-15 (Phillips)

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

We will focus on the **Four Basic Habits** every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. This class will...

- Equip you with the skills you need to begin these habits.
- Explain the tools you need to continue these habits.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY?

...In the unity of common faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity—the measure of development which is meant by the 'fullness of Christ.'

Ephesians 4:13 (Phillips)

Spiritual Maturity is _____.

For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him...should become like his Son...

Romans 8:29 (TLB)

FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY:

1. IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC.

You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead... you need someone to teach you...When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life...he's still a baby Christian!

Hebrews 5:12-13 (TLB)

2. IT'S A PROCESS.

Learn to be mature.

Proverbs 8:5 (GNT)

Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:18 (GNT)

There are no shortcuts!

3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE.

Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit..Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.

1 Timothy 4:7b,8 (Phillips)

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Mature believers are called _____.

2. I cannot be a disciple without being _____.

3. The more disciplined I become _____.

4. The mark of a disciple is _____.

Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me [Jesus] cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:27

How often am I to do this? _____

*If anyone would come after me [Jesus], he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.*

Luke 9:23

What is involved in “cross bearing”? _____ to give Christ first place in my life!

FOUR HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE?

Develop _____.

...You have put off the old self with its habits, and have put on the new self...which God is continually renewing in His own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of Himself.

Colossians 3:9,10

1. Time with God's Word.

If you continue in my Word, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.

John 8:31-32

2. Prayer

If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it...in this way you become my disciples.

John 15:7-8 (GNT)

3. Tithing

None of you can be my disciples unless he gives up all of his possessions.

Luke 14:33 (TLB)

The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives.

Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

4. Fellowship

Love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35

DEFINITION OF “HABIT”: (Webster's II Dictionary) “

- A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition.”
- “An established disposition of the character.”
Sow a thought, reap an act • Sow an act, reap a habit. • Sow a habit, reap a character • Sow a character, reap a destiny.
- “A customary practice.”

Grasp Your Bible

The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone.

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (TLB)

SIX WAYS TO GET A GRASP ON YOUR BIBLE READING

The Hand Illustration: On this page trace an outline of your own hand!

HEAR | READ | STUDY | MEMORIZE | MEDITATE | APPLY

I. HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Faith comes from hearing the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

Ways to Hear God's Word:

- Listen to a recorded Bible read for you
- Attend church services & studies
- Listen to sermons online or recorded
- Christian radio/TV teachers
- Read Christian Books

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

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING

1. Be ready and eager to hear God.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Luke 8:8

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Psalms 119:103

2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God.

Consider carefully how you listen..

Luke 8:18

- **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 Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

3. Confess any sin in your life.

...Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word...

James 1:21

4. Take notes on what you hear.

We must pay more careful attention to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!

Hebrews 2:1

Keep a Spiritual Notebook

5. Act on what you hear!

Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!

James 1:22

But if you look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, and keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice—you will be blessed by God in what you do.

James 1:25 (GNT)

II. HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

Happy is the one who reads this book...and obeys what is written in it!

Revelation 1:3 (GNT)

How often should I read God's Word? _____

[The Scriptures] shall be his constant companion. He must read from it everyday of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of his commands.

Deuteronomy 17:19 (LBT)

Suggestions:

- Read it systematically.
- Read it in different translations.
- For easy understanding, read a good paraphrased version.
- Read it aloud to yourself.
- Underline or color code key verses.
- Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

If I read approximately _____ minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once a year.

III. HOW TO STUDY GOD'S WORD

Expect it to speak to you as you study and meditate on it.

...they accepted the message eagerly and studied the Scriptures everyday.

Acts 17:11 (Phillips)

Be a good workman...Know what His Word says and means.

2 Timothy 2:15 (TLB)

The difference between **reading** the Bible and **studying** the Bible is that you _____
_____ when you study.

The secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to _____
_____.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:

The Best Personal Study Bible: The Life Application Bible (Tyndale)

The Best Topical Study Bible: Thompson Chain Reference Bible – NTV (Kirkhride)

The Best Background Study Bible: The NIV Study Bible (Zondervan)

The Best Doctrine Study Bible: The Disciple's Study Bible (Holman)

Bible Handbooks:

Richard's Complete Handbook (Word)

Haley's Bible Handbook (Zondervan)

Eerdman's Bible Handbook (Eerdmans)

Other Important Study Tools:

Go to www.biblegateway.com for multiple versions

Check out www.biblehub.com for more in depth Bible study.

IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

Guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart.

Proverbs 7:2-3 (TLB)

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE:

1. It helps me resist temptation.

I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

2. It helps me make wise decisions.

Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.

Psalm 119:105

3. It strengthens me when I'm under stress.

...Your promises to me are my hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me!

Psalm 119:49 (TLB)

4. It comforts me when I'm sad.

Your words are what sustain me...They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me.

Jeremiah 15:16 (TLB)

5. It helps me witness to unbelievers.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:15

WHEN TO MEMORIZE A VERSE:

- During your quiet time
- While exercising
- While waiting (spare moments)
- At bedtime (Psalm 63:6)

HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE:

- Pick a verse that speaks to you.
- Say the reference before and after the verse.
- Read the verse aloud many times. Record it!
- Break the verse into natural phrases.

- Emphasize key words when quoting the verse.
- Write down the verse and erase one word one at a time.
- Write out the verse on a flash card.
- Carry some cards with you at all times for review.
- Display your verses in prominent places.
- Always memorize the verse with the exact wording.
- Put the verse to music. Write a song!
- Get a partner so you can check each other.

Suggested beginning rate: 2 new verses a week.

Three keys to memorizing: _____, _____,
_____!

We remember what is _____.

The law you gave me means more to me than all the money in the world.

Psalm 119:72 (GNT)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

The following verses suggest a “balance” in Scripture memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian life and Christian growth. Do not feel limited to this suggested list; this is only a tool to lead you in an understanding of the importance of memorizing “key” verses.

Rely on God’s Resources:

- **His Spirit:** 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12
- **His Strength:** Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:13
- **His Faithfulness:** Lamentations 3:22; Numbers 23:19
- **His Peace:** Isaiah 26:3; 1 Peter 5:7
- **His Provision:** Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19
- **His Help in Temptation:** Hebrews 2:18; Psalm 119:9,11

Be Christ’s Disciple:

- **Put Christ First:** Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:23
- **Separate from the World:** I John 2:15–16; Romans 12:2
- **Be Steadfast:** I Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 12:3
- **Serve Others:** Mark 10:45; 2 Corinthians 4:5

- **Give Generously:** Proverbs 3:9–10; 2 Corinthians 9:6–7
- **Develop World Vision:** Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19–20

Grow in Christ-likeness:

- **Love:** John 13:34–35; 1 John 3:18
- **Humility:** Philippians 2:3–4; 1 Peter 5:5–6
- **Purity:** Ephesians 5:3; 1 Peter 2:11
- **Honesty:** Leviticus 19:11; Acts 24:16
- **Faith:** Hebrews 11:6; Romans 4:20–21

V. HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

[Those] who are always meditating on His Laws...are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit...they never wither and whatever they do prospers.

Psalms 1:2–3 (TLB)

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

WHY MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?

1. It is the key to becoming like Christ.

...Your life is shaped by your thoughts.

Proverbs 4:23 (GNT)

..Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2

As we...contemplate the Lord's glory, we are being transformed into His likeness...

2 Corinthians 3:18

2. It is the key to answered prayer.

If you live your life in Me, and my words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like, and it will come true for you.

John 15:7 (Phillips)

3. It is the key to successful living.

...Meditate on [the Word] day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:8

SIX WAYS TO MEDITATE ON A VERSE:

1. **Picture It!** Visualize the scene in your mind.
2. **Pronounce It!** Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
3. **Paraphrase It!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.
4. **Personalize It!** Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.
5. **Pray It!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.
6. **Probe It!** Ask the following nine questions (S.P.A.C.E P.E.T.S.):

S.P.A.C.E P.E.T. QUESTIONS:

Is there any...

Sin to _____ ?

Promise to _____ ?

Attitude to _____ ?

Command to _____ ?

Example to _____ ?

Prayer to _____ ?

Error to _____ ?

Truth to _____ ?

VI. HOW TO APPLY GOD'S WORD

Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice.

James 1:22

...Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

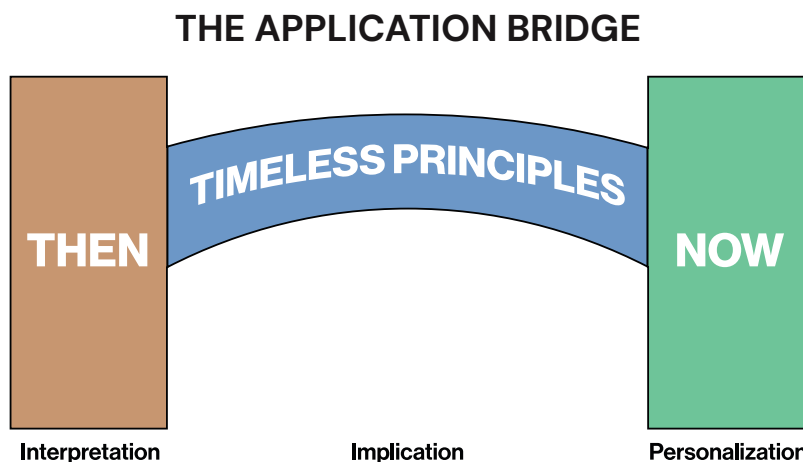
Matthew 5:19

HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE:

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?



Write out a sentence that describes a project or action you will take to apply the truth.

Most applications will focus on one of three _____:

With God..... Within myself..... With other people

FOUR MARKS OF A GOOD APPLICATION PROJECT:

- It's _____
- It's _____
- It's _____
- It's _____

Now that you know these things – do them! That is the path of blessing!

John 13:17 (TLB)

Time With God

But the man who looks into the perfect mirror of God's law, the law of liberty (or freedom), and makes a habit of so doing, is not the man who sees and forgets. He puts that law into practice and he wins true happiness.

James 1:25 (Phillips)

HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

DEFINITION: A quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer.

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were _____ to have fellowship with God.

So God created man in his own image...

Genesis 1:27

Look! I've been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone ... opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.

Revelation 3:20 (TLB)

2. Jesus _____ to make a relationship with God possible.

God... has invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (TLB)

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' _____.

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. See Mark 1:35; Luke 22:39; Luke 5:16

4. Every person who has been effective in _____ for God developed this habit.

Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc.

5. You cannot be a _____ Christian without it!

Man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.

Matthew 4:4 (GNT)

.. I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Job 23:12 (NASB)

How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your Word.

Psalms 119:9

II. THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. TO GIVE _____ TO GOD.

Give to the Lord the glory due to his name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

Psalms 29:2

[Hezekiah] was successful, because everything he did... he did in a spirit of complete devotion to his God.

2 Chronicles 31:21 (GNT)

- God deserves our devotion! (Revelation 4:11)
- God desires our devotion! (John 4:23)

2. TO GET _____ FROM GOD.

Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me...

Psalms 25:4 (TLB)

TWO THINGS TO DO IN A QUIET TIME:

Consider your way.

Ponder the path of your feet and let all your ways be established.

Proverbs 4:26 (KJV)

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)

Commit your day.

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it and he will.

Psalms 37:5 (TLB)

3. TO GAIN _____ IN GOD.

Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalms 37:4 (KJV)

... [God's] presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure.

Psalms 16:11 (GNB)

Fact: The better I get to know Christ, the more _____.

The objective of your quiet time is not to study **about** Christ, but to actually spend time **with** him!

4. TO GROW _____ LIKE GOD.

For as you know him better and better God will give you, through his great power, everything you need for living a truly good life... He has promised to save us... and to give us his own character.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (TLB)

When the council saw the boldness of Peter and John... they were amazed and realized what being with Jesus had done for them!

Acts 4:13 (TLB)

HOW TO BEGIN A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME.

The best time for a quiet time is when I am _____.

Reasons for considering an early morning quiet time:

- **The example of Bible characters.**
(Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Hannah, Job, Hezekiah, David, Daniel, Jesus, etc.)

- **It seems logical to begin the day with it.**
The best time to tune your instrument is before you play the concert, not after!
- **It demonstrates that meeting with God is your first priority. You give Him the first part of your day.**
You are likely to be more rested, your mind is less cluttered, and it's often the quietest time of your day.

Whatever time you set, _____!

HOW LONG SHOULD A QUIET TIME BE?

Three Guidelines:

- Start with 15 minutes and let it grow.
- Don't watch the clock!
- Emphasize quality, not quantity.

2. CHOOSE A SPECIAL PLACE.

Jesus left the city and went, as he usually did, to the Mount of Olives... to pray.

Luke 22:39 (ON)

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 1:35

3. GATHER THE RESOURCES YOU'LL NEED.

- **A Bible** – with readable print.
- **A Notebook** – to write down what the Lord speaks to you about and to keep your prayer list.
- **A Songbook** – if you want to sing.

4. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word.

Psalm 119:18 (TLB)

Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know . . .

John 7:17 (NLT)

5. FOLLOW A SIMPLE PLAN.

Fifteen Minutes with God (A Plan To Get You Started)

1. _____ . (1 Minute)

Be still and quiet! Slow down and prepare your heart. Take a few deep breaths and wait on God.

2. _____ . (4 Minutes)

See the section on "How To Read God's Word".

Begin reading where you left off the day before. Read until you feel God has told you something. Then stop and think about it.

3. _____ . (4 Minutes)

See the section on "How To Meditate on God's Word".

You may use the S P.A.C.E P.E.T.S. method or any of the six methods of meditation. Think about what the passage means to your life. Write down your thoughts.

Part of reflecting is memorizing verses that speak to you in a special way.

See the section on: "How To Memorize God's Word".

4. _____ . (2 Minutes)

See the section on "How To Apply God's Word".

Write out a personal application statement that is practical, possible, and measurable.

Thoughts disentangle themselves when they pass through the lips and the fingertips.

5. _____ . (4 Minutes)

See the section on "The Habit of Prayer". Conclude your Quiet Time by talking to God about what He has shown you and making your requests from your prayer list.

III. HOW TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS WITH YOUR QUIET TIME

1. THE PROBLEM OF DISCIPLINE.

Your first problem in establishing a quiet time will face you the moment you wake each morning: Am I going to get out of bed? (The Battle of the Blankets)

Suggestions:

- Go to bed _____.
- Get up _____.
- Be aware of quiet time _____.
- Fall asleep thinking _____.

2. THE PROBLEM OF DISTRACTIONS.

Satan will try to use anything to get your mind to wander during a quiet time.

Suggestions:

- Get out of _____.
- Get thoroughly _____.
- Read and pray _____.
- _____ during your prayer time.
- Keep a _____.

3. THE PROBLEM OF DRYNESS.

Sometimes you will feel like you're not getting anything out of your quiet time. (The Battle of the Blahs)

Never judge your quiet time by your _____.

Possible Causes of Spiritual Dryness:

- Your physical condition.
- Disobedience to God.
- Rushing your quiet time.
- Getting in a rut.
- Not sharing insights with others.

4. THE PROBLEM OF DILIGENCE.

Your greatest problem will be your struggle to stay consistent. I find Satan fights nothing harder than my quiet time.

Suggestions:

- Make a covenant or vow to God.
- Schedule it on your daily calendar.
- Be prepared for Satan's excuses.
- Leave your Bible open at night to the passage for the next day!

What if I miss a day?

Don't _____.

Don't _____.

Don't _____.

It takes _____ weeks for you to become **familiar** with a new task. Then it takes another _____ weeks before it becomes a **comfortable habit**.

Let us not get tired of doing what is right for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up.

Gal. 6:9 (TLB)

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Habit of Prayer

Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come, endure them patiently; steadfastly maintain the habit of prayer.

Rom. 12:12 (Phillips)

HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

- Be _____.

When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men.

Matthew 6:5

Don't try to _____.

Don't try to _____.

- Be _____.

But when you pray go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

- Be _____.

Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need before you ask Him!

Matthew 6:7-8

II. USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US

This, then, is how you should pray...

Matthew 6:9a

THE SIX PARTS OF PRAYER

1. Praise: I begin by _____.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Matthew 6:9b

Two kinds of praise:

- **Adoration** – Praising God for who he is.
- **Thanksgiving** – Praising God for what he has done.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Psalms 100:4

How to praise God:

- As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. (See Prayer Guide).

Example:

God is patient	Numbers 14:18
God is merciful	Numbers 14:18
God is forgiving	Numbers 14:18
God knows everything	1 Samuel 2:2
God is loving	1 John 4:8

KEY: _____ is the basis for our boldness in making requests in prayer. God answers the prayers that acknowledge who he is!

- **Remind yourself** and affirm the promises God has made that are contained in the meaning of his names. (See Prayer Guide)
- **Make a list** of all that you are thankful for and review it when you pray. (See Prayer Guide)

2. Purpose: I commit myself _____.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...

Matthew 6:10

Pray for God's will to be done: in my family, my church, my ministry, my job, my future, my city, the nation, and the world.

Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

Romans 12:2 (GNT)

3. Provision: I ask God to _____.

Give us today our daily bread...

Matthew 6:11

What needs can I pray about? _____

God will supply all your needs from his riches in glory because of what Christ Jesus has done for us.

Philippians 4:19 (TLB)

Since God did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us, won't he also surely give us everything else?

Romans 8:32

You do not have... because you don't ask God!

James 4:2

KEY: _____

Write down your requests, with a promise you are claiming from the Bible, and expect an answer!
(See Prayer Guide 4)

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

4. Pardon: I ask God to _____.

Forgive us our debts...

Matthew 6:12a

FOUR STEPS TO FORGIVENESS

- Ask the Holy Spirit to _____ every sin.

Examine me, O God, and know my mind; test me, and discover my thoughts. Find out if there is any evil in me.

Psalm 139:23–24

- Confess each sin _____.

You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins. Confess them and give them up; then God will show mercy to you.

Proverbs 28:13 (GNT)

- Make _____ to others when necessary.

When you remember your brother has something against you... go at once to make peace with him, then come back and offer your gift to God.

Matthew 5:23–24 (GNT)

- By faith, _____ God's forgiveness.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

5. People: I pray for _____.

...as we have also forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12b

Pray much for others; plead for God's mercy upon them; give thanks for all he is going to do for them.

1 Timothy 2:1 (TLB)

If you want to know how to pray for others, see Ephesians 1:15–19; Colossians 1:3–12; 1 Thessalonians 1:2–3, and 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12.

Make a schedule of people you want to pray for. For instance, you might pray for different people on different days of the week. (See Prayer Guide)

6. Protection: I ask for _____.

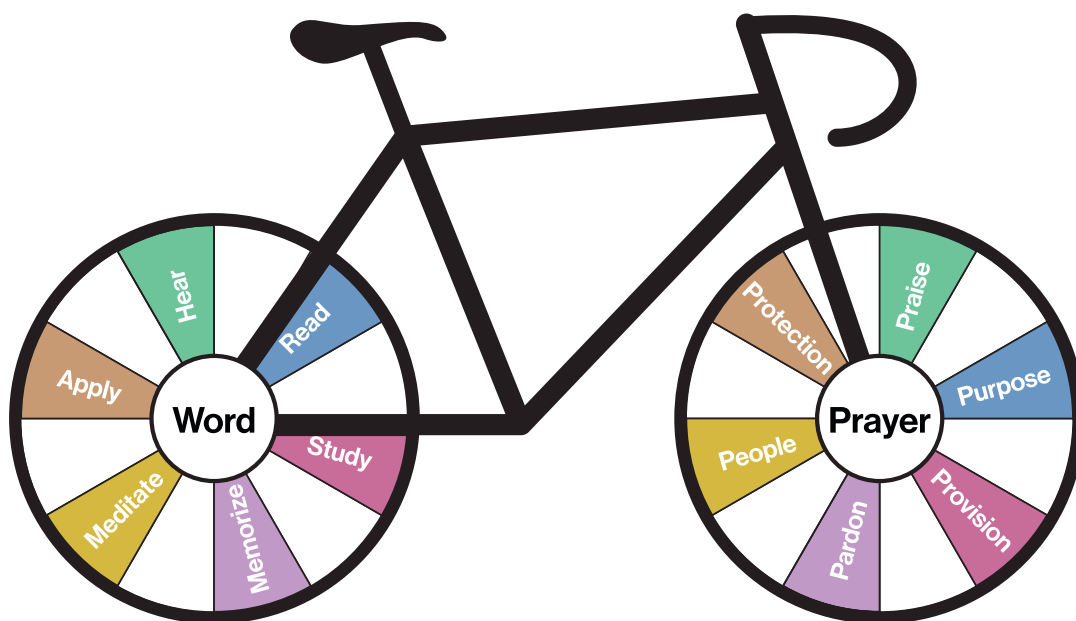
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:13

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.

The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit who is in those who belong to the world.

1 John 4:4 (GNT)



CHARACTER TRAITS OF GOD

GUIDE 1

53

Prayer Guide 2

Did you know that God has several names? They are all in the Bible and each name describes a facet of his character. You can take each of these names and focus individually on what God is really like! Pray the names of God as an affirmation of praise!

Eight Hebrew Names of God – Declare Who God Is:

- **Jehovah-Shammah** – “God is present with me” (Ezekiel 48:35)
You are here! I am never alone!
- **Jehovah-Rohi** – “God is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1)
You lead me, feed me, and protect me!
- **Jehovah-Jireh** – “God is my provider” (Genesis 22:14)
You see what I need before I even ask!
- **Jehovah-Rophe** – “God is my healer” (Exodus 15:26)
You can heal my body, emotions, and relationships!
- **Jehovah-Tsidkenu** – “God is my righteousness” (Jeremiah 23:6)
You accept me and forgive me because of Jesus!
- **Jehovah-M’Kiddish** – “God is my sanctification” (Leviticus 20:8)
You make me holy and like Jesus!
- **Jehovah-Shalom** – “God is my peace” (Judges 6:24)
You give me peace in spite of my circumstances!
- **Jehovah-Nissi** – “God is my banner” (Exodus 17:15)
You are my victory in conflict and confrontation!

Think on the implications of these names and you’ll have plenty to praise God for!

MY THANKSGIVING LIST

[illegible]

Prayer Guide 4

MY PERSONAL REQUESTS

Date	Request	Promise	Date Answered

Prayer Guide 5

PEOPLE I'M PRAYING FOR

Family:

Christian friends:

Friends I'd like to see become Christians:

Spiritual leaders:

Government Leaders:

Others:

Habit of Fellowship

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other.

Hebrews 10:25 (GNT)

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I _____ in God's family with other believers.

Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:10

You are a member of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Ephesians 2:19 (TLB)

So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others!

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

2. I need _____ to grow spiritually.

Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24 (Phillips)

Two are better off than one ... If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him ... Two men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10,12 (GN)

3. I need _____ to grow spiritually.

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

You must warn each other every day . . .so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

Hebrews 3:13 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NLT)

4. Christ is _____ when we fellowship together.

For wherever two or three have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!

Matthew 18:20 (TLB)

5. There is _____ when people pray together.

Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

Matthew 18:19 (GNT)

6. Fellowship is a _____ to the world.

My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind... so the world will believe you sent me.

John 17:21 (TLB)

7. I am _____ to every other Christian.

God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...

1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

There are different kinds of service to God... together you form the body of Christ and each one of you is a necessary part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:5, 27 (TLB)

THE "ONE ANOTHERS" OF FELLOWSHIP (PARTIAL LIST)

Serve one another — Galatians 5:13
Accept one another — Romans 15:7
Forgive one another — Colossians 3:13
Greet one another — Romans 16:16
Bear one another's burdens — Galatians 6:2
Be devoted to one another — Romans 12:10
Submit to one another — Ephesians 5:21
Honor one another — Romans 12:10
Encourage one another — 1 Thessalonians 5:11
Teach one another — Romans 15:14

HOW CAN A LARGE CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

Every member needs to be a part of a _____.

[They met] day after day in the temple courts and from house to house.

Acts. 5:42

Two Types of Church Meetings:

Large Group: _____

Small Group: _____

Greet the church that meets in their home.

Romans 16:5

See also Acts 2:46, 8:3,16:46, 20:20; I Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:15.

**At Turning Point, we believe our church must grow _____ and
_____ at the same time.**

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS?

1. _____

They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching...

Acts 2:42a

2. _____

| ... and to the fellowship...

| Acts 2:42b

3. _____

| ... and to the breaking of bread...

| Acts 2:42c

4. _____

| ... and to prayer...

| Acts 2:42d

| Our Father... give us... our daily bread ...forgive us our ... debts ... as we have forgiven our debtors...
lead us not into temptation... deliver us...

| Matthew 6:9–13

5. _____

| ... they gave to anyone as he had a need...

| Acts 2:45

| ... you shared with me the fellowship of giving and receiving.

| Philippians 4:15 (Phillips)

6. _____

| ... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts...

| Acts 2:46b

| Get into the habit of inviting guests home for dinner or if they need lodging, for the night.

| Romans 12:13 (LBT)

7. _____

| ...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

| Acts 2:47a

8. _____

| ...and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

| Acts 2:47b

Good Habits

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

STEP ONE: _____

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only half-heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: _____

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. You don't slide into a new habit. "One of these days" never arrives. You must have a starting point. It's easier to break a bad habit today than it will be tomorrow!

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (LBT)

STEP THREE: _____

Announce your intentions publicly. Make a covenant or resolution. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing.

Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them.

Psalms 76:11

STEP FOUR: _____

Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. A single slip unwinds many turns in the beginning. Continuity and success at the start is essential. Never be swayed by "just this once". The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes three weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another three to four weeks of daily consistency for it to become a part of your life.

It takes _____ to _____ repetitions to learn something!

STEP FIVE: _____

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit, do it right then! Don't wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit. Those feelings will not last, so when ever you feel inclined to perform your new habit — do so!

STEP SIX: _____

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you, especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

Let us consider and give attentive, continuous care to watching over each other, studying how we may stir up and stimulate each other to... helpful deeds and noble activities.

Hebrews 10:25 (AMP)

Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

STEP SEVEN: _____

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you to develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ, so he will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve his purpose.

Philippians 2:13 (Phillips)



For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Ministry

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS:

[God] has given... pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11-12

THE BIBLE SAYS:

- The pastors are the _____.
- The people are the _____.

THE PRINCIPLE UNDERGIRDING THIS CLASS:

My ministry is determined by my _____.

What God made me to **BE** is determined by what He intends for me to **DO**. I will understand the purpose I was created for when I understand the kind of person I am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life!

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

The two results of discovering the ministry I've been shaped for are:

_____ and _____.

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

At Turning Point Church, we focus on an individual approach to ministry rather than an institutional approach. We will focus on five personal factors that have combined to shape the "real" you. By identifying the specific traits you possess in each of these areas, the ministry for which God has designed you will become crystal clear!

THE GOALS OF THIS CLASS:

1. I will _____ my unique design for ministry and commit to _____ and _____ my God-given gifts and abilities in serving God and others through my church family.
2. I will _____ and begin to _____ in the ministry of my church that best _____ what God wants me to be.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY

WHAT IS MINISTRY?

DEFINITION: (Greek *diakonos* = "to serve")

Ministry is using whatever abilities and resources God has given me to serve Him and the needs of others.

We minister in three directions:

To _____ (Acts 13:2)

To _____ (Acts 13:2)

To _____ (Acts 13:2)

We minister to three areas of need:

To people's _____ needs.

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 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. 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 (NIV)

If as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded.

Matthew 10:42 (LBT)

To people's _____ needs.

.. Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (GN)

To people's _____ needs.

...God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation..

2 Corinthians 5:18

We proclaim Christ, counseling and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:28, 29

THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

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

God wants to use me to _____.

THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

Why should I be interested?

1. I've been _____ for ministry.

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

Ephesians 2:10

2. I've been _____ for ministry.

It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began...

2 Timothy 1:9 (LBT)

"Saved to Serve!"

3. I've been _____ into ministry.

God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve him.

Galatians 1:15 (GNT)

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

...You have been chosen by God himself – you are priests of the King...you are God's very own – all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light! Once you were less than nothing; now you are God's own!

1 Peter 2:9–10 (LBT)

...you will serve as holy priests.

1 Peter 2:5 (GN)

I am not who I think I am—

I am not who you think I am—

But I really am who God says I am!

A life-changing truth — My primary identity:

I am a _____ Jesus Christ!

4. I've been _____ 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 (LBT)

5. I've been _____ for ministry.

[Jesus said] "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples..."

Matthew 28:18,19

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors...

2 Corinthians 5:20

6. I'm to _____ minister.

Your attitude must be like my [Jesus'] own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve...

Matthew 20:28

Take heed to the ministry you've received from the Lord and fulfill it.

Colossians 4:17

7. I'm to be _____ for ministry.

God gave... pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Ephesians 4:11-12

8. The body of Christ _____ my ministry.

All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Ministry always functions in the context of the _____.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said, "The harvest is great but the workers are few. Ask the Lord to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:36, 37

9. I am _____ for my ministry.

So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:12

The Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30

10. I will be _____ for my ministry.

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

Colossians 3:23, 24

Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master's happiness!

Matthew 25:23

ACTION STEPS

STEP 1: DEDICATE _____

Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NASB)

STEP 2: ELIMINATE _____

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 (NASB)

STEP 3: EVALUATE _____

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (NASB)

STEP 4: COOPERATE _____

For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.

Romans 12: 4-5 (NASB)

Implications from Paul's Anatomy Lesson:

(See also 1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

- Every member is a minister in Christ's body.
- Every member's ministry is important.
- Every member has a different function.
- Every member belongs to the others.

Each of us is a part of the one body of Christ... The eye can never say to the hand, '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.

1 Corinthians 12:13, 21, 22, 24b (TLB)

STEP 5: ACTIVATE _____

We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us... prophesy...serving...teaching...encouraging...contributing... leadership...showing mercy...

Romans 12:6-8

My Shape

HOW HAS GOD SHAPED ME?

Your hands formed and shaped me...

Job 10:8a (GNT)

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

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous... You were there while I was being formed... You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.

Psalms 139:24-16 (LBT)

I was _____ for a purpose.

I am _____

I am _____

But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God?

Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "Why did you make me like this?" Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

Romans 9:20-21

In Ministry... Function follows Form!

MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL FACTORS:

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each one, for the good of all.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (GN)

MY "S.H.A.P.E." WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY.

S _____

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

1 Corinthians 7:7b

WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?

H _____

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13

WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?

A _____

There are different abilities to perform service...

1 Corinthians 12:6

I [God]... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...

Exodus 31:3

...our competence comes from God.

2 Corinthians 3:5b

WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?

P _____

No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself.

1 Corinthians 2:11 (TLB)

WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?

E _____

WHAT _____ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?

There has been enough time for you to be teachers— but you still need to be taught,...(you are) without any experience in the matter of right and wrong.

Hebrews 5:12–13

WHAT _____ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?

Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.

Proverbs 20:30 (GN)

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 (GN)

WHAT _____ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?

Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life – guard it well!

Proverbs 4:13 (GN)

WHAT _____ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?

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

2 Corinthians 9:13

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

SUCCESS IS DOING WHAT GOD MADE ME TO DO!

HOW PAUL'S MINISTRY WAS "SHAPED"

PAUL'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

And of this gospel I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher.

2 Timothy 1:11

PAUL'S HEART:

My constant ambition has been to preach the gospel where the name of Christ was previously unknown, and to avoid building on another man's foundation.

Romans 15:20 (Phillips)

For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Galatians 2:8

Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work as signed me by the Lord Jesus...

Acts 20:24 (TLB)

PAUL'S ABILITY:

...Paul went to see them, and stayed and worked with them, because he earned his living by making tents, just as they did. He debated in the synagogues every Sabbath, trying to convince both Jews and Gentiles.

Acts 18:2b-4 (GNT)

PAUL'S PERSONALITY:

For you have heard of my past... I persecuted the church with fanatical zeal... and did my best to destroy it... I was ahead of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion and had a boundless enthusiasm...

Galatians 1:13-14 (Phillips)

PAUL'S EXPERIENCE:

His spiritual experiences:

- Watching Stephen be stoned (Acts 8:1)
- Conversion on the Damascus road (Acts 9:1–20)
- Three years maturing in Arabia (Galatians 1:18)
- Special vision from God (2 Corinthians 12:2–7)

His painful experiences:

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

2 Corinthians 11:23–27

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these great revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me,

2 Corinthians 12:7

Paul's educational experiences:

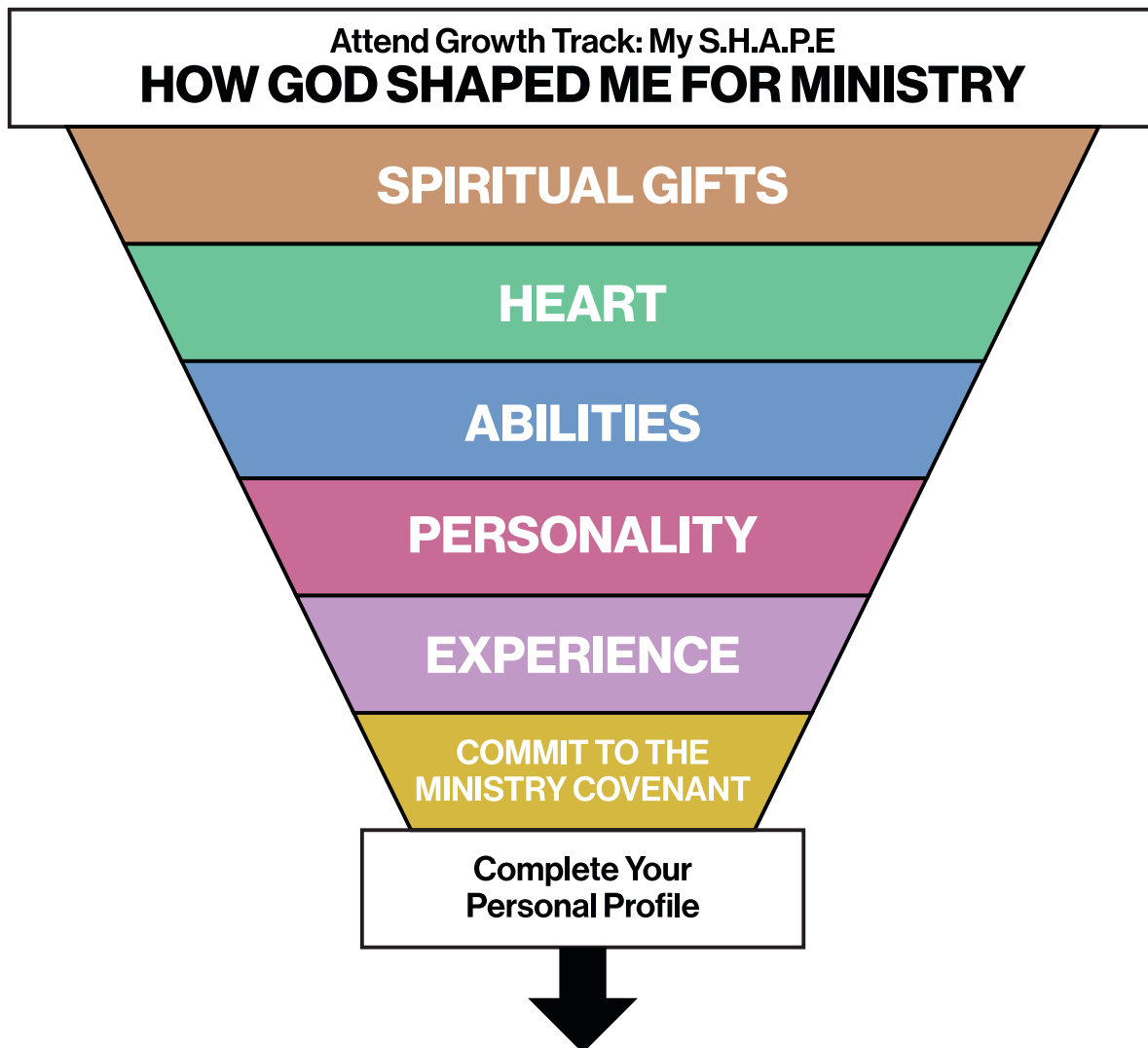
I received my training at the feet of Gamaliel, and I was schooled in the strictest observance of our fathers' Law.

Acts 22:3 (Phillips)

Paul's ministry experiences:

Read the Book of Acts!

TURNING POINT CHURCH'S MINISTRY DISCOVERY PROCESS



_____ **your gift** will give you an overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you may have been given by God.

_____ **your heartbeat** will help you clarify what you really love to do.

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

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

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

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS: A CONDENSED OVERVIEW

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

1 Corinthians 12:1

A **spiritual gift** is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at conversion, to be used to minister to others and to build up the body of Christ.

TEN TRUTHS

1. Only _____ have spiritual gifts.

| 1 Corinthians 2:14

2. Every Christian has at least _____ gift.

| 1 Corinthians 7:7

3. No one receives _____ the gifts.

| 1 Corinthians 12:27-30

4. No single gift is given _____.

| 1 Corinthians 12:29,30

5. You can't _____ a spiritual gift.

| Ephesians 4:7

6. The _____ decides what gifts I get.

| 1 Corinthians 12:11

7. The gifts I'm given are _____.

| Romans 11:29

8. I am to _____ the gifts God gives me.

| 1 Timothy 4:14

9. It's a sin to _____ the gifts God gave me.

| 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Matthew 25:14-30

10. Using my gifts _____ God and _____ me.

| John 15:8

THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Not for my benefit, but _____.

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

Peter 4:10 (GNT)

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

1 Corinthians 12:7 (TLB)

2. To produce _____ and _____ in our church family.

It was He who gave gifts to men... 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 (GNT)

CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.
2. Don't confuse gifts with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
 - Fruit shows my **maturity**.
 - Gifts show my **ministry**.
3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.
4. Be aware of the tendency to expect others to serve the way you do and have similar results.
5. Don't feel your gift makes you superior to others. (1 Corinthians 12:21)
6. Realize that using your gifts without love is worthless!

I may be able to speak the languages of men 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 (GN)T

7. Recognize that you have both a **primary** and a **secondary** ministry in your church:

- Your **PRIMARY MINISTRY** commitment should be in the area where you are _____.
- My **SECONDARY MINISTRY** includes serving in any other area where I am _____.

THREE WAYS GOD WANTS YOU TO USE YOUR GIFTS:

- Through an Ongoing Ministry
- Through Short-Term Projects
- Through Spontaneous Situations

It's easier to discover your GIFT through ministry than to discover your MINISTRY through your gift!

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

Unwrapping My Gifts

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts that exist, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:3–8, 1 Corinthians 12:1–11, 27–31, Ephesians 4:11–12, and 1 Peter 4:9–11, but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts that are not included in these lists.

All gifts are given to help the church fulfill its purposes, so we've categorized this list of gifts according to Turning Point Church's purposes.

As you read through this list, check off your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have many gifts.

GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD (BOTH TO UNBELIEVERS AND BELIEVERS):

PREACHING ("Prophecy") – 1 Corinthians 14:3

The ability to publicly communicate God's Word in an inspired way that both convinces unbelievers and challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will.

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

EVANGELISM – Acts 8:26–40

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

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

MISSIONS – 1 Corinthians 9:19–23, Acts 13:2–3

The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.

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

APOSTLE – Romans 15:20

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development

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

GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE:

TEACHING – Ephesians 4:12–13

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

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

ENCOURAGEMENT (“Exhortation”) – Acts 14:22

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

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

WISDOM – 1 Corinthians 2:1, 6–16

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

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

DISCERNMENT – 1 John 4:1-6

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

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

KNOWLEDGE – Daniel 1:17

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

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

GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE:

SERVICE – Acts 6:1-7

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

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

MERCY – Luke 10:30-37

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

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

HOSPITALITY – 1 Peter 4:9-10

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

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

PASTORING (“Shepherding”) – 1 Peter 5:2-4

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

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

GIVING – 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

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

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

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD’S PRESENCE (WORSHIP OR PRAYER-RELATED GIFTS):

MUSIC – Psalm 150

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

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

ARTS & CRAFTS – Exodus 31:3-11

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

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

INTERCESSION – Colossians 1:9-12

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

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

HEALING – James 5:14–16

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

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

MIRACLES – Mark 11:23–24

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

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

PRAYING WITH MY SPIRIT ("Tongues/Interpretation") – 1 Corinthians 14:13,15

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

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

GIFTS THAT SUPPORT ALL FOUR PURPOSES:

LEADERSHIP – Hebrews 13:7–17

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

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

ADMINISTRATION ("ORGANIZATION") – 1 Corinthians 14:40

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

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

FAITH – Romans 4:18–21

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

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

MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT

Definitions of "heart":

- "The organ that pumps your blood"
- "Your emotional constitution or disposition"
- "The vital force or driving impulse"

The Bible uses the term "heart" to represent the center of your motivation, desires, and inclinations.

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

My heart determines...

- **Why I say the things I do**

The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Matthew 12:34 (GN)

- **Why I feel the way I do**

The Word of God... examines the thoughts and motives of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

- **Why I act the way I do**

Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 4:23

My heart is the real me!

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. Each heart's rhythm 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.

This God-given motivation serves as an internal guidance system for our lives. It determines what your interests are, and what will bring you the most satisfaction and fulfillment. It also motivates you to pursue certain activities, subjects, and environments.

WHY HAS GOD GIVEN EACH PERSON A UNIQUE "HEARTBEAT"?

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

Revelation 17:17

God had a purpose in giving you your inborn interests. In fact, your emotional heartbeat reveals a very important key to understanding God's design and intention for your life.

The Bible makes very clear that your heart was designed by God, but you make the choice to use it for good or evil, for selfish purposes or for service.

You may have...

..selfish ambition in your heart...

James 3:14

Or you may...

...Serve the Lord with all your heart.

1 Samuel 12:20

..Do the will of God from your heart.

Ephesians 6:6

How can I do God's will and serve God's purpose? By letting my heartbeat motivate me for ministry!

This is a trustworthy saying: "If someone aspires to be a church leader, he desires an honorable position."

1 Timothy 3:1 (NLT)

TAKING A SPIRITUAL EKG

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

This exercise is adapted from the book Finding A Job You Can Love by Ralph Mattson and Arthur Miller (Nelson, 1982). We highly recommend that you read this book!

STEP 1: LIST AND DESCRIBE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE CHILDHOOD

Examples:

- "I put on plays for the neighborhood kids with costumes, props, etc. We transformed the shed in back of our house into a fairyland with lighting effects, decorations, and princesses."
- "I started a lemonade stand in 4th grade and expanded it into three different stands. It was fun and I made money!"
- "I had a job as a printer's assistant and developed a method of cutting stereotypes which was faster and more accurate."
- "I ran for president of everything (and won sometimes) when I was in school."
- "I have always liked to build things. Before I got married, I completely rebuilt the little apartment I was living in."
- "I successfully led protest marches against toxic wastes in my hometown and got local T.V. coverage."
- "I set a goal to read fifteen books over the summer, and I did."

What to Include:

- Accomplishments at home, school, work, etc.
- Things you enjoyed doing.
- Things you believe you did well.
- Give specific details about what you did.
- Forget what other people think about it.

Remember, you're recalling things you **enjoyed** doing and **did well** (accomplishments), not simply pleasant experiences.

BAD EXAMPLE: Had a great vacation in Canada.

GOOD EXAMPLE: Took some stunning photos during my vacation.

You do not have to cover every year of your life. Just focus on what you feel are the highlights of things you've done.

**Highlights of things I did well and enjoyed doing during my:
Grade School Years:**

As a teenager:

In college or early 20's:

As an adult up to the present:

STEP 2: DISCOVER THE MOTIVATED DIRECTION OF YOUR HEART

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

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

I love to:

- **Design or 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 or Maintain** – I love to efficiently maintain something that is already organized.
- **Serve or Help** – I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.
- **Acquire or Possess** – I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.
- **Excel** – I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.
- **Influence** – I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behavior of others.
- **Perform** – I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.
- **Improve** – I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started, and improve it.
- **Repair** – I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.
- **Lead or Be In Charge** – I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.
- **Persevere** – I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.
- **Follow the Rules** – I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.
- **Prevail** – I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

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

Example:

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

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

Did you find the basic motivational direction of your heart in this list? Write it on your personal profile.

APPLYING YOUR ABILITIES

There are different abilities to perform service...

1 Corinthians 12:6

I [God],... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...

Exodus 31:3

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

FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES (SKILLS AND TALENTS):

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

HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR MOTIVATED ABILITIES

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

Now compare those verbs to the list below and check those abilities you feel you have.

SPECIALIZED ABILITIES:

- **Entertaining:** to perform, act, dance, speak.
- **Recruiting:** to enlist and motivate people to get involved
- **Interviewing:** to discover what others are really like
- **Researching:** to read, gather information, collect data
- **Artistry:** 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 & 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 proofread 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 operations:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery
- **Resourcefulness:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
- **Counting:** to work with numbers, data or money
- **Classifying:** to file books, data, records & 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, making 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

List your specialized abilities on your personal profile.

PLUGGING IN YOUR PERSONALITY

In the space below, write your name:

Now, write your name with your opposite hand:

What Happened?

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

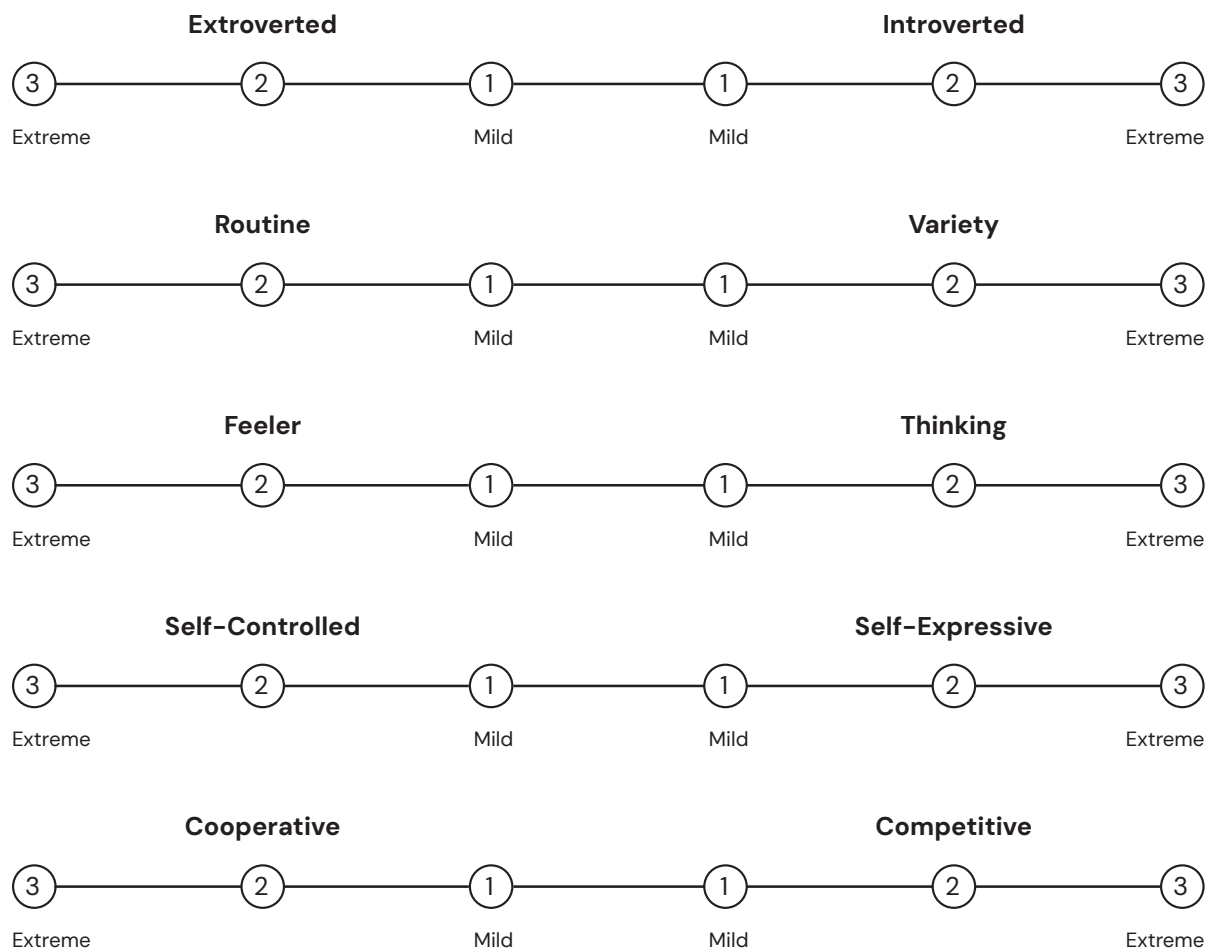
- You felt uncomfortable.
- It took extra time and effort
- You still did a lousy job at it!

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

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

Although there are many fine (and extremely detailed!) personality assessments available, for the purpose of your ministry profile, we want you to consider just five aspects:

HOW DO I SEE MYSELF?



EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Now I want you to know brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:12

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for you is your past experience, particularly hurts and problems that you have overcome with God's help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the "school of hard knocks." **God never wastes a hurt and He wants you to be open to ministering to people who are going through what you've already been through!**

[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)

Record these experiences:

- Your spiritual experiences: Meaningful decisions and times with God
- Your painful experiences: Problems, hurts, trials from which you've learned
- Your educational experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
- Your ministry experiences: How have you served in the past?



And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

TPC Serving

THE TURNING POINT CHURCH MINISTRY STATEMENT

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT MINISTRY:

1. **Salvation in Jesus Christ automatically includes a call to ministry.** Every believer is created, saved, called, gifted, authorized, and commanded to minister.

_____ is the heart of the Christian life.

Matthew 2:9-28

_____ follows form in ministry. How God made me determines what He intends for me to do. God has uniquely shaped each individual for a specific ministry.

2. God has given all his children gifts that can be developed and used in ministry. Everyone is a "10" in some area. Everyone has something to offer.

Developing and using your gifts is an act of good

_____ and _____.

3. You discover your gifts through ministry, instead of discovering your ministry by identifying your gifts.

The evidence of the right match between my "shape" and my ministry is

_____ and _____.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE BODY OF CHRIST:

1. God intends for ministry to be performed through the context of the local church. **Membership in the body includes a commitment to ministry.**
2. The Holy Spirit has provided our church body with all the spiritually gifted people needed to do everything He wants done. **Our task is to discover, enlist, train, and support these people in ministry.**
3. The church is to operate on the basis of spiritual gifts, rather than elected offices.

We do not _____ people to ministries.

A man's gift makes room for him.

Proverbs 18:16 (NASB)

The church is a _____ not a business; an _____
not an organization. Therefore we streamline the structure in order to maximize ministry and minimize maintenance. We do not bury ministries under procedures.

4. The mobilization of every member as a minister is the key to balanced growth of the church.
5. The greater good of the whole Body must always take priority over the needs of any single ministry. There is no place for _____ in God's family.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT THE ROLE OF PASTORS:

1. The equipping of the members for ministry is the number one priority of the pastoral staff.
The people are the ministers and the pastors are the administrators. Ephesians 4:11-12.
2. The objective of Turning Point Church is to _____ and _____
_____ an army of ministers who are using their unique gifts, heart, abilities, personality, and experiences in a meaningful place of service through our church.
3. Every member deserves personal assistance in discovering a meaningful place of ministry. **We value the individual more than the ministry.**

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. **We become what we are committed to.** Therefore we encourage growth in commitment to Christ and his Church.
2. **Everything rises or falls on _____.** No ministry can exceed the commitment of those leading it.
3. One mark of a maturing church is that the **standards for leadership are raised every year.**
4. **There must be periodic reviews of all ministries.** We do what is inspected, not just expected.
Best intentions are not enough.

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT TRAINING:

1. **Every leader is a _____.** The moment you stop learning, you stop leading.
2. We emphasize on-the-job training more than pre-service training. We learn best by doing. **We delegate to develop people.**

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT DIVERSITY OF MINISTRY:

1. **We have unity without uniformity.** We believe diversity in ministries simply illustrates the unique giftedness of individuals.
2. **Every ministry must fulfill one or more of the basic purposes of the church or we don't do it.**
3. **Ministries have _____.** If a ministry isn't meeting a need anymore, we will give it a decent burial. There are no sacred cows!
4. Most ministries require a one year commitment but **we allow people to change ministries gracefully, without guilt.** We don't lock people in permanently.
5. **Your primary ministry commitment should be in the area where you are _____.** Your secondary ministry includes serving in another area of the Body where you are _____.
6. **You are not ready for ministry, until you are willing to serve anywhere.**

WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT PERFORMANCE:

1. **We expect excellence in ministry, not _____.** Excellence is doing your best. God always deserves our best.
2. We encourage creativity and innovation in ministry, which assumes mistakes will be made. No mistakes means you're not growing or trying anything new. **We have no "failures" in ministry at Turning Point Church, only "experiments that didn't work!"**
3. A failed project does not mean a failed person. **There are no "wrong" people...only "right" people in the wrong ministry!**

Mission

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

That I will _____ my life to the ultimate purpose of being a part of God's _____ in reaching souls for Christ.

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

We will focus on three topics related to your life's mission:

- Discovering your life purpose.
- Sharing your testimony.
- Making a commitment to go on at least one mission trip.

These three things are designed to enlist you in the worldwide mission to share Christ.

CALLED TO PROCLAIM

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MY PURPOSE:

Now that we've learned about our spiritual gift, let's look at how to release it through our purpose. Tragically, most people live out their lives without ever knowing the purposes of God. Purpose is crucial to a quality life.

Where there is no purpose, the people perish.

Proverbs 29:18

To live with or without purpose is the difference between a piece of driftwood and a compass driven ship. The Bible speaks clearly and often about purpose.

DEFINITION: Greek **prothesis** = a setting forth before hand) In other words, God's purposes for us were laid out before time began.

Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault — we who stand before him covered with his love.

Ephesians 1:4

THERE ARE THREE PURPOSES IN EACH BELIEVER'S LIFE:

To _____ God.

But you are God's chosen generation, his royal priesthood, his holy nation, his very own possession..It is for you now to demonstrate the praises of him who has called you out of darkness into his amazing light.

1 Peter 2:9

Let your light shine like that in the sight of men. Let them see the good things you do and glorify your Father in Heaven.

Matthew 5:16

To _____ like Jesus.

For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son...

Romans 8:28

To _____ the lost.

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations...

Matthew 28:19

You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all.

Matthew 5:13-16

At Turning Point Church we teach that the church should be a "watering hole for the saints" and a 'hospital for sinners". **Any local church that is that is not _____ the lost to Christ, is _____ one of it's primary purposes. And any Christian who is not actively involved in _____ is also missing one of their purposes in life as a believer.**

In the early church there was an _____ of soul winning.

Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all.

Acts 2:41

And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

Acts 2:47

But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so that the number of believers totaled about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

Acts 4:4

The most profound miracle of all is the _____.

Men can only reproduce human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven; so don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again!

John 3:6,7

Jesus told them, This is the will of God, that you believe in the one he has sent.

John 6:29

The evidence that God is moving is when people are regularly being _____.

...The whole city was favorable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved.

Acts 2:47

Many Christians do not witness to the lost out of a feeling of _____.

The result is “_____.” They wonder what they will say, how they will say it, and if they will be asked questions they can't answer. Yet Jesus promised,

For I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply.

Luke 21:15

Jesus also promised a great reward for those who were persecuted for sharing the gospel.

God blesses you when you are mocked and persecuted and lied about because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven.

Matthew 5:11, 12

USING YOUR S.H.A.P.E. TO DEVELOP YOUR OUTREACH:

We've seen earlier that each Christian has a...

- Spiritual gift
- Heart for a particular type of ministry.
- Ability given by God to perform certain tasks well.
- Personality that suits what God has called them to do.
- Experiences that God uses to make them a better minister.

God's purpose is that I use my unique S.H.A.P.E. to reach people for Christ. Often, God uses our natural strengths and personality traits. In Matthew's gospel (Matthew 4:18–22) we find Jesus approaching Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Peter and Andrew are seen casting their nets into the water to catch fish, while James and John are found mending their nets. Interestingly, when we read about Peter in the book of Acts he is the roaring soul-winner — a “net-caster.” And John's recognizable refrain is “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth” [1 John 3:18]. He is a healer of relationships, a champion of love, a “net mender”.

God wants to use your unique S.H.A.P.E. to reach people for Christ.

For instance:

- My **Spiritual gift** is mercy.
- My **Heart** is to reach children.
- My **Ability** is graphics.
- My **Personality** is extroverted.
- My past **Experiences** include a deprived childhood and being reached for Christ as a child.

Because of my **spiritual gift** and my **heart**, my desire is to reach children. I could use my **ability** in graphics to do artwork designed to reach children. Being extroverted in my **personality**, I would like to be the one who shows the artwork to the children and perhaps tell the story behind the picture. My past **experience** shows they can be reached as a child, because I was.

Another example might be if....

- My **Spiritual gift** is giving.
- My **Heart** is to help the needy.
- My **Ability** is to build and oversee projects.
- My **Personality** is extroverted.
- My **Experience** is in construction.

This S.H.A.P.E. is of a person moved by the spiritual gift of giving and the heart to help needy people. With ability in building and management, an extroverted personality, and experience in construction, this person could oversee repair projects on the homes of needy people. Doing something like this in the name of the Lord would be a tremendously effective witness!

The possible combinations are endless. Using the S.H.A.P.E. from your spiritual profile, write down a possible scenario of ministry for yourself. Think of how you could take your unique S.H.A.P.E. and minister to people in the name of the Lord.

Possible Ministry Scenario:

HOW TO HAVE A GOOD R.E.A.C.H.

Once we've learned our S.H.A.P.E., we must use it to reach out to others. In the parable of the talents, Jesus condemned the servant who buried his talent instead of using it for the kingdom.

For the man who uses well what he is given shall be given more, and he shall have abundance. But from the man who is unfaithful, even what little responsibility he has shall be taken from him.

Matthew 25:29



The Bible teaches us how to reach people for Christ. The following acronym will help you easily remember five simple truths about reaching others for Christ through your S.H.A.P.E.:

R _____
the temptation to be silent.

For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but a spirit of power and love and a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:6-7

Even the great apostle Paul had to battle the temptation to be silent.

And pray for me, too, that I may be able to speak the message here boldly...

Ephesians 6:18-19

E _____ **faith in love.**

If I could speak in any language in heaven or on earth but didn't love others, I would only be making meaningless noise like a loud gong or a clanging cymbal.

1 Corinthians 13:1

There is a vast difference between "preaching at" and "speaking to." We're not anointed to beat people over the head, but to speak to their _____.

A _____ **be ready.**

Be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any man who wants a reason for the hope that you have within you.

1 Peter 3:15

This is the _____ behind the "gospel sandals" in the armor of God. It means to be ever-ready to share the gospel of peace.

C _____ **your talk with an appeal.**

We make an appeal by encouraging a _____ to shared truth. It is an invitation to prayer, either with you or alone.

Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this generation that has gone astray."

Acts 2:40

H _____ **them into a local church family.**

The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it grew in strength and numbers.

Acts 2:47

It is not just our responsibility to win people to Christ, but to find a _____.

When these simple R.E.A.C.H. steps are followed, you will grow in your ability to reach others for Christ!

...those who turn many to righteousness will shine like stars forever.

Daniel 12:3

Sharing My Testimony

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE P.O.W.E.R. OF YOUR TESTIMONY:

There is nothing stronger than a _____. You don't have to be a theologian, charismatic or brilliant. It is the easiest thing in the world to do. In this session we're going to explore **the** _____ that comprise a Biblical testimony.

DEFINITION: Testimony - Greek ***marturion*** = witness, one who has seen something.

For we cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:20

Preaching is different from a testimony. Preaching is objectively _____.

A personal testimony springs from the speaker's _____.

FIVE P.O.W.E.R. TRUTHS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR TESTIMONY:

P_____ will listen to a personal testimony.

When they saw the complete assurance of Peter and John, who were in their view uneducated and untrained men, they were staggered, recognizing them as men who had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

It was not their eloquent preaching, but their testimony of _____ that struck the Sanhedrin.

The result was that the people were astonished at seeing dumb men speak, crippled men healed, lame men walking about and blind men having recovered their sight. And they praised the God of Israel.

Matthew 15:31

O _____ **Satan is the result of a testimony.**

And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony.

Revelation 12:11

W _____ **all else fails, share your testimony.**

"I don't know whether he is a sinner," the man replied. "But I know this: I was blind, and now I can see!"

John 9:25

The young man in this scripture was no preacher or theologian, but he had a _____ of the healing power of God!

E _____ **with God is the prerequisite for a personal testimony.**

The Gospels are not only a record book of what Jesus said and did, but of the disciples' _____.

I saw all this myself and have given an accurate report so that you also can believe.

John 19:35

We cannot stop telling about the wonderful things we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:20

Whatever God has done in your life is _____ for a testimony.

R _____ **God's blessings on your life is the essence of a testimony.**

I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be astounded. They will put their trust in the Lord.

Psalms 40:1-3

Notice how David itemizes what God had done for him. "He heard, He lifted, He set, He steadied, He gave." And the result of the testimony was _____.

These five facts about a personal testimony prove that there is P.O.W.E.R. in sharing it.

Satan _____ when we give a testimony that gives glory to God.

So they called them in and ordered them bluntly not to speak or teach a single further word to anyone in the name of Jesus.

Acts 4:18

The speaking they were doing was in the form of _____.

There are _____ every believer is to share his or her testimony:

1. We are to share our testimony _____.

Go home to your own people [family and friends] and tell them what the Lord has done for you, and how kind he has been to you! Mark 5: 19

The Bible teaches that unless someone speaks, the lost will not be saved.

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart...

Acts 2:37

God is with us when we testify and will _____ our testimony.

But it will turn out for you for as an occasion for testimony... for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

Luke 21:13–15

2. We share our testimony by our _____.

You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see...let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5:13–16

Works will not get you into heaven. **We are saved by grace [unearned favor] through the finished work of Christ. Yet works _____ and bring glory to God.**

...I can't see your faith if you don't have good deeds, but I will show you my faith through my good deeds.

James 2:18

Good works can include hospital visitations, taking a pie to a sick neighbor, or mowing an elderly person's lawn. The possibilities are endless.

Based on Jesus' words, we know that good works:

1. Are _____ to the casual observer.

...that they may see your good works...

Matthew 5:16

2. _____ to God.

My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.

John 15:8

3. Point to the _____ in our lives.

There was a believer in Joppa named Tabitha. She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.

Acts 9:36

I preached...that all must turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good works they do.

Acts 26:20

As green grass testifies of a well-watered lawn, so good works testify of a

_____.

THREE INGREDIENTS OF A POWERFUL TESTIMONY:

Just like anything else, there is a right way and a wrong way to give your testimony. Here are some guidelines for an effective P.O.W.E.R. testimony.

1. AN EFFECTIVE TESTIMONY GIVES GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PAST WITHOUT DWELLING ON _____.

Paul's testimony before King Agrippa is the classic example of a testimony well given. He says in Acts 26:10: "This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison...". He could have been much more explicit, such as talking about how they screamed when put to death, or how the children cried when separated from their parents, etc. But he didn't.

Explicit, gory details can _____ the listeners from hearing your main point, which is what Jesus did for you.

2. THE ENTRANCE OF JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE SHOULD BE THE _____ OF ANY TESTIMONY.

...at midday I saw a light from the sky, far brighter than the sun, blazing about me, and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

Acts 26:12-18

Notice how the climax of Paul's testimony is the _____ and how it changed him.

I stand here as a witness to high and low, adding nothing to what the prophets and Moses said would come.,

Acts 26:22, 23

3. JUST LIKE A GOOD STEAK IS SALTED AND PEPPERED TO ADD TO THE FLAVOR, A PERSONAL TESTIMONY SHOULD BE SEASONED WITH _____.

For the word of God is living and powerful...

Hebrews 4:12

In light of these things, let's be willing to boldly declare what the Lord has done for us!

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

Mark 8:38



Go home to your own people and tell them what the Lord has done for you, and how kind he has been to you!

Your Mission

You, then, go and make disciples of all the nations and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you and, remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the world.

Mathew 28:19, 20

WHAT IS A MISSION?

Though the words “mission” or “missionary” are not in the Bible, their function is clearly implied. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines a missionary as, “One who is sent on a mission, especially one sent to do religious or charitable work in a territory or foreign country.”

So a missionary, or one sent on a mission in Christ’s name, is one sent to a people, nation, culture, or language _____ to their own. The Bible teaches that every missionary has a mission or _____ to his journey.

THE THREE-FOLD PURPOSE OF THE GREAT COMMISSION:

1. _____ THEM.

Greek **mathetes**, which means “learner,” or thought accompanied by endeavor. We get our word “math” from this Greek word.

Jesus’ first purpose for the missionary was that he or she would make _____ out of new converts to Christianity.

It is easy to see that _____ is only the beginning of the missionary’s job. Too often, well meaning Christians win a soul to Christ and leave them where they found them, with no training. This is why the local church is so important! It is the church’s job to take new converts and make “learners and doers” out of them. People who not only hear the Word of God, but know how to _____.

2. _____ THEM.

Since water baptism has already been covered in this series, we will touch briefly on this subject. Jesus taught that we were to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Baptize in the name of:

The _____: Matthew Henry writes, "It is into the name of the Father, believing him to be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our Father, as our Creator, Preserver, and Benefactor, to whom therefore we resign ourselves, to rule us, as free agents, by his law; and as our chief good, and highest end."

The _____: By being baptized in the Son's name we are taking Christ to be our _____ and giving up ourselves to be taught, saved, and ruled by him.

The _____: The Holy Spirit being included signifies giving ourselves to his conduct and operation, as our sanctifier, teacher, and _____.

What a beautiful picture to the new convert! God is your Father. Christ is your Prophet, Priest, and King. And the Holy Spirit is your Guide and Comforter.

3. _____ THEM TO OBSERVE:

(Greek *didasko* – to give instruction. The word "observe" literally means "_____." The disciples could have been called "the keeping ones" because of the way they "kept" the teachings of Christ in their heart.

The missionary not only teaches the new convert to "learn and-do" the teachings of Christ, but also to keep the word _____.

The same Greek word for "keep" is used of the guards who were posted outside Jesus' tomb. They were there to guard the tomb with their life. That's how we're to guard His word in our hearts.

WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD GO ON AT LEAST ONE MISSION TRIP:

Because Jesus' pattern with people was:

FIRST, TO _____ THEM:

Jesus always _____ those He wanted to save and use for His glory.

One day as he was walking along the beach beside the Lake of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—out in a boat fishing with a net, for they were fishermen. Jesus called out, “Come along with me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men!” And they left their nets at once and went with him.

Matthew 4:18–20

The Bible says that by His _____, God sought out every one of us the same way.

...no one can say, “Jesus is Lord”, and really mean it, unless the Holy Spirit is helping him.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit. We do not know on whom he will next bestow this life from heaven.

John 3:8

SECOND, TO _____ THEM:

Once Jesus approaches, He knocks on our hearts with an offer of salvation; He summons us.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

... I, the Messiah, have come to search for and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

THIRD, TO _____ THEM:

Jesus took his disciples and began to teach them and to show them His power. He regularly performed miracles in front of them, _____ His victory and power over the enemy.

That evening several demon possessed people were brought to Jesus; and when he spoke a single word, all the demons fled; and all the sick were healed.

Matthew 8:16

So He spoke to the storm: “Quiet down” he said, and the wind and waves subsided and all was calm! And they were filled with awe and fear of him and said to one another, ‘Who is this man, that even the winds and waves obey him?’”

Luke 8:24–25

The disciples’ testimony of Jesus in the book of Acts was that, “He went about doing good and healing all who were possessed by demons...” (Acts 10:38).

FINALLY, JESUS' PATTERN WAS TO _____ THEM:

The ultimate purpose of God in seeking, saving and showing is to _____.

As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.

John 20:21

I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. Be as wary as serpents and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

Now after this the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him...

Luke 10:1

So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.

Matthew 9:38

_____ into the harvest is paramount on God's mind.

And God's pattern has not changed with any of us. He sought us, saved us, and showed us that He might _____ to others.

THE BENEFITS OF A MISSIONS TRIP:

Later the seventy came back full of joy. "Lord," they said, "even the spirits obey us when we use your name!"

Luke 10:17

1. _____ WAS THE FIRST BY-PRODUCT OF A MISSIONS TRIP.

The seventy were sent to several towns with the message of the gospel. As they preached and saw changed lives, they experienced a joy they had never known.

Yes, the liberal man shall be rich! By watering others, he waters himself.

Proverbs 11:25

And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region... And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 13:49,52

The reason so many Christians feel empty and dry is because they are not _____ to others.

2. _____ WAS THE SECOND BY-PRODUCT OF A MISSIONS TRIP.

The disciples were amazed to see demons come out of _____ in the name of Jesus.

Jesus declared in the Great Commission, "I have been given all authority in heaven and earth. Therefore go..."

We go in His _____.

DEFINITION: Greek **exousia** – authority or power, the might and right to do something.

And Jesus promised at the end of the Great Commission, "I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

When is He with us? As _____.

And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Phillip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Acts 8:6

Then all the multitude kept silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

Acts 15:12

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

Acts 19:11,12

In each of these stories, the disciples saw the power of God as they went out.

_____ **were experienced by the disciples as they obeyed.**

Blessed are the eyes which see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard it.

Luke 10:23,24

Every man who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or land for my sake will get them back many times over, and will inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19:29

God is a _____ **giving back to His faithful servants many times over what they give to Him!**

TPC Membership

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word: _____.

At Turning Point Church, we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for two reasons:

A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.

Ephesians 5:25

A Cultural 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.”

THE TURNING POINT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior, and being in agreement with Turning Point Church’s statements, strategy, and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Turning Point Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to other members to do the following:

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH:

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together.

Romans 14:19

Live in complete harmony with each other – each with the attitude of Christ toward each other.

Romans 15:5

Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts.

1 Peter 1:22

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs...

Ephesians 4:29

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

Hebrews 13:17

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH.

...By praying for it's growth

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly.

1 Thessalonians 1:2

Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My house will be full.

Luke 14:23

So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.

Romans 15:7

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH.

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

...By developing a servant's heart

...By volunteering when needed

Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you...

1 Peter 4:10

God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up...

Ephesians 4:11,12

Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant...

Philippians 2:3,4,7

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH.

...By attending faithfully

...By living a godly life

...By giving regularly

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... but let us encourage one another.

Hebrews 10:25

But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Philippians 1:27

Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering.

1 Corinthians 16:2

A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.

Leviticus 27:30



*So let us concentrate
on the things which
make for harmony,
and on the growth
of our fellowship
together.*

