

# NEW LIFE STAGE 3

My Sharing  
My Service (S.H.A.P.E. & Spiritual Gifts Survey)  
My Stewardship  
My Spiritual Journey



**NEWLIFE**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"The Place Where Your New Life in Christ Begins"  
2 Corinthians 5:17

CREATED JULY 2020

# Books of the Bible

## Old Testament

### **The Law**

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

### **History**

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

### **Poetry**

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of  
Solomon

### **Major Prophets**

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

### **Minor Prophets**

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

## New Testament

### **Gospels**

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John

### **History**

Acts

### **Pauline Letters**

Romans  
1 Corinthians  
2 Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians  
1 Thessalonians  
2 Thessalonians  
1 Timothy  
2 Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

### **General Letters**

Hebrews  
James  
1 Peter  
2 Peter  
1 John  
2 John  
3 John  
Jude

### **Prophecy**

Revelation

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Assurance of Forgiveness  
Assurance of Power  
Assurance of Guidance

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Assurance of Knowledge  
Assurance of Involvement

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## BEING ON THIRD BASE READ THIS!!!

Being at STAGE THREE means the likelihood of you being committed to being on the ***SAME STAGE*** and the ***SAME PAGE*** in living out the **New Life Vision** of “***Changing Lives... Making Disciples.***” And the **Mission** of “***Teaching People to Love God, Love Themselves, and Love Others.***”

There is likewise the great potential for disappointment for getting so far and then falling short of the ultimate goal, which is to become an active participant as a disciple of Christ at New Life Christian Church of Fontana.

Like any other commitments that you have made in life to God and seeing a task through requires greater attentiveness and instantaneous obedience to the instruction that you’ve engaged in ***STAGE ONE*** and ***STAGE TWO*** that must now find its application in ***STAGE THREE***. directions.

Now that you have reached ***STAGE THREE***, your instruction is to

***“Diligently study each lesson BEFORE coming to class.”***

**STAGE THREE** requires less teaching and more participation based on personal preparation.

The goal of this section of the study is that you **come to class, having already studied the lesson and prepared to ask questions and/or answer the discussion question at the end of each lesson.** *Your questions and personal observations will drive the discussion more than the teacher providing a lecture.*

You’re Almost There – Great Work!!!

**“STUDY MY SHARING BEFORE COMING TO CLASS”**

# **My Sharing**

## **2 Ways to Share Your Faith with Others**

### **My Sharing**

**Proverbs 11:30 English Standard Version**

*“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
and whoever captures souls is wise.”*

### **1. Your Personal Testimony**

Your personal testimony where you share your life story can serve as a powerful evangelistic tool. The emphasis of your story is your life and relationship with Christ. This testimony should neatly fall into three sections:

- **Your life before Christ**
- **How you came to faith in Jesus Christ**
- **What your life is like with Christ**

Many of us could spend hours sharing about our walk with the Lord and how He leads, guides and directs us through life’s journey. However, it is important to remember that we may have a limited amount of time in which to share our personal testimony. It is important to know how to share only the significant highlights of your personal testimony.

A questionnaire format makes it easier to write your personal testimony. It allows you to see clearly how much the Lord has done in your life taking you step by step through the process. It will help you write your evangelistic testimony in order to share it within a maximum of three minutes. Sharing your testimony concisely and naturally can create a desire in someone to want to know Jesus Christ as Lord.

## Write Your Personal Testimony – Part 1

## Your Life Before Christ

Take a moment and remember where Jesus Christ brought you from; what your life was like without the love of God, without His grace and without His mercy. Think of key words that summarize your life (e.g., out of control, reckless, empty, abusive, anger, despair, etc.)

Thank God for what He did in your life and how He had mercy on you.

Now, write and explain what your life was like before Christ.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## Write Your Personal Testimony – Part 2

## How You Came to Faith in Jesus Christ

Take a moment and think about how you came to have saving faith in Jesus Christ. Answer the following questions to tell your story.

Who introduced you to Jesus Christ? When?

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What Scripture helped you see your need to accept Jesus Christ?

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### What happened (tell your story)?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.





## **Your Personal Testimony – Putting It All Together**

Now combine the three parts of your personal testimony in a short, concise communication that you can share with someone in 2-3 minutes. Notice that less time is spent on your life before Christ!

Try to memorize your testimony. Rehearse your testimony.

Be prepared, you may possibly be asked to share your testimony in class.

Be prepared, the Lord will ask you to share your testimony for the rest of your life on earth!

What my life was like before Jesus Christ:

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How I came to faith in Jesus Christ:

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What is my life is like now that I have come to faith in Jesus Christ:

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## 2. The Four Spiritual Laws (Reaching the Unbeliever)

- A. Realize your personal testimony is powerful evangelistic tool that shows the majestic works of our God. But it is the gospel message that actually leads an unbeliever to salvation. If you have that “open door” after you share your personal testimony, share the gospel message.
- B. **The Four Spiritual Laws** is another evangelistic tool that presents the basic truths of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Four Spiritual Laws contain the Word of God, which He has promised will never return void.
- C. Benefits of using The Four Spiritual Laws presentation:
  - 1) It was developed by Campus Crusade for Christ, the largest missionary organization in the world.
  - 2) The Holy Spirit has effectively used this tool to lead unbelievers to Jesus Christ for more than 50 years in countries and languages all over the world.
  - 3) It is an easy conversation starter. Simply ask, “**Have you heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?**”
  - 4) It begins with a positive note: “**God loves you ...**”
  - 5) It clearly presents the claims of Christ.
  - 6) It includes an invitation to receive Christ.
  - 7) It offers suggestions for growth.
  - 8) It emphasizes the importance of the church.
  - 9) It gives you confidence because you know what to say and how to say it.
  - 10) It enables you to stay on the subject – to control the conversation.
  - 11) It makes it possible for you to be brief.
  - 12) It enables you to be prepared.

# The Four Spiritual Laws



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**Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe,  
so are there spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.**

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God **LOVES** you and offers a wonderful  
**PLAN** for your life.

## **God's Love**

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).

## **God's Plan**

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10).

*Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because...*

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Man is **SINFUL** and **SEPARATED** from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

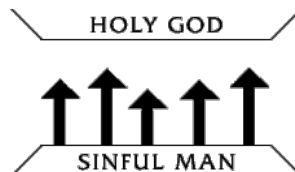
### **Man Is Sinful**

*"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).*

Man was created to have fellowship with God, but, because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

### **Man Is Separated**

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).



This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion - but he inevitably fails.

*The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...*

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Jesus Christ is God's **ONLY** provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

#### **He Died in Our Place**

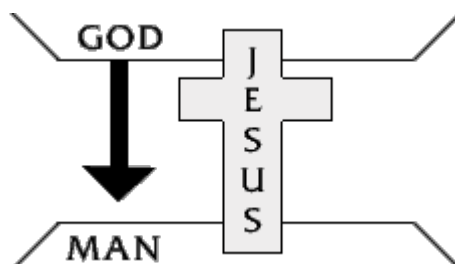
**"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).**

#### **He Rose from the Dead**

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

#### **He Is the Only Way to God**

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



This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

*It is not enough just to know these three laws...*



We must individually **RECEIVE** Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

### **We Must Receive Christ**

**"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12)**

### **We Receive Christ Through Faith**

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

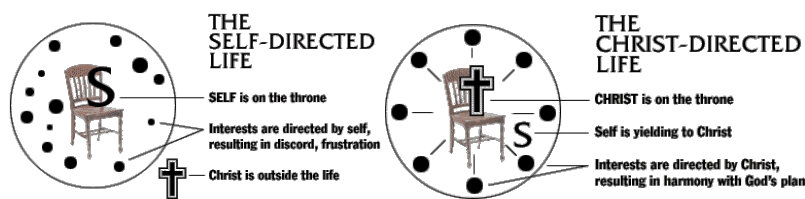
**When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth** (Read [John 3:1-8](#).)

### **We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation**

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20).

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree **intellectually** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an **emotional** experience. We receive Jesus Christ by **faith**, as an act of the **will**.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Which circle best describes your life?

Which circle would you like to represent your life?

*The following explains how you can receive Christ:*

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### **You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer**

(Prayer is talking to God)

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

***"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross and rising from the dead for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."***

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?

If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

[Now that you have received Christ...](#)

# My Sharing - IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Did you study the entire “**My Sharing**” lesson?
2. Explain the **Proverbs 11:30** memory verse in your own words.
3. Describe your thoughts and feelings about writing out your personal testimony.
4. Do you have questions about writing your personal testimony?
5. What one verse of Scripture was most instrumental in your decision to commit your life to Jesus Christ?
6. Are you prepared to share your personal testimony in class?
7. Do you believe that “your” personal testimony can be used by the Holy Spirit of God to help others come to faith in Jesus Christ?
8. What questions do you have about The Four Spiritual Laws?
9. Try to recite from memory Law 1, Law 2, Law 3, and Law 4.
10. **Homework. God-work:**
  - Think of three people you know who need a relationship with Jesus and who you regularly come into contact with
  - Pray for God to open a door of opportunity
  - Share your personal testimony and/or The Four Spiritual Laws with at least one of them before you return next week!

**“STUDY MY SERVICE BEFORE COMING TO CLASS”**

## **My Service**

### **My Service**

**Ephesians 2:10 English Standard Version**

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

### **A Prayer for Your Journey**

***Holy Father, please show me just how special you have made me. Take me wherever you need to, so I can experience you like never before. Ignite my heart. Let it forever burn for the things You desire most – people. Align my dreams and desires with yours.***

***Lord, I long to be known as a difference-maker. Show me the way and your will, so I can follow. I fully acknowledge that I’m nothing without you. Please grant me continued grace, love, and wisdom as I walk this journey with you.***

***God, give me the strength to face my fears along the way. Fill me with Your love. Make my motives pure and honorable. Teach me the things I still need to learn to truly honor You with all of my life. Grant me faith like never before. Help me move away from my comforts and closer to Your callings.***

***Father, help me find and fulfill the specific purpose in life. You created me so I can do Your work in my generation for Your glory.***

***In the name of Jesus, Amen!***



## **GOD UNIQUELY CREATED YOU TO SERVE OTHERS**

Read Ephesians 2:10.

1. What does the word “workmanship” mean?

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Why were you created?

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When did God prepare you to do these good works?

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### **Your Unique Purpose**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:7 MSB**

*Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.*

#### **1 Corinthians 12:7 ESV**

*“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

2. Your Unique Purpose: Your specific contribution to the body of Christ:
  - Within your generation
  - That causes you to totally depend on God and love others
  - All through the expression of your unique S.H.A.P.E.
3. When we let God’s truth define our Kingdom Purpose, submitting to His authority and desiring to please only Him, we are able to lead a life of:
  - Lasting Significance
  - Fulfillment
  - Kingdom Impact
4. What do Hebrews 11:1 teach us about how to live?

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5. What do Hebrews 11:6 teach us about how to live?

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6. What does Joshua 1:9 teach us about how to live?

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7. What does Isaiah 64:8 teach us about how to live?

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## **Your Special S.H.A.P.E. – Just Be YOU!**

8. As one of God's custom-designed creations, your potential for significance and excellence is revealed by the S.H.A.P.E. God has given you.
9. Rick Warren writes, "Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it."
10. Consider the definition of each letter in S.H.A.P.E.:

<b>S</b> – Spiritual Gifts	A set of special abilities that God has given you to share His love and serve others.
<b>H</b> – Heart	The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify Him on earth.
<b>A</b> – Abilities	The set of talents that God gave you when you were born, which He also wants you to use to make an impact for Him.
<b>P</b> – Personality	The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfill your unique Kingdom Purpose.
<b>E</b> – Experiences	Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways.

## S SPIRITUAL GIFTS – Unwrapping Your God-Given Treasures

1. Read 1 Peter 4:10. This verse says “each” believer has a gift. A spiritual gift is a supernatural endowment.

Where do believers get their gift(s) from? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do believers get spiritual gifts?

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2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. What is God’s purpose of giving spiritual gifts?

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3. Spiritual gifts are \_\_\_\_\_:

- ✓ *For* you – to boost your self-image or to serve as some kind of special reward from God.
- ✓ *About* you – to raise you up to some level of worldly greatness or success.

4. Spiritual gifts \_\_\_\_\_for the express purpose of blessing the body of Christ.

5. Discovering your spiritual gifts \_\_\_\_\_the ultimate goal.

6. Using your spiritual gifts to bless others \_\_\_\_\_the ultimate goal.

7. At least three things happen whenever we use the spiritual gifts that God has graced us with:

- ✓ People are helped
- ✓ God is honored
- ✓ We are fulfilled

8. New Life Christian Church uses the Spiritual Gifts Survey to help you discover your spiritual gifts.

- ✓ Answer each question.
- ✓ Tally your responses
- ✓ Your tally will give you an indication of what your spiritual gifts may be.
- ✓ Serve in ministry and allow God to confirm your spiritual gifts as you serve others.

## H HEART – Discovering Your True Passion

1. The heart is the special passion God has given you so that you can glorify him on earth; *it is the fuel of life. It is a great source of energy and drive. It's what makes us explore new vistas, develop new relationships, and seek solutions to perplexing problems.*
2. Colossians 3:23-24: whom does God want your heart to beat for? \_\_\_\_\_
3. The ultimate contribution God has for you is to make aligns with the passions He's given you for His kingdom.
4. Heart refers to empathy, attraction, or "draw" towards a group of people, a field of expertise, a particular type of service.
5. Evaluating your heart helps you determine:
  - ✓ Where you might best use your spiritual gift(s)
  - ✓ Where you wish to serve
  - ✓ Whom you wish to serve
6. Heart reflects dreams/desires. What do I really want to do for God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who do I feel I can most profoundly influence for God? What group? Age?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What are the top two needs you love meeting? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What cause or issue makes your heart race? If time was not an issue, what godly cause would you give yourself to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. If you had permission to do what you really want to do, what three things would you do? List them (Don't ask "How?" the question is "What?")
  - a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) \_\_\_\_\_

## **A ABILITIES** - Discovering What You Are Naturally Good At

### GOD HAS GIVEN YOU INCREDIBLE STRENGTHS

1. When we are \_\_\_\_\_ to God, He can use our natural abilities during every season of our life.
2. Rick Warren writes, "The abilities you *do* have are a strong indication of what God wants you to do with your life.
3. Rom. 12:6, *He has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.*
4. There are also certain things that you can't live *without* doing.
  - Things you enjoy doing make work more like play
  - Things you enjoy trigger an energized anticipation to get started
  - Things you enjoy don't seem tiring or time-consuming
5. People may even comment that what you do seems effortless because of the ease and sense of joy that's evident when you do it.
6. Ask yourself: "Where do I naturally excel?"
7. There IS something that you are naturally good at and love to do. Find a way to use it for God!
8. Reevaluate the abilities God has given you and the life situation in which God has placed you in light of His eternal purposes.

### EMBRACE THE THINGS YOU LOVE TO DO

9. Goal: embrace the things you *love* to do, not just the things you *can* do.
10. What are some ways you can use the things you love to do to make little deposits of love ***in your home*** this week?
11. What are some ways you can use the things you love to do to make little deposits of love ***at work*** this week?
12. What are some ways you can use the things you love to do to make little deposits of love ***at church*** this week?
13. What are some ways you can use the things you love to do to make little deposits of love ***by serving others*** this week?

## **P PERSONALITY** - Discovering Who God Made You to Be

### EMBRACE THE PERSON GOD MADE YOU TO BE

1. Many people are outgoing and competitive.  
*Are they the ones who will be most used by God?*
  - ✓ The world places value on externals like prestige, position, wealth.
  - ✓ God places the highest value on less visible aspects of our lives.
2. PERSONALITY is also God's unique gift to you. There is no "right" or "wrong" temperament for ministry. The Church needs all kinds of personalities for balance and flavor.
3. ***God has instilled a unique personality in each one of us for His glory.***
4. Your God-given personality will help you more effectively express your gifts, heart, and abilities.
5. RELATING TO OTHERS  
Kingdom Purpose is about people and discovering how you relate to others.
6. How Has God Wired You?
  - ✓ Outgoing or Reserved?
  - ✓ Self-expressive or Self-controlled?
  - ✓ Cooperative or Competitive?
7. RESPONSE TO OPPORTUNITIES  
You will encounter many serving opportunities. Understanding how to react to various situations will help you make the best choices.
8. If you had the opportunity to choose the ideal situation to make the greatest difference for God, what would it look like?
  - ✓ What opportunities brought the greatest fulfillment & best results?
  - ✓ Over your past year, what opportunities produced the most "fruit?"
  - ✓ High Risk or Low Risk?
  - ✓ People or Projects?
  - ✓ Follow or Lead?
  - ✓ Team or Solo?
  - ✓ Routine or Variety?

### BE TRUE TO WHOM GOD MADE YOU TO BE

9. It will be hard to fulfill your Kingdom Purpose if you take on ministry opportunities that don't align with how God has fashioned you.
  - ✓ Don't try to be what you are not.
  - ✓ Honor God, and accept/use your distinct personality for His purposes.
  - ✓ Joyfully live out the S.H.A.P.E. God created within us.

## **E EXPERIENCES** - Discovering Where You Have Been

1. Read Romans 8:28. Write the meaning of this verse in your own words.

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### **THERE IS A PURPOSE IN YOUR PAST**

2. Times of life crisis challenges us to make a very important choice:
  - ✓ Turn away from God in bitterness
  - ✓ Run into the arms of God, allow the crisis to be a catalyst for Christ
3. Faith and experience teach that true comfort is found in God alone.
4. Think back over the key experiences of your life.
  - ✓ How have childhood joys/sorrows shaped who you are today?
  - ✓ How have adolescent pains/thrills shaped who you are today?
  - ✓ How have adult struggles/accomplishments shaped who you are?
5. Walking slowing down our memory lane may be painful, but it is an important step toward:
  - ✓ Understanding whom God has created us to be
  - ✓ Discovering the Kingdom Purpose God has set aside just for us
6. As you examine each life event that God brings to mind:
  - ✓ What lessons do you glean?
  - ✓ If you cannot think of any lessons, ask God to reveal them to you.
  - ✓ Understand that God longs to use *everything* in your life.

## S.H.A.P.E. SUMMARY

As one of God's custom-designed creations, your potential for significance and excellence is revealed by the S.H.A.P.E. God has given you.

Rick Warren writes, "*Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it.*"

***S – Spiritual Gifts***     *A set of special abilities that God has given you to share His love and serve others.*

***H – Heart***                *The special passions God has given you so that you can glorify Him on earth.*

***A – Abilities***            *The set of talents that God gave you when you were born, which He also wants you to use to make an impact for Him.*

***P – Personality***        *The special way God wired you to navigate life and fulfill your unique Kingdom Purpose.*

***E – Experiences***       *Those parts of your past, both positive and painful, which God intends to use in great ways.*

### HOMEWORK:

Complete the Spiritual Gifts Survey and inform your New Life Stages instructor of spiritual gifts reflected by your highest three numbers.



# My Service - IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Did you study the entire “**My Service**” lesson?
2. Pray “A Prayer for Your Journey” together as a group.
3. What most impacted you from studying this lesson?
4. Explain the Ephesians 2:10 memory verse in your own words.
5. How do you feel about 1 Corinthians 12:7 and the fact that God has given you a something special to help build the body of Christ?
6. How does “S.H.A.P.E.” impact your spiritual life?
7. The Spiritual Gifts Survey is simply a “tool” to point you in the direction of what MAY be your spiritual gifts. After taking the Spiritual Gifts Survey, do you have any questions about “how” to use those SPIRITUAL GIFTS in which you rated the highest?
8. Share your HEART’s desire to serve God and the world.
9. Share how you can use that ABILITY in which you love and excel to promote God at home, work, church, or elsewhere.
10. Based on your study, describe your PERSONALITY and the ministry scenario in which you think you will be most productive.
11. Describe the positive experiences that have prepared you for service in ministry.
12. Describe a negative experience that has also prepared you for service in ministry.
13. If you are not currently serving in an NLCC ministry, please indicate your desire to do so with Pastors Samuel and Tamika or Sis. Alicia Picou.

# My Stewardship

## Memory Verse

### 1 Corinthians 4:2 King James Version

*“Moreover it is required in stewards,  
that a man be found faithful.”*

DEFINITION: **Steward** - *a person employed to manage another's property.*

1. **Genesis 1:27-28** God created humans to manage His estate.
  - a) “fill the earth and subdue it” (overcome, bring under control)
  - b) “rule over” (authority, govern, dominate)
  - c) “work it”
  - d) “take care of it”
2. **Luke 16:1-13** Your stewardship - spiritual commitment (handling people/souls).
3. What is the concept of stewardship in these passages?

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Everything you have belongs to God, they are His possessions and you need to get in the habit of asking Him how He wants things managed. Verbally and in your heart, acknowledge Him as the "rightful" owner of all you have.

4. What qualities/characteristics must a steward have?

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2** – 

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**Matt. 24:45-51** – 

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE

DEFINITION: *Obedience - to do what one is told; to yield to the control of; comply with.*

5. What does it take for YOU to obey someone? DISCUSS...
6. Romans 12:1-2. You must first give yourself to God, dedicate yourself to Him only:

*“present your bodies a living sacrifice”*

*“be not conformed to this world”*

*“be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind”*

Which words contribute to obedience?

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7. Obedience is better than sacrifice - I Samuel 15:22, Hosea 6:6.

- a) What is the difference between obedience and sacrifice?

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- b) Discuss in your own words why obedience is better than sacrifice.

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## GOD'S PLAN - YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

8. **Provide for your family. God expects you to:**

I Timothy 5:7-8                      Provide for your household by working for money.

II Thessalonians 3:10-12      Earn the bread you eat.

Proverbs 10:4; 20:4              Work, lazy hands make a poor man

Proverbs 14:23                      Profit from your labor.

Proverbs 28:19                      Work and have an abundance.

NOTE: Don't try to obtain money by stealing, being deceitful, or gambling. God intended for man to work/earn his money.

9. Provide for the Church and others (tithes and offerings)

Leviticus 27:30-33	A tithe (one tenth) belongs to God
Deuteronomy 12:6-18	Tithes and offerings are to be brought to God's house.
Malachi 3:8	Not giving tithes and offerings is actually robbing God.
Proverbs 3:9	God honors your obedient giving.
Luke 6:38	God honors your giving in proportion to your giving.
II Corinthians 9:6-11	God loves a cheerful giver. Your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

10. Plan for the Future (showing wise forethought for the future).

Luke 14:28-30	Lack of planning usually leads to unnecessary debt.
Proverbs 13:11	Save and use the resources as the Holy Spirit leads
Proverbs 21:20	Store up some resources for your future.
Proverbs 27:23	Closely monitor your affairs, what comes in, goes out.
Proverbs 30:25, 6:6-8	Take a lesson from the ants, store/save up!
Matthew 25:14-30	Invest according to your abilities.
Key verse: 16	At best, put your money to work to increase.
Key verse: 27	At least, put your money in the bank to gain interest.
Matthew 6:19-34	Not a contradiction, do not be overly concerned about earthly things.

## WHY DO WE BRING THE TITHE?"

Lesson Scripture: Malachi 3:8-10

Key Verse: Malachi 3:10

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, said the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

11. What does Malachi 3:6 reveal about the character of God?

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How does this principle relate to tithing?

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12. What is the result of being disobedient in tithing (Malachi 3:9)?

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13. Study Malachi 3:10-12. List the things God promises to us if we are obedient in the area of tithing.

a) \_\_\_\_\_

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Compare Malachi 3:10 with the following New Testament passages. Write down similarities that you find.

a. I Corinthians 16:2

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b. Luke 6:38

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c. II Corinthians 9:6

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15. What did Jesus say about tithing in Matthew 23:23?

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## HOW WE SHOULD GIVE

Lesson Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:7

*"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give;  
not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*

16. Verse 7 of the Scripture is a very important natural and spiritual principle. State the principle of this verse in your own words.

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17. The following verses deal with God's principles concerning giving. Write the meaning of each verse in your own words.

a. Galatians 6:7

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b. Luke 6:38

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c. Proverbs 11:24-25

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d. Proverbs 22:9

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18. What does 2 Corinthians 9:7 teach us about our attitude in giving?

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19. In 2 Corinthians 9:8, what does God promise to those who are obedient to give?

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20. From 2 Corinthians 9:11-15, list several results of our faithfulness in giving (try reading the passage in several versions).

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# My Stewardship - IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Did you study the entire “**My Stewardship**” lesson?
2. What most impacted you from studying this lesson?
3. Explain the 1 Corinthians 4:2 memory verse in your own words.
4. Explain the concept in Luke 16:1-13.
5. Read the definition of Obedience in THE IMPORTANCE OF OBEDIENCE. Discuss what it takes for YOU to be obedient to the Lord.
6. Explain the difference between obedience and sacrifice based on 1 Samuel 15:22 and Hosea 6:6.
7. After reading the verses about how God expects for you to provide for your family, in what areas do you need to improve?
8. After reading the verses about how God expects for you to provide for your church and others, in what areas do you need to improve?
9. After reading the verses about how God expects for you to provide for your future, in what areas do you need to improve?
10. Share your thoughts about tithing based on Malachi 3:6-10.
11. This is the only verse in the Bible where God instructs us to put HIM to the test. Do you believe God’s promise in Malachi 3:10?
12. What do you say are the important natural and spiritual principles in II Corinthians 9:7?
13. How do you understand II Corinthians 9:7 compared to Malachi 3:8-10?

**“STUDY MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY  
BEFORE COMING TO CLASS”**

# **My Spiritual Journey**

## **Communion & Baptism**

### **Memory Verse**

**Romans 6:4** English Standard Version

*“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”*

### **1. Christian Ordinances**

Our Lord commanded His church to perform two ceremonies, or ordinances: Communion (also known as “The Lord’s Supper”).

The word *sacrament*, from a root word meaning “sacred.” The word *ordinance* comes from the fact that Christ “ordained” these acts of worship. *Sacrament* denotes an act of divine grace.

New Life Christian Church of Fontana performs these two sacred ceremonies on the first Sunday of each month. All believers are encouraged to participate in the Lord’s Supper on a regular basis. All believers are likewise encouraged to be baptized according to the Scriptures. If you have not yet been baptized in obedience to the Lord’s command, inform your instructor so you can do so on the next first Sunday.



## 2. Communion (The Lord's Supper)

### **The Lord's Supper:**

*Matt. 26:26-28; I John 2:2 Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17*

An outward rite prescribed by Christ to be performed by His Church as a memorial of His sacrificial death, which paid, once and for all time, the price of the penalty for sin. Partaking of communion denotes the observance of the covenant, or New Testament, which is God's new arrangement with men based upon the death of Christ.

### **The Order:**

***I Corinthians 11:23-26***

**"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, take, eat this is My body, which is broken for you, this do in remembrance of Me."**

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: This do ye as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come."

### **The Frequency:**

*Acts 20:7*

Although many churches observe communion on the first Sunday of each month, Christ did not denote how often the observance should occur. However, there is scriptural precedent for observing the ordinance once per week, which was the practice of the early church.

### 3. Water Baptism

#### **Proclamation:**

*Gal. 3:27-28; Eph. 4:4-6; Romans 6:4*

Baptism indicates association or identification with Jesus Christ and the body of believers. The Greek word "baptize" means to bring under the influence.

#### **Adult Baptism - Scriptural Basis:**

It appears that the early Christians interpreted the meaning of baptism in three ways:

- a) Cleansing from sin: *Acts 2:38*
- b) Death to sin: *Romans 6:4*
- c) New Life in Christ: *Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3*

#### **Infant and Child Baptism - Scriptural Basis:**

*Acts 16:33; I Corinthians 7:14; Acts 16:31*

References in scripture appear to suggest that infants and children may have been involved in the ordinance, and the word "household" seems to allow for infant baptism. However, scripture teaches faith is the prerequisite for baptism: "And they said, believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household." Believing is the key word and each member of the household must be capable of believing in order to be saved. Therefore, there appears to be no defensible support for infant baptism, though children may have been included.

#### **Conclusion:**

Therefore, the ordinance of baptism is an outward testimony of a believer who has been cleansed from sin, thereafter being dead to the sin nature and manifesting a new life in Christ Jesus.

#### **BAPTISM PRONOUNCEMENTS**

When you are baptized, you will be asked:

- ✓ Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?
- ✓ Do you believe that He died and He rose and He is coming back again?
- ✓ Upon your profession of faith, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

#### **4. Spirit Baptism (The Spirit-Filled Life)**

God has promised to give us His Holy Spirit, which will lead and guide us. Many believers may already know Jesus Christ but are not experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit, the love, joy, and peace. Therefore, they are living in defeat; they are lonely, depressed, frustrated, and confused. They are not able to receive the wonderful life God has for them. All believers are encouraged to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and live God's abundant life.

The Spirit-Filled Life book is life-changing! You will never be the same if you really apply these principles to your life. There is a quick reference handout that will aid you in sharing this wonderful booklet. Familiarize yourself with it and realize that most of the people you will reach will not be unbelievers but believers that are not experiencing the Power of God and the abundant life.

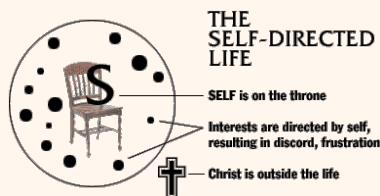
Every day can be an exciting adventure for the Christian who knows the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and who lives constantly, moment by moment, under His gracious direction.

# Have you made the wonderful discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?

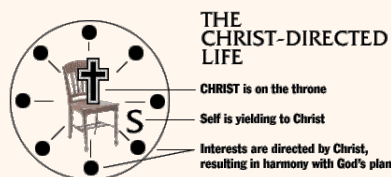
The Bible tells us that there are three kinds of people.

## 1. **Natural Man** (one who has not received Christ)

"A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

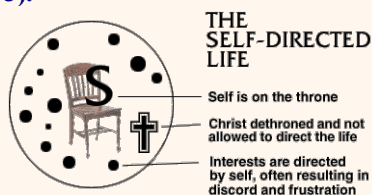


## 2. **Spiritual Man** (One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit) "He who is spiritual appraises all things...We have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:15).



## 3. **Carnal Man** (One who has received Christ, but who lives in defeat because he is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength)

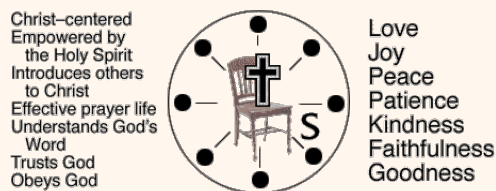
"And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to carnal men, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still carnal. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshy, and are you not walking like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).



# 1. God Has Provided For Us an Abundant and Fruitful Christian Life

- Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (**John 10:10**).
- "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing" (**John 15:5**).
- "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (**Galatians 5:22, 23**).
- "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**).

**The Spiritual Man** - Some spiritual traits which result from trusting God:



The degree to which these traits are manifested in the life depends upon the extent to which the Christian trusts the Lord with every detail of his life, and upon his maturity in Christ. One who is only beginning to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit should not be discouraged if he is not as fruitful as more mature Christians who have known and experienced this truth for a longer period.

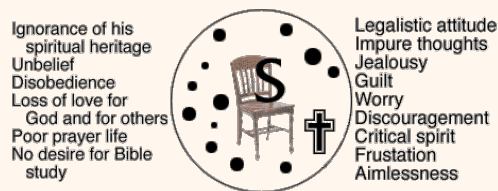
*Why is it that most Christians are not experiencing the abundant life?*

## 2. Carnal Christians Cannot Experience the Abundant and Fruitful Christian Life

The carnal man trusts in his own efforts to live the Christian life:

1. He is either uninformed about, or has forgotten, God's love, forgiveness, and power ([Romans 5:8-10](#); [Hebrews 10:1-25](#); [1 John 1](#); [1 John 2:1-3](#); [2 Peter 1:9](#); [Acts 1:8](#)).
2. He has an up-and-down spiritual experience.
3. He cannot understand himself - he wants to do what is right, but cannot.
4. He fails to draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. ([1 Corinthians 3:1-3](#); [Romans 7:15-24](#); [8:7](#); [Galatians 5:16-18](#))

**The Carnal Man** - Some or all of the following traits may characterize the Christian who does not fully trust God:



(The individual who professes to be a Christian but who continues to practice sin should realize that he may not be a Christian at all, according to [1 John 2:3](#); [3:6](#), [9](#); [Ephesians 5:5](#)). Click [here](#) to find out for sure if you are a Christian. (<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/transferable-concepts/you-can-be-sure-you-are-a-christian.html>)

*The third truth gives us the only solution to this problem...*

### 3. Jesus Promised the Abundant and Fruitful Life as the Result of Being Filled (Directed and Empowered) by the Holy Spirit

The Spirit-filled life is the Christ-directed life by which Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit ([John 15](#)).

- One becomes a Christian through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, according to [John 3:1-8](#). From the moment of spiritual birth, the Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at all times ([John 1:12](#); [Colossians 2:9](#), [10](#); [John 14:16, 17](#)). **Though all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit.**
- The Holy Spirit is the source of the overflowing life ([John 7:37-39](#)).
- The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ ([John 16:1-15](#)). When one is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is a true disciple of Christ.
- In His last command before His ascension, Christ promised the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be witnesses for Him ([Acts 1:1-9](#)).

*How, then, can one be filled with the Holy Spirit?*

## 4. We are Filled by the Holy Spirit by Faith; Then We Can Experience the Abundant and Fruitful Life Which Christ Promised to Each Christian.

You can appropriate the filling of the Holy Spirit **right now** if you:

- Sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit ([Matthew 5:6](#); [John 7:37-39](#)).
- Confess your sins. By **faith** thank God that He **has** forgiven all of your sins - past, present and future - because Christ died for you ([Colossians 2:13-15](#); [1 John 1](#); [2:1-3](#); [Hebrews 10:1-17](#)).
- Present every area of your life to God ([Romans 12:1](#), [2](#)).
- By **faith** claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit, according to:

1. **His Command** - Be filled with the Spirit. "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit" (**Ephesians 5:18**).

2. **His Promise** - He will always answer when we pray according to His will. "And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked of Him" (**1 John 5:14, 15**).

*Faith can be expressed through prayer...*

### How to Pray in Faith to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. However, true prayer is one way of expressing your faith. The following is a suggested prayer:

*"Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have been directing my own life and that, as a result, I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You **commanded** me to be filled, and as You **promised** in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I now thank You for directing my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit."*

**Did you pray this prayer?**



# **My Spiritual Journey** - IN CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Did you study the entire “**My Spiritual Journey**” lesson?
2. What most impacted you from studying this lesson?
3. Explain the Romans 6:4 memory verse in your own words.
4. What is Communion? How did this study change your thoughts about Communion?
5. What is water Baptism? How did this study change your thoughts about Baptism?
6. If you have not yet been baptized in water, let the My Connection instruction know you desire to do so at the next available opportunity.
7. Explain the difference between water baptism and spirit baptism.
8. What is a spiritual man?
9. What is a natural man?
10. What is a carnal man?
11. How do you think praying daily to be filled with the Holy Spirit will help you live a consistent, spirit-filled life?
12. As a group, pray the prayer to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

# BEGIN YOUR DAILY QUIET TIME WITH GOD



Now that you have begun your new life in Christ, you should begin each day with a minimum 15 minutes of **Quiet Time** (also known as devotion time) which consists of Prayer and Bible Reading.

A critical aspect of a believer's relationship with God is prayer, which is communication. We communicate with God through prayer, and God communicates with us primarily through the Bible. Every believer should set aside a specific time of each day to develop this communication with God. We call this **Quiet Time**!

Each day, spend your **Quiet Time** doing these two things:

- I. **Read** at least one chapter of the book of 1 John  
(There are a total of 5 chapters)  
(The book of 1 John is located near the end of the Bible)

After your reading, answer the following questions:

- A. What does the chapter say?
- B. What in my reading stands out to me?
- C. How can I apply this in my life?

After you complete 1 John, we suggest the book of Mark.  
Then choose any book that you may be interested in.

- II. **Prayer** is simply talking to God, here is a suggested model:

## **A** Adoration

Communicate your love & admiration Psalm 34:1-3; Psalm 150

## **C** Confession

Admit any known sin: 1 John 1:9; Psalm 32:5

## **T** Thanksgiving

Thank God for anything that comes to mind: Colossians 4:2

## **S** Supplication

Make any request known to God: Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 6:18

## Memory Verses

### My Sharing

**Proverbs 11:30 King James Version**

*“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life;  
and he that winneth souls is wise.”*

### My Service

**Ephesians 2:10 King James Version**

*“For we are His workmanship,  
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,  
which God hath before ordained  
that we should walk in them..”*

### Memory Verse

**1 Corinthians 4:2 King James Version**

*“Moreover it is required in stewards,  
that a man be found faithful.”*

### My Spiritual Growth

**Proverbs 3:5-6 King James Version**

*“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart;  
and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge Him,  
and He shall direct thy paths.”*