



Global College of Ministry

EQUIP

The Christian & Spiritual Growth

The Foundation of Ministry

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”
(Ephesians 4:11-12).

Experience shows that a new believer should be committed to membership in a church family and to the habits of Christian maturity before they are ready for ministry within the Body of Christ.



Salvation, church membership and spiritual maturity are the foundation for ministry.

Contrary to popular belief, the Bible teaches that ...

- the pastors are the administrators
- the people are the ministers

The key to my Foundation of Ministry: my personal ministry is determined by my personal makeup!

What God made me to **BE** determines what He intends for me to **DO**, and 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 and feeling fulfilled in my relationship with Him!

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! So, by studying these factors, we can discover the ministry God has for us, the unique way God intends for us to serve him.



There are two wonderful results that happen when I discover the ministry God has shaped me for: (1) fulfillment, (2) fruitfulness.

At United Pentecostal Church, we focus on an **individual** approach to ministry rather than an **institutional** approach. In this lesson, we will focus on five personal factors that God has combined to shape the “real you.” By identifying the specific traits you possess in each of these areas, the ministry God has designed you for will become crystal clear. You will also learn about our strategy for ministry and what you can do to become more involved in your church family.

THE GOAL OF THIS LESSON

I want to discover my unique design (S.H.A.P.E.) for ministry and commit myself to developing and using my God-given gifts and abilities to serve God and others through my church family.

There are TWO TYPES of ministry:

- My **PRIMARY** ministry is a ministry that I am gifted to do, and spend maximum time in as a result.
- My **SECONDARY** ministry is a ministry that I am not necessarily gifted to do, but I get involved in simply because I have a servant's heart.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY

1. WHAT IS MINISTRY?

- Definition: (Greek "diakonos") – "to serve"
- Ministry is using whatever gifts God has given me to serve Him and meet the needs of others.

2. WE MINISTER IN THREE DIRECTIONS

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

3. WE MINISTER TO THREE AREAS OF NEED

- To people's physical needs.

"(God says) I was hungry and you fed me ... thirsty and you gave me a drink ... needed clothes and you clothed me ... sick and you cared for me ... in prison and you visited me ... Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:35-36, 40).

"If, as my representative, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded" (Matthew 10:42).

- To people's emotional needs.

"... Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

- To people's spiritual 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).

4. THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

*“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, **so that the body of Christ may be built up** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).*

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

The purpose of ministry is to build up the local church (the Body of Christ) so that it will be more effective in caring for its members and in reaching others through evangelism.

WHY SHOULD I BE INTERESTED IN MINISTRY?

1. I’VE BEEN CREATED 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 SAVED 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).*

3. I’VE BEEN CALLED INTO MINISTRY

*“God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and **called me to serve him**” (Galatians 1:15).*

*“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).*

*“... you will serve as **holy priests** ...” (1 Peter 2:5).*



I am not who I think I am, and I am not who you think I am – I am who GOD says I am. It is a life-changing truth to know my primary identity – I am a MINISTER of Jesus Christ.

4. I’VE BEEN GIFTED FOR MINISTRY

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

5. I'VE BEEN AUTHORIZED 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 COMMANDED TO MINISTER

*"(Jesus said) **Your attitude must be like my own**, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve ..."* (Matthew 20:28).

*"(Paul said) Take heed to the ministry you've received from the Lord and **fulfill it**"* (Colossians 4:17).

7. I'M TO BE PREPARED 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 NEEDS 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).

Biblical ministry always functions in within the context of my local church family.

*"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).

For a member of Christ's body to refuse their place in ministry would be just like a part of your body saying, "I just need some time off" or "I don't want to work, I just want to be fed."

9. I AM ACCOUNTABLE FOR MY MINISTRY

*"So then, each of us will give an **account** of himself to God"* (Romans 14:12).

The Lord taught in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) that it is a SIN for me not to use the ministry He has given me.

10. I WILL BE REWARDED 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).



Finding, developing and using your ministry is the central issue of your Christian life.

Study Questions

1. What God made me to _____ determines what He intends for me to _____, and I will understand the _____ I was created for when I understand the kind of _____ I am.

2. List the two (2) wonderful results that happen when I discover the ministry God had shaped me for.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

3. List and describe the two (2) types of ministry.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

4. Explain what is ministry. _____

5. What three (3) directions do we minister in? Support with Scripture reference.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

6. To what three (3) areas of people's need do we minister? List Scriptures to support.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

7. What is the purpose of ministry? Support your answer with Scripture reference.

How to Discover My Ministry

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"
(Romans 12:1).

1. DEDICATE MYSELF TOTALLY TO THE LORD

"I urge you ... to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1).

2. IGNORE THE WORLD'S IDEA OF "ME FIRST"

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

3. EVALUATE MY GIFTS AND ABILITIES

"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you" (Romans 12:3).



Humility is not denying your strengths, but being honest about your weaknesses.

4. COOPERATE WITH MY LOCAL CHURCH

"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" (Romans 12:4-5).

5. BEGIN USING MY MINISTRY

"We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us ... prophecy ... serving ... teaching ... encouraging ... contributing ... leadership ... showing mercy ..." (Romans 12:6-8).

PAUL'S SPIRITUAL ANATOMY LESSON

(1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

1. Each member of the Body of Christ has a ministry.
2. Each member has a unique function in the Body.
3. Each member's ministry is important to the Body.
4. Each member cooperates with all the other members.

"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.' The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem

weakest and least important are really the most necessary! ... So God put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important” (1 Corinthians 12:13, 21-22, 24).

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

*“Your hands **formed** and **shaped me** ...” (Job 10:8).*

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry all of your life. In fact, God started 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” (Psalm 139:14-16).*

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

- In architecture, FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION; once we know what a building should do, then we can design it accordingly.
- But in ministry, FUNCTION FOLLOWS FORM; once we know how we are designed, then we will know what we should do.

MY MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL FACTORS:

S	SPIRITUAL GIFTS
H	HEART
A	ABILITIES
P	PERSONALITY
E	EXPERIENCES

*“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).*



God doesn’t intend for ministry to be difficult. He wants your ministry to be a blessing to you and a benefit to the church, not a burden.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that” (1 Corinthians 7:7).

- What am I **GIFTED** to do?
- **UNWRAPPING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS** is a test that will give you a simple overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you have been given by God.

HEART

“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose” (Rev. 17:17).

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

- What do I **LOVE** to do?
- **MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT** is a test that will help you to clarify what you really love to do.

ABILITIES

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

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

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

- What natural talents and **SKILLS** do I have?
- **APPLYING MY ABILITIES** is a test that will help you fully appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have and how they can be used in ministry.

PERSONALITY

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

- Where does my **PERSONALITY** best suit me to serve?
- **PLUGGING IN MY PERSONALITY** is a test that will help you see how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry.

EXPERIENCES

- **WHAT SPIRITUAL 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 PAINFUL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways” (Proverbs 20:30).

“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).

- **WHAT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

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

- **WHAT MINISTRY 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).

- Where do my **EXPERIENCES** best qualify me to serve?

- **EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES** is a test that will help you review your personal history to discover how God has prepared you for a ministry that is unique.



My ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when I am using my GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area my HEART desires, in a way that best suits my PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCES. In other words, real success and fulfillment is only found in doing what God made me to do.

EXAMPLE: 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).

“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 assigned me by the Lord Jesus ...” (Acts 20:24).

- **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 18:2-4).

- **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 most of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion, and had a boundless enthusiasm ...” (Galatians 1:13-14).

- **PAUL’S EXPERIENCES**

▪ **HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES**

- ✓ Watching Stephen being stoned (Acts 8:1)
- ✓ Conversion on 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 been in prison more times ... near death often ... been whipped five times with thirty-nine lashes by the Jews and three times by the Romans ... once stoned ... I've been in three shipwrecks ... and once spent twenty-four hours in the water ... In my travels I've been in danger from floods ... robbers ... enemies ... wild animals and false friends ... I've served long hours without sleep or food or shelter or even clothing ..." (2 Cor. 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).

God never wastes a hurt.

▪ **HIS EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

"(Paul said) I received my training at the feet of Gamaliel, and I was schooled in the strictest observance of our fathers' Law" (Acts 22:3).

▪ **HIS MINISTRY EXPERIENCES**

- ✓ Read the story of Paul's life in the book of Acts.

Study Questions

1. Humility is not denying your _____, but being honest about your _____.

2. Using Romans 12:1-8, list five (5) ways to discover your ministry.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____

3. Using 1Corinthians 12:1-31, list four (4) things to remember about Paul's spiritual anatomy lesson.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____

4. List and briefly explain (with Scripture reference) the five (5) factors that determine your

ministry.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

- 4) _____

- 5) _____

5. My ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when I am using my _____ and _____ in the area my _____ desires, in a way that best suits my _____ and _____.

6. Using Scripture to support, outline the way Paul’s ministry was shaped.

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

- 4) _____

- 5) _____

- 6) _____

Monitoring My Heartbeat

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart”
(Psalm 37:4).

The dictionary defines the word “HEART” as:

- 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, your innermost desires and your natural inclinations.

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat; each person has a slightly different pattern. Likewise, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others. This God-given motivation serves as an internal guidance system for our lives. It determines what our interests are, and what will bring us the most satisfaction and fulfillment. It also motivates us to pursue certain activities, subjects and environments.

My heart determines ...

- **Why I say the things I do.**
“The mouth speaks what the heart is full of” (Matthew 12:34).
- **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).

Why has God given each person a unique heartbeat?

God had a wonderful 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).

I can only accomplish God’s will in my life by letting my heartbeat motivate me for ministry.

“It is quite true to say that a man who sets his heart on becoming a church leader has a laudable ambition” (1Timothy 3:1).

TAKING A SPIRITUAL EKG

If you are like most people, you have never taken the time to identify the things you are good at and highly motivated to accomplish. As a result, it is unlikely that you currently 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. It will enable you to determine your emotional heartbeat by listing your past accomplishments and then helping you to identify some of the motivating factors behind them.

STEP 1: LIST THINGS YOU HAVE DONE WELL AND ENJOYED SINCE CHILDHOOD (NOT SIMPLY PLEASANT EXPERIENCES, BUT SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU FEEL WERE HIGHLIGHTS IN YOUR LIFE).

DURING YOUR GRADE SCHOOL YEARS ...

AS A TEENAGER OR IN SECONDARY SCHOOL ...

IN YOUR TWENTIES OR IN COLLEGE ...

IN YOUR THIRTIES OR AS A PARENT ...

AND UP TO THE PRESENT ...

STEP 2: DISCOVER YOUR PERSONAL MOTIVATION BY MATCHING YOUR HEARTBEAT WITH THE LIST BELOW.

Examine your achievements for a common motivational thread (for example, you might find a key phrase repeated). Then match that trait with one of the “heartbeats” below. Remember, these are all God-given motivations; they are only sinful when used selfishly. Each of them can be used in effective ministry, so don’t be embarrassed to identify a heartbeat that doesn’t seem spiritual. Almost all of them 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 share my talents in music or drama. I am not nervous being on stage.
- IMPROVE** - I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improving 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.
- OTHER** - I love to ... _____

- OTHER** - I love to ... _____

There are basically 3 types of HEARTS – some like to work with PEOPLE, some with THINGS, and some with INFORMATION. **Which type are you?**

Study Questions

1. List the three (3) points in the dictionary definition of the word “heart.”
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

2. How does the Bible use the term “heart?” _____

3. List the three (3) basic types of HEART.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

4. List the three (3) things the “heart” of a person determines about him. Support your answer with Scripture.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____

Applying My Abilities to Ministry

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all”
(1Corinthians 12:6, *KJV*).

“There are different **abilities** to perform service”
(1 Corinthians 12:6, *Good News Translation*).

Trying to be good at everything never works, because God calls each of us to different things. Success in ministry comes when we know what we are good at . . . and we concentrate on doing our best in that particular thing.

A PARABLE: THE ANIMAL SCHOOL

(George H. Reavis)

<http://www.janebluestein.com/handouts/animal.html>

A group of animals decided to improve their general welfare by starting a new school, in which the curriculum consisted of running, climbing, flying and swimming. All of the animals took all of the subjects.

The duck was good at swimming and fair in flying, but he was terrible in running. So he was made to drop the swimming course and stay after school to practice running. He kept this up until he was only average at swimming, but average was acceptable. The others, including the teacher, were no longer threatened by the duck's swimming abilities, so everyone felt more comfortable – except the duck.

The eagle was considered to be a problem student. For instance, in the climbing course he could beat all of the others to the top of the tree, but he insisted on using his own method of getting there. He had to be severely disciplined and finally, because of his non-cooperation in swimming, he was expelled for insubordination.

The rabbit started at the top of the course in running, but was woefully inadequate in other areas. Because of so much make-up work in swimming, he had a nervous breakdown and had to drop out of school.

The turtle was a failure in almost every course offered. His shell was considered to be the leading cause of his failure, so it was removed. This did help his running a bit, but sadly, he became the first casualty of the new curriculum when he was stepped on by the horse.

THINK ABOUT IT

What went wrong in this story? Every animal was very good in at least one activity. They were created by God to perform at least ONE THING exceptionally well. Where did they fail? What should they have done? (Take 5 minutes to answer these questions on the lines provided below.)

Everyone is a “10” in some area . . . but no one is a “10” in everything.

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

One of the most common reasons 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 simple key is to **MATCH** your abilities with the right ministry.

SIX MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES

- MYTH #1:** An average person has only a few abilities.
TRUTH: Many studies have proven that the average person has from 500 to 700 skills.
- MYTH #2:** People aren’t born with skills; all skills must be learned by experience.
TRUTH: There are a number of talents that seem to be inborn, or developed very early in infancy.
- MYTH #3:** If you have certain abilities, you will be aware that you have them.
TRUTH: You are probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of.
- MYTH #4:** You must have a lot of natural talent to develop useful skills.
TRUTH: We can learn to do a number of things well without possessing natural talent.
- MYTH #5:** The skills that are most useful are learned primarily in the classroom.
TRUTH: Many of your basic skills were learned at home or somewhere else outside of the classroom.
- MYTH #6:** Job skills are useful only in that environment, and couldn’t be used in ministry.
TRUTH: Hopefully, you already see the fallacy of this idea.

HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR ABILITIES

1. Look over your list of accomplishments from the “Taking a Spiritual EKG” exercise (in the previous lesson called “Monitoring My Heartbeat”) once again. Circle all the verbs that indicate ACTIONS you performed.
2. Now compare those ACTIONS with the list below and indicate any of the abilities you have.

SPECIALIZED ABILITIES

- Entertaining ability:** to perform, act, sing, speak, or amuse people.
- Recruiting ability:** to enlist and motivate people to get involved.
- Interviewing ability:** to discover what others are really like.
- Researching ability:** to read, gather information, and collect data.
- Artistic ability:** to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, or photograph.
- Graphics ability:** to create layouts, design, create visual displays, signs or banners.
- Evaluating ability:** to analyze data and draw conclusions.
- Planning ability:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events.
- Managing ability:** to supervise people and coordinate details to accomplish a task or event.
- Counseling ability:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity.
- Teaching ability:** to explain, train, demonstrate, or tutor.
- Writing ability:** to write articles, letters, books, or news releases.
- Editing ability:** to proofread or rewrite articles for publication.
- Promoting ability:** to advertise or promote events and activities.
- Repairing ability:** to fix, repair, restore, maintain or renovate.
- Feeding ability:** to create meals for large or small groups.
- Recall ability:** to remember or recall names and faces.
- Mechanical operating ability:** to operate tools, machinery or equipment.
- Resourceful ability:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed.
- Counting ability:** to work with numbers, data, or money.
- Courseifying ability:** to systematically file books, data, records and materials for easy retrieval.
- Public relations ability:** to handle complaints and unhappy people with care and courtesy.
- Welcoming ability:** to convey warmth, develop rapport, and make others feel comfortable.
- Composing ability:** to write music, lyrics, poetry or drama.

- **Landscaping ability:** to do gardening and work with plants.
- **Arts and crafts ability:** to beautify a setting for a special event.
- **Musical ability:** to sing, play an instrument, or direct musical groups.
- **Other ability:** _____

- **Other ability:** _____

Study Questions

1. What is one of the most common reasons people give for not getting involved in ministry?

2. What is the simple key to getting involved in ministry? _____

3. List the six (6) myths (untruths) given in this lesson about everyone’s abilities.
1) _____
2) _____
3) _____
4) _____
5) _____
6) _____

4. Give a brief definition of the each of the specialized abilities listed below.
Entertaining ability _____
Managing ability _____
Researching ability _____
Counseling ability _____
Recruiting ability _____
Teaching ability _____
Writing ability _____
Counting ability _____
Editing ability _____
Recall ability _____
Welcoming ability _____
Public relations ability _____

What We Believe About Ministry

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many”

(Matthew 20:26-28).

Jesus said (and lived by His words) that in the kingdom of God, giving of one's self in service to others is the greatest thing you can do. We are saved to serve.

- **Salvation automatically includes a call to ministry.** Every Spirit-filled believer is gifted, authorized and commanded to minister. Ministry is the heart of the Christian life. (Matthew 20:28)
- **God has uniquely shaped each individual believer for a specific ministry.** Everyone is a “10” in some area; everyone has something to offer. Developing and using your gifts is an act of good stewardship and of worship.
- **Salvation, church membership and Christian maturity are prerequisites for ministry.** We require a commitment to these areas before you can begin serving in a ministry role at United Pentecostal Church. We believe that a person is not ready for ministry until they are willing to serve anywhere.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

- **God intends for ministry to be performed in the context of the local church.** Your ministry within the church is one of the most important things you will do in your Christian life. God has given the church all the spiritually-gifted people needed to do everything He wants done. The mobilization of every member as a minister is the key to the growth of the church.
- **The church is to operate on the basis of spiritual gifts, rather than elected offices.** We do not elect people to ministries; instead we believe that “a man's gift makes room for him” (Proverbs 18:16).
- **The greater good of the whole Body must always take priority over the needs of any single ministry.** There is no place for “territorialism” in God's family.

THE ROLE OF PASTORS

- **The equipping of our 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)
- **Every member deserves to discover a fulfilling and meaningful place of ministry.** We value the individual more than the ministry. There are no “wrong people,” only right people in wrong ministries.
- **Those involved in ministry are entitled to competent leadership from the staff.** The pastors and department heads are appointed to provide encouragement, training, guidance and feedback to our ministry volunteers.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- **We believe that everything rises or falls on leadership, and that no ministry can exceed the commitment of those leading it.** Leaders must continue to be learners and must remain committed to their own spiritual growth.
- **The pastors hold periodic reviews of all ministries.** One of the marks of a maturing and growing church is that the standards for leadership are raised every year.
- **All leaders must maintain a servant’s heart in exercising their ministry, remaining loyal, faithful and submitted to their pastoral leadership.**

EXCELLENCE

- **We do not expect perfection in ministry, but we do expect excellence.** We encourage creativity and innovation in all our ministries, which assumes that mistakes will be made. No “mistakes” indicate that a leader is not growing or trying anything new. We have no “failures” in ministry at United Pentecostal Church, only “experiments” that didn’t work.
- **All ministries have life cycles.** If a ministry is no longer meeting a need, we allow it to die a natural death. We also allow people to change ministries gracefully, without guilt; we don’t lock people in permanently to a ministry that is not fulfilling.
- **Every ministry must fulfill one or more parts of the basic mission of our church or we will not attempt it.**

Previewing The Opportunities

The following is a list of **SOME** of the ministries possibly active in your church. As you read through the descriptions, check the areas that interest you most. Then, talk to your pastor (or ministry leader) about your burden to get involved. . . or begin one of these ministries.

- **HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES:** Teams that insure every visitor, regular attendee and member of United Pentecostal Church receives a warm welcome and any assistance they need, and that every first time visitor is promptly followed up with a tangible expression of thanks.
 - Usher
 - Special Events Greeter
 - Visitor Care Worker
 - Parking Lot Attendant
 - Hostess

- **TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY:** Teams that provide transportation to church services for those without vehicles, or to special events for groups within the church.
 - Mechanic
 - Volunteer Driver With Own Vehicle
 - Bus/Van Driver
 - Bus/Van Monitor

- **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:** This ministry provides the church family and our visitors with an attractive, functional and pleasant physical environment for worship and other activities through the cleaning, maintenance and beautification of our facilities.
 - Special Events Building Cleaner
 - Gardener/Landscaper
 - Carpenter
 - Painter
 - Decorator
 - Electrician/Plumber
 - Building Cleaner

- **NURSERY MINISTRY:** Teams that provide childcare for infants and young children during services, meetings, rehearsals and special events held at United Pentecostal Church, so that adult visitors may be free to be ministered to and adult members may be free to be involved in ministry.
 - Nursery Worker for Regular Services
 - Nursery Worker for Special Events
 - Nursery Worker for Weekly Rehearsals

- **FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES:** Teams that provide regular opportunities for fellowship and interaction within the various segments of the church family, allowing us to build relationships among our peers while reaching out to their unsaved friends.
 - Host/Organizer for Seniors Activities

- Volunteer For Seniors Practical Needs
 - Host/Organizer For Ladies' Activities
 - Volunteer For Ladies' Work Projects
 - Host/Organizer For Men's Activities
 - Volunteer For Mens' Work Projects
 - Kitchen Worker
 - Cleanup Volunteer
- **CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:** This ministry teaches Biblical truth to children through creative and age-appropriate instruction, worship and activities, thus providing an opportunity for saved children to grow in their faith and an outreach to unsaved children and their families with the gospel message.
- Sunday School Teacher
 - Kidz Club Teacher
 - Handicraft/Activities Leader
 - Children's Worship Leader
 - Children's Musician
 - Children's Prayer Leader
 - Sunday School Greeter
 - Sunday School Decorator
 - Costume Maker
 - Puppeteer
 - Sunday School Actor/Character
- **YOUTH MINISTRY:** This ministry teaches Biblical truth to young people through creative instruction, worship and activities, thus providing an opportunity for them to grow in their faith and build relationships among their peers while reaching out to their unsaved friends.
- Youth Worship Leader
 - Youth Musician
 - Youth Recreation Leader
 - Youth Chaperone
 - Host/Organizer For Youth Activities
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** This ministry reaches out to our community with information about United Pentecostal Church events and programs, through the creative use of advertising and media.
- Graphic Designer
 - Photographer
 - Writer/Editor
 - Webmaster

- **MUSIC MINISTRY:** Teams that celebrate God's presence through anointed vocal and instrumental music, creating an atmosphere of worship in which the believer is ministered to and the unbeliever experiences a powerful sense of God's presence.
 - Worship Leader / Praise Singer
 - Musician
 - Choir Member
 - Soloist / Vocal Group Member

- **MEDIA MINISTRIES:** Teams that enhance the music and preaching ministries in each service held at United Pentecostal Church through audio, video and computer technology, and also make recordings available to the church family for Biblical instruction and spiritual enjoyment.
 - Soundboard Operator
 - Video Camera Operator
 - Computer Operator
 - Tape Ministry Worker
 - Resource Centre Worker

- **PRAYER MINISTRY:** This ministry exists to enlist and equip the members of our church family to devote themselves to "effectual fervent prayer" in order to see God's will accomplished and His power displayed in our church and city.
 - Prayer Line Volunteer
 - Emergency Prayer Chain Volunteer
 - Pastor's Prayer Force / Daughters Of Zion Member

- **WORLD MISSIONS:** This ministry team promotes awareness of and involvement in world missions among the members of our church family through enlisting our prayers and financial support, hosting special world missions events, organizing missions projects and keeping us connected to our missionary families through reports and other means.
 - Missions Fundraising Volunteer
 - Missions Event Organizer/Promoter
 - Missions Project/Trip Volunteer

- **PASTORAL CARE:** Teams that communicate the love of Christ through their compassionate ministry to those with physical, emotional and spiritual needs, both inside and outside our immediate church family.
 - Hospital Ministry Volunteer
 - Prison Ministry Volunteer

Nursing Home / Shut-Ins Ministry Volunteer

○ **EVANGELISM MINISTRIES:** This ministry exists to enlist and equip the members of our church family to devote themselves to a lifestyle of evangelism that will result in the salvation of individuals and the growth of the church in our city and world.

Home Bible Study Instructor

Home Bible Study Host

Outreach Event Volunteer

Prayer Watch Volunteer

Study Questions

1. What does the key Scripture passage in this lesson (Matthew 20:26-28) tell us about who is supposed to minister? _____

2. Give a brief explanation for the following statement: "God has uniquely shaped each individual believer for a specific ministry." _____

3. List the three (3) things that are a prerequisite to ministry.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4. Explain the meaning of each of the following statements about the importance of the Body of Christ in ministry.

God intends for ministry to be performed in the context of the local church. _____

The church is to operate on the basis of spiritual gifts, rather than elected offices. _____

The greater good of the whole Body must always take priority over the needs of any single ministry. _____

5. List three (3) points (with a brief explanation) about the role of a pastor in ministry.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

6. Write TRUE or FALSE in the blank provided for each of the following statements about ministry.

_____ All leaders must maintain a servant's heart in exercising their ministry, remaining loyal, faithful and submitted to their pastoral leadership.

_____ Leaders must continue to be learners and must remain committed to their own spiritual growth.

_____ One of the marks of a maturing and growing church is that the standards for leadership are raised every year.

_____ Every ministry must fulfill one or more parts of the basic mission of our church or we will not attempt it.

_____ If a ministry is no longer meeting a need, allow it to die a natural death.

_____ Allow people to change ministries gracefully, without guilt; do not lock people in permanently to a ministry that is not fulfilling.

_____ Encourage creativity and innovation in all ministries, thus assuming that mistakes will be made.

_____ No "mistakes" indicate that a leader is not growing or trying anything new.

7. Read through the list of possible ministry opportunities given in this lesson.

- ✓ Mark those needed in your local church that you are currently involved in, with an "X."
- ✓ Read through the list a second time, marking those available in your church that you are not involved in with an "N."
- ✓ Go through the list once again, marking those ministry opportunities not presently available in your church that need to be started. Use a "+" for each of these.
- ✓ Check the list one last time, placing a "Y" in the box if you are willing to help this ministry opportunity get off the ground in your local assembly.

God wants YOU on His ministry team!

Plugging In My Personality

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God”

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Write your name in the box below:

Now write your name with your opposite hand in this box:

What happened when you attempted to do something that was not natural for you?

1. You felt uncomfortable.
2. It took extra time and effort.
3. You still did a lousy job at it.

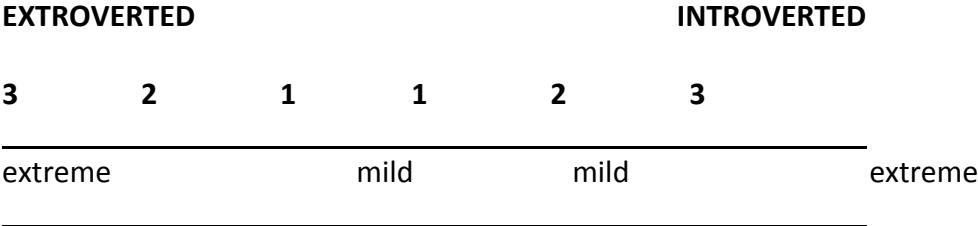
The same things hold true when we try to minister in areas that are not suited to our personality.

God has wired you with a unique personality and temperament. This is critically 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. There are no “right” or “wrong” temperaments. Rather, we need opposites in personality types to balance the church (and life in general!). Although there are many fine personality tests available, for the purpose of your ministry profile we want you to consider just five aspects ...

HOW DO I SEE MYSELF?

Circle ONE NUMBER on each graph. Note that there is no zero, because no one is “perfectly balanced” in any of these areas.



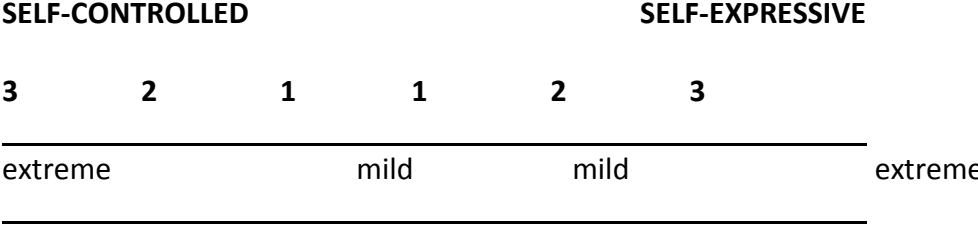
ASK YOURSELF: WHAT RECHARGES ME?



ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I MAKE DECISIONS?

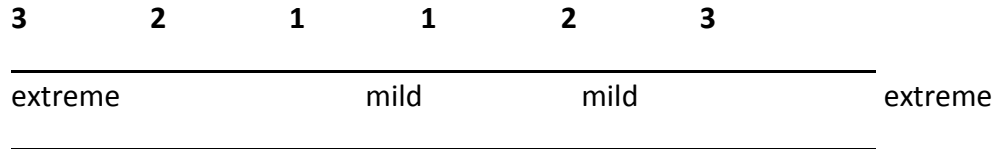


ASK YOURSELF: WHAT KIND OF TASKS DO I PREFER?



ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I EXPRESS MYSELF?





ASK YOURSELF: HOW DO I RELATE TO OTHERS?

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” (Rom. 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 past experience, particularly your hurts and the problems you’ve overcome with God’s help. Since our greatest life lessons come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay particular attention to what we’ve learned in the “school of hard knocks.” With that in mind, be open and honest as you complete this exercise.

1. What SPIRITUAL experiences have you 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).

List some of your meaningful times with God:

2, What PAINFUL experiences have you had?

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways” (Proverbs 20:30).

“(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).

List some problems or hurts that you have learned from:

3. What EDUCATIONAL experiences have you had?

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

List some of your favorite subjects in school:

4. What MINISTRY experiences have you 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).

List some ways you have served the church in the past:
