

The logo for 'Seven Strong' features the words 'SEVEN' and 'STRONG' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter '7' in 'SEVEN' is highlighted in yellow, while all other letters are purple. The text is set against a dark background with a repeating geometric pattern of gold-colored lines forming a series of interlocking shapes.

SEVEN STRONG

Seven Strong is an 8-week discipleship journey designed to move us from simply believing in Jesus to truly following Him. Beginning with an introduction to what it means to be a disciple, we will then explore seven essential spiritual dimensions—Bible, Holy Spirit, Mission, Prayer, Worship, Service, and Generosity. Each week helps us grow deeper, live stronger, and become more like Christ as we build a faith that lasts.

Seven Strong – Week 7

Dimension #6: SERVICE

INTRODUCTION — Growing Beyond Spiritual Infancy

- Spiritual maturity requires growth.
- Christians are not called to remain spiritual “babies.”
- Mature disciples move from **being served** → **to serving others**.
- Every believer is called to ministry.
- The role of leaders is to **equip believers for service** (Ephesians 4:12).

Key Idea:

We offer our lives in service as a response of gratitude to God.

A MODEL OF SERVICE: ANDREW

Andrew was not always in the spotlight, but his life shows the heart of true ministry.

1. BRING PEOPLE TO JESUS

The greatest act of service is introducing others to Christ.

Andrew consistently brought people to Jesus:

- **John 1:35–42** — Brought his brother Peter to Jesus.
- **John 6:5–14** — Brought the boy with loaves and fish.
- **John 12:20–24** — Helped Greeks come meet Jesus.

Truth:

We cannot meet the deepest needs of people — only Jesus can (1 Corinthians 2:1–5).

➔ Our role is not to fix people, but to **lead them to Christ**.

2. SERVE BEHIND THE SCENES

- Andrew willingly served without recognition.
- Peter became prominent, but Andrew remained faithful.
- God values humility over visibility.

Jesus' Definition of Greatness — Matthew 20:25–28

- Greatness = Service
- Leadership = Servanthood
- Jesus is our example: He came to serve, not be served.

Key Principle:

In God's Kingdom, unseen faithfulness matters.

3. SMALL GIFTS MATTER

- Andrew noticed the small offering of a boy's lunch.
- Jesus multiplied what was surrendered.

Biblical Encouragement:

- Zechariah 4:10 — Do not despise small beginnings.
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 — Nothing done for the Lord is useless.

Truth:

God uses willing hearts more than impressive abilities.

Serving often looks like:

- Giving when it's hard
- Praying for others while struggling yourself
- Staying faithful when results aren't visible
- Loving and serving sacrificially

CONCLUSION — A LIFE OF SERVICE

Discipleship is more than attending church — it means actively serving.

Principles for Serving

- Character matters more than gifting.
- Godliness matters more than being right.
- Love matters more than talent.
- There is always room for one more servant.

We need each other

(1 Corinthians 12:12–31)

- ➔ Find your place.
- ➔ Use your gifts.
- ➔ Serve Jesus by serving others.

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NEXT STEPS

Consider these questions as you reflect on the Spirit-empowered dimension of service this week:

- Where is God asking you to serve?
- What are the steps to start serving in my church?
- What can I do to develop my skills and gifts so I can better serve God and His people?

VALUE ADDED

Several New Testament passages describe the spiritual gifts that God gives His people so that they can serve His church. Though the lists are probably not exhaustive of all the gifts God can give, those listed can be divided into three categories:

1. Ministry Gifts (Ephesians 4:11)

- **Apostle.** This word means “one who is sent.” It refers to Jesus’ original twelve disciples and others who are named as apostles in the New Testament (for example, Barnabas and Paul in Acts 14:14).
- **Prophet.** The ministry of a prophet centers on communicating messages from God. Prophets help maintain spiritual balance in the church by speaking against false teachings. Prophecy can involve both encouragement and confrontation.
- **Evangelist.** The ministry of an evangelist is to share the gospel and lead people to begin following Jesus. The word evangel simply means “good news.” While every believer should be a witness for Jesus, not all operate in the ministry of the gift of evangelism.
- **Pastor.** This word simply means “shepherd.” If a church is like a flock of sheep, the pastor is the one who feeds them the Word of God, protects them from false teachers, cares for their spiritual needs, and oversees their spiritual growth.
- **Teacher.** In Ephesians 4:11, pastor and teacher are listed as one gift. The two gifts work hand in hand. It’s impossible to truly pastor a group of people without teaching them about God’s Word. And it’s impossible to faithfully teach God’s Word without caring for the students and showing them how to live out what they’re learning.

2. Manifestation Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1–11)

- Paul lists nine manifestation gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:7–11. The word he uses for “gifts” means “manifestation, disclosure, display.” These are gifts that reveal information that could only have come from the Holy Spirit.
- These nine gifts include words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
- Ministry gifts empower people to fill certain ministry offices, but manifestation gifts are intended to meet spiritual needs as they arise. The Holy Spirit distributes manifestation gifts and “he alone decides which gift each person should have” (1 Corinthians 12:11).

3. Motivational Gifts (Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12:27–31; 1 Peter 4:10–11)

- Paul and Peter list several additional spiritual gifts that motivate believers to live out their faith in certain ways. These motivational gifts have also been called personality gifts.
- **Service:** selflessly ministering to people and caring for their needs
- **Encouragement:** counsel and exhorting other believers
- **Giving:** showing financial generosity to support the church and humbly share with those in need
- **Leadership:** managing the ministries of the church and caring for God’s people
- **Kindness:** joyfully expressing empathy and providing help for people in need
- **Helping others:** providing assistance to people in need, often serving behind the scenes
- **Administration:** organizing, coordinating, and motivating the work of the church
- **Hospitality:** displaying a welcoming attitude and joyfully providing for the needs of guests