

# SERVE GOD

"L"

**CLASS "L" - LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE**  
*UNDERSTANDING THE HEART OF SERVICE*

**"Life isn't worth  
living until you have  
found something  
worth dying for."**

+++

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SERVE?

**δίακονος** is formed by two words "dia" \_\_\_\_\_ and "konos" \_\_\_\_\_  
"diakonos"

## IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU

**We can exalt \_\_\_\_\_ or we can exalt Christ but we can't do both!**

*And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." **Luke 9:23 ESV***

**Two words central to being a servant are**

\_\_\_\_\_ - the act of giving up something ... usually for something of \_\_\_\_\_ value.

\_\_\_\_\_ - to accept or yield to the authority or will of another

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **Romans 12:1 ESV***

## MOTIVES MATTER

**We serve because he is \_\_\_\_\_**

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. (**Psalms 145:3 NIV**)*

**We serve because he is \_\_\_\_\_**

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! (**Psalms 34:8 ESV**)*

**We serve in \_\_\_\_\_ to his \_\_\_\_\_ for us.**

*We love because he first loved us. (**1 JOHN 4:19 NIV**)*

**As part of God's family we are enabled by God's grace to fulfill our ultimate purpose.**

**God created me for His \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"You created everything, and it is for Your pleasure that they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11 NLT)*

*"For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation." (Psalm 149:4 ESV)*

*"Long before He laid down earth's foundations, He had us in mind, had settled upon us as the focus of His love." (Eph.1:4 MSG)*

*"For everything comes from God alone. Everything lives by His power, and everything is for His glory. To Him be glory evermore." (Romans 11:36 TLB)*

**God saved me to be a part of His \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"[God's] unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure." (Ephesians 1:5 NLT)*

*"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." (Romans 8:14-17 NKJV)*

**God created me to become like \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"From the very beginning God decided that those who came to Him—and all along He knew who would—should become like His Son." (Romans 8:29 TLB)*

*"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." (2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV)*

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." (Philippians 3:20-21 NIV)*

**God has enabled me to \_\_\_\_\_ God.**

*"If you love Me, obey My commandments." (John 14:15 NLT)*

*"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3 NKJV)*

**God has equipped and gifted me to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God and others.**

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV)*

*"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.'" (Matthew 22:36-40 NIV)*

**God has entrusted me to share the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 ESV)*

*"Go into the world. Go everywhere and announce the Message of God's good news to one and all." (Mark 16:15 MSG)*

**Our Vision Statement is simply the the Great \_\_\_\_\_ and the Great \_\_\_\_\_**

*36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."*

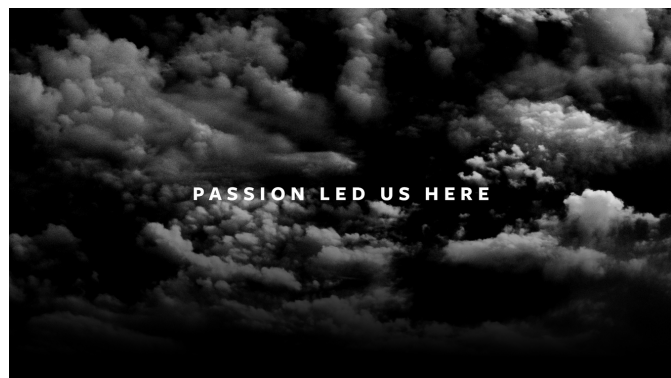
**(Matthew 22:36-40 NIV)**

*18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

**(Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)**

## OUR STORY

New Life began in 1978 by three men, all in their early 20s, Bob Pannecouk, Tony Mancina, and Steve Upshur. Each of them experienced the radical transformation of the Gospel in their late teens through a sovereign move of God called the Jesus Movement. Overwhelmed and overjoyed with the love of God they began to reach out to their communities. None of them set out to be pastors, but as they shared Christ with their city, people responded to the message and a church was born. A unique church with three senior pastors bringing their diversity of backgrounds, giftings, and callings to serve and lead the congregation of New Life.



In spite of their personal diversity there was a tremendous spiritual unity in Christ, which propelled the church forward. From the beginning, New Life was fueled by prayer, led by the Spirit, and driven to reach the lost. As people began to respond to Jesus, the church experienced exponential growth. In 1979, the church purchased Avon Elementary in St. Clair Shores, Michigan (its current location) and in 1987 the church added a large addition, which is our current main sanctuary. With a desire to reach people through any means necessary, New Life hosted a radio show, produced a television program, started Zoe Christian Academy (now Parkway Christian). They also began developing relationships with several international ministries and missions.

In 1996, after serving together for over 15 years, the pastors sensed God leading them to expand their reach and ministries. Pastor Steve began Peacemakers International in Detroit, Pastor Tony planted Salt River Church in New Baltimore, and Pastor Bob remained the lead pastor of New Life.

Between 2001-2004, New Life built a recording studio, opened Wee Love Day Care, and started Champions for Life Kids' Camp designed for foster children. After over 40 years in ministry, Pastor Bob transitioned leadership of New Life to Mike Molloy and Tommy Sheerer who are carrying on New Life's unique legacy through their joint leadership of the church. At its core, the church is moving into the future with the same DNA of its past. A diverse leadership held by unity in Christ, with a passion to be a church filled with people who Love God, Love People, and Live on Mission.

## YOUR STORY

**In groups of three or four, share briefly as to what brought you to New Life and your current journey in connection with God. What was it about Christ that drew you to him?**

---



---



---



---

## OUR SERVICE IS ...

### BY THE FATHER

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*  
**(Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV)**

### BY THE SON

*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 5:15-17 NIV)*

### BY THE SPIRIT

*17 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. 18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—19 by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. (Romans 15:17-19 NIV)*

## PHILIPPIANS 2

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; 7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. 14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

**"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as CHRIST JESUS: Who made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant ..."**

+++

# GET TO KNOW YOUR GIFTS

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS** refer to what God has \_\_\_\_\_ empowered you to do in life.

*"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:" (1 Corinthians 12:1 NKJV)*

## ***SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE NOT***

### **1. Natural Aptitudes, Strengths, or Abilities.**

We all have natural abilities that we've learned from those around us regardless of Christian faith. Many times our natural abilities and strengths are redeemed by the Lord to become spiritual gifts.

### **2. Character Traits**

We are all called to have character and our gifts should produce the nature of Jesus Christ in each person. A person should not say he has the gift of peace when we are all encouraged to develop that characteristic. Spiritual gifts offer opportunities for us to exemplify Christ.

### **3. Titles or Positions**

Spiritual gifts often lead to titles or positions, but a person may have the gift without the role or the role without the gift. Regardless, we should serve whenever we are given the opportunity. Working in the area of your gifting will allow you to be the person that God has called you to be rather than just doing good things.

### **4. For Show**

Spiritual gifts are endowments given by God to His people for accomplishing His purpose on the earth. Spiritual gifts are given for the glory of God.

*Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts...try to excel in gifts that build up the church*

**(1 Corinthians 14:1-12 NIV)**

## ***HOW DO I RECEIVE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?***

- A. Accept Jesus Christ as Lord of your life.
- B. Believe that God has given you spiritual gifts.
- C. Commit to learning about spiritual gifts.
- D. Diligently ask for the Lord to give you spiritual gifts.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS TEST

Note: for an e-version go to [giftstest.com](http://giftstest.com)

### Instructions:

For the best results answer each statement below according to who you are, not who you would like to be or think you ought to be. How true are these statements of you? What has been your experience? What do others tell you? To what degree do these statements reflect how you live your life every day? Each question is very important, so try not to miss out on any. You will calculate your score at the end of the test.

### Respond to each statement according to the following 0-5 point scale:

0 = Never; Not true

1 = Rarely; Seldom true

2 = Some of the time; Occasionally true

3 = Half of the time; Usually true

4 = Most of the time; Consistently true

5 = All of the time; Always true

1.	I like organizing services and events.
2.	I enjoy starting new churches.
3.	Working with my hands is fun for me.
4.	I can tell when someone is sincere.
5.	I pray for the lost daily.
6.	Encouraging others is a high priority in my life.
7.	Believing God for our daily needs is important to me.
8.	Influencing others for the kingdom of God through finances is extremely important to me.
9.	I look for opportunities to pray for the sick.
10.	I enjoy doing the little things that others do not.
11.	Having people over to my house is something I do often.
12.	Spending hours in prayer for other people is very enjoyable to me.
13.	I get insights about others while praying for them even though I don't know them.
14.	I tend to motivate others to get involved.
15.	My heart hurts when I see others hurting.
16.	I believe God will use me to enact His miracles.
17.	Caring for the hurting is paramount in my eyes.
18.	The willful sin of others really aggravates me.
19.	I enjoy serving behind the scenes.
20.	I take pleasure in explaining God's word to others.
21.	God has used me to interpret a heavenly language.
22.	I enjoy the book of Proverbs more than any other book in the bible.
23.	I am passionate about managing details.
24.	I prefer to pioneer new ministry projects.
25.	I consider myself a craftsman or craftswoman.



26.	I sense when situations are spiritually unhealthy.
27.	I am greatly concerned about seeing the lost saved.
28.	I try to come across loving and caring.
29.	Asking God for a list of big things is exciting to me.
30.	I find ways to give offerings above my tithe.
31.	I believe miraculous healing is for this day and age.
32.	Helping others is one of my highest achievements.
33.	Creating a warm and welcoming home is important to me.
34.	I am burdened to pray for situations in the world.
35.	I get specific information that God reveals that could not have been naturally known.
36.	I prefer to take the lead whenever necessary.
37.	I'm very sensitive to sad stories.
38.	Miracles often happen when I'm nearby.
39.	I enjoy connecting, caring, and coaching others.
40.	Confronting someone with sin in his or her life is not hard.
41.	It bothers me when people sit around and do nothing.
42.	I share Biblical truth with others in hopes of their personal growth.
43.	I pray in tongues daily.
44.	When I study scripture God gives me unique insights.
45.	Creating a task list is easy and enjoyable for me.
46.	I am attracted to ministries that start new churches.
47.	Building something with my hands is very rewarding to me.
48.	I can pinpoint issues or problems before others.
49.	I enjoy sharing the gospel with a total stranger.
50.	I look for ways to be an encouragement to other people.
51.	I trust that God has my back in every situation.
52.	Making more money means that I can give more.
53.	God has used me to bring healing to those who are sick.
54.	Being a part of the process is fulfilling to me.
55.	I tend to make total strangers feel at home.
56.	People often describe me as a prayer warrior.
57.	Others often affirm a specific insight that I expressed about them personally.

	58.	I delegate responsibilities to accomplish tasks.
	59.	I am motivated to help those who are less fortunate.
	60.	I have a constant hunger to see God's miraculous power.
	61.	I enjoy walking with someone in times of difficulty.
	62.	I enjoy hearing passionate and clear preaching of the truth.
	63.	I like to do small things that others pass over.
	64.	I enjoy knowing Biblical details and helping others to understand them.
	65.	Praying in the Spirit is encouraging and important to me.
	66.	When faced with difficulty I tend to make wise decisions and choices.

			Totals	
1	23	45		Administration
2	24	46		Apostleship
3	25	47		Craftsmanship
4	26	48		Discernment
5	27	49		Evangelism
6	28	50		Exhortation
7	29	51		Faith
8	30	52		Giving
9	31	53		Healing
10	32	54		Helps
11	33	55		Hospitality
12	34	56		Intercession
13	35	57		Word of Knowledge
14	36	58		Leadership
15	37	59		Mercy
16	38	60		Miracles
17	39	61		Pastor/Shepherd
18	40	62		Prophecy
19	41	63		Service
20	42	64		Teaching
21	43	65		Tongues (interpretation)
22	44	66		Words of Wisdom

Write your score (from 0-5) for each question in the box with that question number. Add up each row and write your total scores. The highest score for any gift is 15. The higher the score, the stronger you are in that spiritual gift based on your responses. A score of 12 or higher in any gift is a strong indicator of the presence of that gift in your life. Scores between 8 and 11 could indicate a spiritual gift in the "seedling" stage.

Spiritual Gifts Test Results:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# GIFT DEFINITIONS AND SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

The following contains definitions of the Spiritual Gifts. While not meant to be complete or final, these definitions correspond to the gifts as expressed in the Spiritual Gifts Assessment.

***ADMINISTRATION:*** The gift of administration is the divine strength or ability to organize multiple tasks and groups of people to accomplish these tasks. Luke 14:28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28

***APOSTLESHIP:*** The gift of apostleship is the divine strength or ability to pioneer new churches and ministries through planting, overseeing, and training. Acts 15:22-35; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 4:11-14

***CRAFTSMANSHIP:*** The gift of craftsmanship is the divine strength or ability to plan, build, and work with your hands in construction environments to accomplish multiple ministry applications. Exodus 30:22, 31:3-11; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:2-3

***DISCERNMENT:*** The gift of discernment is the divine strength or ability to spiritually identify falsehood, to distinguish between right and wrong motives, and the spiritual forces at work in situations. Matthew 16:21-23; Acts 5:1-11, 16:16-18; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 John 4:1-6

***EVANGELISM:*** The gift of evangelism is the divine strength or ability to help non-Christians take the necessary steps to becoming a born-again Christian. Acts 8:5-6, 8:26-40, 14:21, 21:8; Ephesians 4:11-14

***EXHORTATION:*** The gift of exhortation is the divine strength or ability to strengthen, comfort, or urge others to action through the written or spoken word and biblical truth. Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:24-25

***FAITH:*** The gift of faith is the divine strength or ability to believe in God for unseen supernatural results in every arena of life. Acts 11:22-24; Romans 4:18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11

***GIVING:*** The gift of giving is the divine strength or ability to produce wealth and to give by tithes and offerings for the purpose of advancing the Kingdom of God on earth. Mark 12:41-44; Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7, 9:2-7 65

***HEALING:*** The gift of healing is the divine strength or ability to act as an intermediary in faith, prayer, and by the laying-on of hands for the healing of physical, mental, and spiritual sickness. Acts 3:1-10, 9:32-35, 28:7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

***HELPS:*** The gift of helps is the divine strength or ability to work in a supportive role for the accomplishment of tasks in Christian ministry with the ability to often see the need before others do. Mark 15:40-41; Acts 9:36; Romans 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28

***HOSPITALITY:*** The gift of hospitality is the divine strength or ability to create warm, welcoming environments for others in places such as your home, office, or church. Acts 16:14-15; Romans 12:13, 16:23; Hebrews 13:1-2; 1 Peter 4:9

***INTERCESSION:*** The gift of intercession is the divine strength or ability to stand in the gap in prayer for someone, something, or some place, believing for profound results. Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 1:9-12, 4:12-13; James 5:14-16

***WORD OF KNOWLEDGE:*** The gift of the word of knowledge is the divine strength or ability to bring truth to a situation by supernatural revelation. This is often accompanied by a word from God. Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:8; Colossians 2:2-3

***LEADERSHIP:*** The gift of leadership is the divine strength or ability to influence people at their level while directing and focusing them on the big picture, vision, or idea. Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 3:1-13, 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

***MERCY:*** The gift of mercy is the divine strength or ability to feel empathy and to care for those who are hurting in any way. Matthew 9:35-36; Mark 9:41; Romans 12:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

***MIRACLES:*** The gift of miracles is the divine strength or ability to alter the natural outcomes of life in a supernatural way through prayer, faith, and divine direction. Acts 9:36-42, 19:11-12, 20:7-12; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28

***PASTOR/SHEPHERD:*** The gift of pastor is the divine strength or ability to care for the personal needs of others by nurturing and mending life issues. John 10:1-18; Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-3

***PROPHECY:*** The gift of prophecy is the divine strength or ability to communicate God's truth and heart in a way that calls people to a right relationship with God. Acts 2:37-40, 7:51-53, 26:24-29; 1 Corinthians 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5

***SERVICE:*** The gift of serving is the divine strength or ability to do small or great tasks in working for the overall good of the body of Christ. Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 1:16-18; Titus 3:14

***TEACHING:*** The gift of teaching is the divine strength or ability to study and learn from the scriptures primarily to bring understanding and depth to other Christians. Acts 18:24-28, 20:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-14

***TONGUES (AND INTERPRETATION):*** The gift of tongues is the divine strength or ability to pray in a heavenly language to encourage your spirit and to commune with God. The gift of tongues is often accompanied by interpretation and should be used appropriately. Acts 2:1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 14:1-14

***WORD OF WISDOM:*** The gift of the word of wisdom is the divine strength or ability to understand and bring clarity to situations and circumstances often through applying the truths of Scripture in a practical way. Acts 6:3, 10; 1 Corinthians 12:6-13, 12:8