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# New Member's Handbook

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## **Greetings from the Pastor**

*Welcome to Covenant Church! If you are reading this letter it probably means that you have joined this local body of believers. We would like to extend warm greetings to you. We are excited that you have joined our family. You will be embraced by other members and oriented on such things as our purpose, vision, beliefs, and ministries. It is with great humility and honor that we have the privilege of caring for you, teaching you, equipping you for ministry, working alongside you, and much more.*

*I personally look forward to visiting with you and witnessing firsthand how God has gifted you to minister to your new family and to those in need of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Sincerely,*

*Elder Billy D. Gaston, Ph.D.*

*Pastor-Teacher*

# Section One

## Church Introduction

Church phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Web Address: [www.covenantchurchokc.org](http://www.covenantchurchokc.org)

FaceBook : [www.facebook.com/covenantokc](http://www.facebook.com/covenantokc)

**Our Church Purpose (why we exist):** To **Go** into the world that others may **Know** a relationship with Jesus Christ, **Grow** in a relationship with Him and **Show** forth their relationship with Him.

It is a four-fold purpose that showcases a process:

1. Go – *to actively function outside of the four walls (evangelize)*
2. Know - *To introduce and lead others to become members of Christ's family, - (soul winning)*
3. Grow - *To help ourselves and others to develop in spiritual maturity to live lives empowered by the Holy Spirit, - (discipleship, fellowship)*
4. Show - *to demonstrate God's love in service to others and to exalt the name of Christ while doing it. (outreach, worship)*

**Our Church Mission (how we fulfill our purpose):** To develop relationships where Jesus Christ is worshipped, Men are respected, Women are loved, Parents are honored and Children are nurtured.

**Our Vision:** Transformed Lives - Empowered people, United families, Strong marriages, and Healthy communities.

**Covenant Core Values:**

- *Glorify* God
- *Love* one another
- *Serve* others
- *Steward* God's resources
- *Enjoy* life

## **Section Two**

### **What We Believe**

#### **THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and contains one sufficiently complete system of doctrine. We believe in the full inspiration of the Word of God. We hold the Word of God to be the only authority in all matters and assert that no doctrine can be true or essential, if it does not find a place in this Word.

#### **ONE GOD - TRINITY**

We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in three Persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

#### **THE FATHER**

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Author and Creator of all things. The Gospels in the New Testament give us knowledge of God the “Father” or “My Father”, showing the relationship of God to Jesus as Father, or representing Him as the Father in the Godhead, and Jesus Himself that Son (St. John 15:8, 14:20). Jesus also gives God the distinction of “Fatherhood” to all believers when He explains God in the light of “Your Father in Heaven” (St. Matthew 6:8).

#### **THE SON**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second person in the Godhead of the Trinity or Triune Godhead. We believe that Jesus was and is eternal in his person and nature as the Son of God who was with God in the beginning of creation (St. John 1:1). We believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin called Mary according to

the scripture (St. Matthew 1:18), thus giving rise to our fundamental belief in the Virgin Birth and to all of the miraculous events surrounding the phenomenon (St. Matthew 1:18-25). We believe that Jesus Christ became the “suffering servant” to man; this suffering servant came seeking to redeem man from sin and to reconcile him back to God, His Father (Romans 5:10). We believe that Jesus Christ is standing now as mediator between God and man (I Timothy 2:5)

## **THE HOLY GHOST**

We believe the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, proceeds from the Father and the Son, is of the same substance, equal in power and glory, and is together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, obeyed, and worshipped. The Holy Ghost is a gift and seal of authenticity bestowed to the believer for the purpose of equipping and empowering the believer - making him a more effective witness for service in the world. He teaches and guides one into all truth (John 16:13; Acts 1:8, 8:39, Ephesians 1:13, Romans 8:9).

## **SIN**

Sin can be defined as a volitional transgression against God and a lack of conformity to the will of God. Man by nature, is sinful and has fallen from a glorious and righteous state from which he was created, and has become unrighteous and unholy. Man, therefore, must be restored to his state of holiness from which he has fallen by being born again (St. John 3:7).

## **SALVATION**

Salvation deals with the application of the work of redemption to the sinner with his restoration to divine favor and communion with God. This redemptive operation of the Holy Ghost upon sinners is brought about by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **THE CHURCH**

The Church can be denoted as the collection of all people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ throughout the corridor of time. The Church forms a spiritual unity of which Christ is the divine head

## **THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

We believe in the second coming of Christ; that He shall come from heaven to earth, personally, bodily, visibly (Acts 1:11; Titus 2:11-13; St. Matthew 16:27; 24:30; 25:30; Luke 21:27; John 1:14, 17; Titus 2:11) and that the Church, is his bride whom He will return for (I Thessalonians, 4:16-17). We admonish all who have this hope to purify themselves as He is pure.

## Section Three

### The Role of a Pastor

The primary terms that describe the role of the pastor in Scripture are “elder,” “bishop,” and “teacher” (1 Timothy 3:1-13). “Elder,” or *episkopos in Greek* refers to the oversight of the believers, and it involves teaching, preaching, caring, and exercising authority where needed. Pastors are also described as shepherds. A shepherd leads, feeds, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects. Below is just a snapshot of what your pastor does.

#### **Shepherds**

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**I Peter 5:1-4** - I exhort the elders among you ... shepherd the flock of God ... exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory

#### **Lives as a godly model**

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**I Timothy 4:16** - Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you.

## **Protects**

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**Acts 20:28-30** - Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

## **Comforts and encourages**

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**I Thessalonians 5:14** - "...admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with all"

## **Given to prayer and ministry of the Word**

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**Acts 6:4** - But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

## **Leads knowing he is accountable**

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**Hebrews 13:17** - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

## **Section Four**

### **Membership of Commitment**

Many churches are filled with persons that are labeled “members”. However, it would be proper to define a percentage of these members as “inactive”. As Christians, we are called to belong. It is not enough to simply pride ourselves in our belief in Christ and yet remain detached from the body of baptized believers.

**Ephesians 2:19** – Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

**Romans 12:4-5** - For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Membership modeled by commitment in the life of a believer will evidence itself through the following:

#### **I. VISIBILITY**

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**Hebrews 10:24-25** - And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

## **II. ACCOUNTABILITY**

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**I Thessalonians 5:12-13** - But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

## **III. PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT**

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**I Peter 4:10** - As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

## **IV. SUPPORT**

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**I Corinthians 12:26** - And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

## **V. RESPONSIBILITY**

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### **a. Being a Faithful Steward:**

A steward is one who is responsible for the protection or usage of something that belongs to someone else. Faithful stewardship is predicated on one's acknowledgement of God's ownership of himself/herself, and all other created things, by right of creation and redemption. Our relationships in every area of life must be built upon our understanding that every good and perfect gift is from God. It involves how we use our body; what we do with our money; and how we spend our time. Everything belongs to God: **Psalm 24:1** - The

earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

**b. Support Church Leadership:**

**Hebrews 13:17** - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you

**c. Use God Given Spiritual Gifts to Benefit the Body:**

**Romans 1:11**- For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

**Romans 12:4-6** - For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

**I Peter 4:10** - As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

**d. Support the Church Financially:**

**Proverbs 3:9-10** - Honor the LORD from your wealth And from the first of all your produce; So your barns will be filled with plenty And your vats will overflow with new wine.

**Malachi 3:8-12** - <sup>8</sup>“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup>You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation *of you!* <sup>10</sup>Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. <sup>11</sup>Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the LORD of hosts. <sup>12</sup>“All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.

**2 Corinthians 8:3-5** - “For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God”

## Section Five

### Giving

Covenant Church practices and teaches the principles of giving as set forth by God in His Word. We leverage the tithe principle.

#### **What is tithing?**

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The word “Tithe” means a tenth. To tithe indicates to give a tenth of one’s increase (e.g. income). The tithe is the minimum of one’s giving and not the maximum. The tithe began with Abraham before the Law was given (Genesis 14:20). The tithe was continued by Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22). It was eventually incorporated in the Law (Leviticus 27:30-32) and was used for taxes and to support the temple and priests. It was even commanded by Malachi (Malachi 3:8-12). It was commended by Jesus (Matthew 23:23) and implied by Paul (I Cor. 16:2, II Cor. 9:7). All giving should be done freely. Whatever amount of your increase given, it is to be a gift given willingly as you have determined in your heart.

#### **To Whom Does All My Money and Possessions Belong?**

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**I Timothy 6:7** - For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

**Psalm 24:1** - The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

## **God's Steward**

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**Proverbs 3:9** - Honor the Lord with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest.

**Matthew 25:21** - His master said to him, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant! You have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things. Enter thou into the Joy of thy Lord.'

## **When do I bring my gifts?**

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**I Corinthians 16:2** - On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

**Malachi 3:10** - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

## **Attitude about giving**

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**II Corinthians 8:3-5** - For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

**II Corinthians 9:7** - Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## **Relationship between giving and other believers**

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**II Corinthians 8:13-14 (ESV)** - For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.

## **Relationship between giving and receiving**

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**II Corinthians 9:6** - Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

**II Corinthians 9: 10-11** - Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; <sup>10</sup>you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

## **The Promise**

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**Malachi 3:10-11** - Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. <sup>11</sup>Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes," says the LORD of hosts.

**Luke 6:38** - Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

## **Section Six**

### **Ministries of Covenant**

Covenant Church has several ministries that have been developed to minister to the body of Christ and to those who need to know Christ. A ministry can be defined as active unit that provides God-gifted services to an individual or people group for its continual empowerment.

The all-knowing God knew what he called Covenant Church to do and who he wanted us to serve. In saying this, all ministries should align with the current mission and vision of the church. This helps us to maintain focus and ensures we remain a good steward of the resources God has provided.

To serve in any ministry, it is helpful for members to have knowledge of their God-given spiritual gift. A spiritual gift is “a divine ability given by grace through the Holy Spirit to make each believer and the church more like Jesus Christ,” A distinction should be made between a gift and a talent - talent performs; a gift ministers. Knowing your gift or having some idea of what it may be will help pinpoint ministry compatibility as well as decrease the chance of frustration with one self and others.

Your instructor will give you a list of current ministries. In the next section you will take the Spiritual Gifts Survey. This will help to identify an area of your gifting.

## Section Seven

### Spiritual Gifts

God has provided every believer with spiritual gifts'. These gifts are provided to encourage and edify the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). These gifts are not to be taken lightly, for selfish gain, to exploit others, or for promotion. These gifts are so significant that they were visible and utilized in Jesus' ministry. Jesus exercised the gifts of preaching, teaching, helps, mercy, administration, exhortation, and administration, etc. The reason God gives gifts to the body is so that the composite of the gifts in the local church will manifest Christ in His totality. Always remember that every spiritual gift magnifies a characteristic of Christ because God wants believers individually and collectively as a church to be like Christ.

The Greek word translated gifts (CHARISMA), means 'A GIFT OF GRACE'. In other words a spiritual gift is something we receive but don't deserve it. A spiritual gift is "a divine ability given by grace through the Holy Spirit to make each believer and the church more like Jesus Christ," A distinction should be made between a gift and a talent. Talents are given by God but are usually derived from parents or another person in one's life, so their source is genetic. But the source of spiritual gifts according to 1 Corinthians 12:11 is God. Remember this, a talent performs; a gift ministers.

The New Testament reveals that every Christian has at least one Spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 7:8 and 1 Peter

4:10). That gift is usually in seed form, and therefore it must be nurtured and developed. Even though you may think you have no gift, as you continue to evangelize, exhort, give, and help, the Holy Spirit will gradually unwrap your spiritual gift.

All spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. He (the Holy Spirit) assigns the gifts as He chooses (1 Corinthians 12:11). The day you became a Christian you were assigned a spiritual gift, and through that gift or gifts He wants to make you like Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives by divine choice. They are not assigned because of a person's spirituality

References to the different spiritual gifts can be found in various places throughout scripture. As we review following passages of scriptures, we will identify at least 19 distinctive gifts.

1. Romans 12:6-8(7)
2. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10(8)
3. 1 Corinthians 12:28(1)
4. Ephesians 4:11(2)
5. 1 Peter 4:9-10 (1)

These 19 Spiritual gifts may be divided into three categories:

- A. SERVING Gifts: (helps, leadership/administration, giving, mercy, hospitality, faith, and discernment)
- B. SPEAKING Gifts: (knowledge, wisdom, prophecy, exhortation, pastor, teacher, apostleship, and interpretation)

### C. SIGN Gifts: ( miracles, healing, tongues, and interpretation)

Remember every gift must help build up the body of Christ (the church). Never forget the purpose of gifts is to build up and not tear down.

Below definitions and supporting scriptures are given for many of the spiritual gifts.

#### **Gift Definitions:**

1. **ADMINISTRATION:** 1 Cor. 12:28 - to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others (Greek Word: kubernesisis - to steer, guide, helmsmen)
2. **APOSTLE:** Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28 - to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church (Greek Word: apostolos - 'apo'=from 'stello'=send; one sent forth)
3. **DISCERNMENT:** 1 Cor. 12:10 - to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power
4. **EVANGELISM:** Eph. 4:11 - to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos=message - messenger of good)
5. **EXHORTATION:** Rom. 12:8 - to come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God

wants them to be (Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)

6. **FAITH:** 1 Cor. 12:8-10 - to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction
7. **GIVING:** Rom. 12:8 - to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return
8. **HEALING:** 1 Cor. 12:9,28,30 - to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually
9. **HELPS:** 1 Cor. 12:28 - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry
10. **HOSPITALITY:** 1 Pet. 4:9,10 - to warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging (Greek Word: philoxenos - love of strangers; 'philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)
11. **KNOWLEDGE:** 1 Cor. 12:8 - to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data
12. **LEADERSHIP:** Rom. 12:8 - to stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals
13. **MERCY:** Rom. 12:8 - to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but

more so caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress

14. **MIRACLES:** 1 Cor. 12:10,28 - to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means
15. **PASTOR:** Eph. 4:11 - to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care
16. **PROPHECY:** Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11 - to speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)
17. **SERVICE:** Rom. 12:7 - to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)
18. **TEACHING:** Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11 - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth
19. **TONGUES:** 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27-28 - to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified
20. **INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:** 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27,28 - to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues
21. **WISDOM:** 1 Cor. 12:8 - to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations

# Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire

0 – Never                      1 – Seldom                      2 – Often                      3 - Always

	Characteristic	Number
1.	Receive joy and fulfillment in helping people	
2.	Enjoy accomplishing a task	
3.	Good at making and handling money.	
4.	Have a good listening ear.	
5.	Enjoy having people in my home.	
6.	Difficult to discourage.	
7.	Quickly detect faulty teaching.	
8.	Enjoy researching and studying the Bible.	
9.	Good at solving problems.	
10.	Desire to declare right and wrong.	
11.	Enjoy counseling people.	
12.	Enjoy meeting needs through biblical truths.	
13.	Enjoy teaching the Bible.	
14.	Like meeting people from different cultures.	
15.	A strong desire to win people to Christ.	
16.	Altered the laws of nature.	
17.	Cured diseases.	
18.	Spoken in tongues.	
19.	Interpreted tongues.	
20.	Quickly see a need.	
21.	Work best under pressure.	
22.	Enjoy giving more than a tithe.	
23.	Can detect a hurting person.	
24.	Disappointed if opportunity missed to have guests in my home.	
25.	Believe my church will grow.	
26.	Can detect when a deed is performed with carnal motives.	
27.	Interested in deeper biblical truths.	
28.	Good at applying biblical truths.	
29.	See everything as right or wrong.	
30.	Find it easy to accept people regardless of faults.	

## Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire

0 - Never

1 - Seldom

2 - Often

3 - Always

Characteristic	Number
31. Will work hard to see my church grow.	
32. Enjoy sharing Bible truths that lead to spiritual growth.	
33. Good at learning foreign languages.	
34. Able to present the plan of salvation clearly.	
35. Have performed miraculous wonders.	
36. In the name of the Lord have given sight to the blind.	
37. Spoken in a foreign language I did not learn.	
38. Interpreted a language I had not learned.	
39. Enjoy working with my hands for the church.	
40. Would rather oversee a work than do it.	
41. Believe God blesses hard work so I can give to Him.	
42. Can see through a disguise of happiness.	
43. Visitors in my home are a blessing.	
44. Believe God will keep His promises in spite of circumstances.	
45. Quickly detect false doctrine.	
46. Can discover biblical truths for myself.	
47. Make correct decisions.	
48. Very sensitive to sin in my life.	
49. Can encourage others not to give up.	
50. Prefer to do everything through the local church.	
51. Would rather teach than listen to someone else.	
52. Like to see new churches established.	
53. Enjoy winning people to Christ.	
54. Performed signs to confirm myself as God's messenger.	
55. In the name of the Lord enabled the lame to walk.	
56. Won lost by speaking in an unlearned language.	
57. Interpreted tongues to avoid confusion in the church.	
58. Prefer to be out of the spotlight.	
59. Avoid involvement if not in a leadership position.	
60. Identify fake pleas for money.	
61. Am concerned about emotional needs of people.	

62. Happiest when guest are in my home.	
63. Believe God can do the impossible.	
64. Can determine when a verse is taken out of context.	
65. Can explain difficult Bible passages.	
66. Can choose the best person for a position.	
67. Have very high standards for myself.	
68. Good at encouraging others.	
69. Enjoy training others to serve in the church.	
70. Strongly believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God.	
71. Enjoy giving to mission causes.	
72. Think more preaching should be evangelistic.	
73. Performed miracles like Jesus.	
74. Have raised the dead.	
75. Prayed in unlearned languages.	
76. Interpreted prayers in unlearned languages.	
77. Quickly spot needed repairs around my church.	
78. Do not like to admit I'm wrong.	
79. Enjoy giving without others knowing.	
80. Enjoy making others feel important and remembered.	
81. Invite people to my home.	
82. Will follow God regardless of the consequences.	
83. Can recognize needed ministries in my church.	
84. Spend hours studying biblical truths.	
85. Usually see a problem before it materializes.	
86. Impatient with others.	
87. Help people through difficult times.	
88. Strong desire to see others grow spiritually.	
89. Enjoy sharing Bible truths with others.	
90. Desire to share the Gospel with people in other countries.	
91. Enjoy sharing my salvation experience.	
92. Spoken and changed weather conditions.	
93. Cured the sick.	
94. Blessed by speaking in tongues.	
95. Understood person speaking in tongues.	

1		20		39		58		77			A
2		21		40		59		78			B
3		22		41		60		79			C
4		23		42		61		80			D
5		24		43		62		81			E
6		25		44		63		82			F
7		26		45		64		83			G
8		27		46		65		84			H
9		28		47		66		85			I
10		29		48		67		86			J
11		30		49		68		87			K
12		31		50		69		88			L
13		32		51		70		89			M
14		33		52		71		90			N
15		34		53		72		91			O
16		35		54		73		92			P
17		36		55		74		93			Q
18		37		56		75		94			R
19		38		57		76		95			S

## Spiritual Gifts Row Key Sheet

A score of 10 or higher in any gift area may indicate that you have that gift. Serving in that area will reveal it for certain.

If you did not score a 10 or above in any area, it could be because you have not had enough experience in the various gift areas. You should attempt to get more actively involved in your church to find the gift area which brings you joy and the Lord's blessing. This will help you to determine your spiritual gift or gifts.

Remember: God has given everyone at least one (1) gift.

### SERVING GIFTS

### SPEAKING GIFTS

### SIGN GIFTS

A - Helps	H - Knowledge	P - Miracles
B - Leadership	I - Wisdom	Q - Healing
C - Giving	J - Prophecy	R - Tongues
D - Mercy	K - Exhortation	S - Interpretation
E - Hospitality	L - Pastor	
F - Faith	M - Teacher	
G. Discernment	N - Apostleship	
	O - Evangelism	

## Section Eight

### Christian Living

The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). This commandment is known as the Great Commission. As Christians we are to separate ourselves from sin, not sinners otherwise how can one tell others about the goodness of Jesus Christ. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us!" He calls us to a life of self-denying love and service. " Sanctification is that gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Ghost, by which He delivers the justified sinner from the pollution of sin, renews his whole nature in the image of God and enables him to perform good works (Romans 6:4;5;6; Colossians 2:12; 3:1).

There are five principles directly related to the continued health spiritual growth.

- 1) Read the Word of God: We should read it, heed it, study it, hide it in our hearts, and hear it taught and preached.
- 2) Daily Prayer: Spend some time each day talking with God: a) About your gratitude to Him for all He has done for you b) About your needs and your problems c) About family, friends, and the lost
- 3) Service: Spend time helping others, witnessing, giving time and energy to God's work and being a living

testimony to the world in which we live (II Corinthians 3:1-3). Every member should have a workstation in the church (Rev 22:12; II Thes. 3:10-12; II Cor. 6:1; Philippians 2:12).

- 2) Confession and Repentance: Confession of one's sins and transgressions maintains a pure heart before God thus keeping an intimate relationship with God. Additionally turning from that which is evil strengthens one's relationship with God.
- 3) Fasting: Partaking in a time where one denies the desires of the flesh in an effort to feed and strengthen the spiritual man within. Such desires of the flesh could be food, different types of food, liquids and etc.

(This chapter is an adaptation from "*Milk of My Father's Bosom*"  
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## Section Nine

### Church Discipline

As the church consists of imperfect people being conformed to the image of Christ daily, we understand that offenses and disagreements will occur. The bible has prescribed a godly approach to such matters. It is noted that any and all actions taken to reconcile two brothers/sisters or to address an offense should always be preceded with prayer and wise counsel.

**Matthew 18:15-18** serves as the basic guideline for church discipline, “<sup>15</sup> If your brother wrongs you, go and show him his fault, between you and him privately. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, so that every word may be confirmed *and* upheld by the testimony of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If he pays no attention to them [refusing to listen and obey], tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you forbid *and* declare to be improper and unlawful on earth must be what is already forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit *and* declare proper and lawful on earth must be what is already permitted in heaven.” (Amplified)

Furthermore, we are to have hearts free of grudges, bitterness, and resentment.

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came up to Him and said, Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me and I forgive him *and* let it go? [As many as] up to seven times? <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered him, I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven! (Matthew 18:21-22 Amplified).

## **Section Ten**

### **Leaving the Local Body**

People join and leave churches every Sunday for various reasons that range from petty differences to large distinctions. The primary deciding reason to join a body is because God has inserted you to love and to be loved, to grow and to help grow others.

**I Corinthians 12:18** - But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

Thus, if God has truly placed you in a local church body, the only reason you should leave that body is if God removes you for his own purposes or your protection. You must determine if leaving is God's will for your life. Examine your heart, pray, speak to a pastor or elder. The pastor has been given the responsibility to care for you, thus leaving should be done with great caution.

**Hebrews 13:17-18** - Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

Leaving a local church is like leaving a family. It is not an action to be taken lightly. Our covenant together carries a sense of devotion and commitment to one another.

**Romans 12:10-13** - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

If it is a matter of an offense or misunderstanding, make it known to the pastor(s) and they will make every attempt to resolve it as prescribed in Matthew chapter 18. We are here to share in your challenges and successes.

**I Corinthians 12:26** - And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

If leaving is the ultimate outcome, for job relocation, ministry assistance, ministry planting, etc., the pastor will provide you with a letter of support and blessing so that you can be successfully connected to a local body.

## **Section Eleven**

### **Ceremonies/Ordinance of the Church**

#### **Baby Dedication**

A Baby Dedication is a ceremony in which believing parents, and sometimes families, make a commitment before the Lord to submit a child to God's will and to raise that child according to God's Word and God's ways. Christian parents who dedicate a child are making a promise to the Lord to do everything within their power to raise the child in a godly way, prayerfully until he or she can make a decision on his or her own to follow God.

#### **Baptism**

Baptism is an ordinance administered only to believers and followers of Christ. The mode is immersion and it is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It also typifies the Christian's death to his/her old life, its burial, and his/her resurrection to walk in newness of life in Jesus Christ.

#### **Christian Funeral**

Christian funerals are Home-going services for the Believer, during which time the family, friends, and church members of the deceased member come together for a Celebration of Life.

#### **Communion**

The Lord's Supper, also called Holy Communion, is a sacred memorial, symbolic of the Last Supper Christ had with His Apostles before His crucifixion. It is done as commanded by Christ, to remember Him and to reflect

upon His death, burial and resurrection to secure our salvation.

### **Weddings/Renewal of Marriage Vows**

Wedding ceremonies seek to unite a Christian man and woman in Holy Matrimony in a sacred covenantal service ordained by God.

## **Section Twelve**

### **Family Statement of Commitment**

#### **ALL:**

We the people of this family recognize that each of us has been fearfully and wonderfully made by God<sup>[1]</sup>. We recognize the true one God revealed in three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost<sup>[2]</sup>. We confess by faith that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead<sup>[3]</sup>. We are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus<sup>[4]</sup>.

#### **MEN:**

As a man, I belong to God<sup>[5]</sup>. As a man and husband, I will love my wife unconditionally recognizing Jesus as my head<sup>[6]</sup>. As a man and father, I will not provoke my children to wrath but provide instruction and training in all godliness<sup>[7]</sup>. Moreover, I will lead my home by example in all righteousness<sup>[8]</sup>.

#### **WOMEN:**

As a woman, I belong to God<sup>[5]</sup>. As a woman and wife, I will respect my husband as head, being his helpmeet<sup>[9]</sup>. As a woman and mother, I will manage my home and train my children in all godliness<sup>[10]</sup>.

#### **CHILDREN:**

As a child, I belong to God<sup>[5]</sup>. As a child, I will honor and obey my mother and father<sup>[11]</sup>. As a sibling I will protect my brother and sister<sup>[12]</sup>. I am my brother's keeper<sup>[13]</sup>. I am my sister's keeper<sup>[13]</sup>.

**ALL:**

As a family, we belong to God<sup>[14]</sup>. We will love one another, walk in honesty, value the interests of others, do good to all, be forgiving and learn to be content in whatever situation God places us<sup>[15]</sup>.

We will dwell together in unity and peace, not intentionally de-valuing one another<sup>[16]</sup>. We will live for God and serve Him with all our heart and soul<sup>[17]</sup>. Amen.

## Section Thirteen

### Church Covenant

**PASTOR:** Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

**CONGREGATION:** We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love;

**PASTOR:** To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness;

**CONGREGATION:** To give it a place in our affections, prayers, and services, above every organization of human origin;

**PASTOR:** To sustain its worships, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine;

**CONGREGATION:** To contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, toward its expenses for the support of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel throughout the world;

**PASTOR:** In case of difference of opinion in this church, we will strive to avoid a contentious spirit; and if we cannot unanimously agree, we will cheerfully recognize the right of the majority to govern;

**CONGREGATION:** We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion;

**PASTOR:** To study diligently the Word of God;

**CONGREGATION:** To educate our children in godly living;

**PASTOR:** To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance;

**CONGREGATION:** To walk circumspectly in the world;

**PASTOR:** To be kind and just to others and faithful in the service we promise others, endeavoring in the purity of heart and goodwill toward all men, to exemplify and commend our holy faith;

**CONGREGATION:** We further engage to watch over, to pray for, to exhort and stir up each other unto every good work; to guard each other's reputation;

**PASTOR:** Not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others;

**CONGREGATION:** To participate in each other's joys and with tender sympathy, bear one another's burdens and sorrows;

**PASTOR:** To cultivate Christian courtesy;

**CONGREGATION:** To be slow to give or take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, being mindful of the rules of the Savior in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew, to secure it without delay;

**PASTOR:** And through life, amid evil report, and good report, to seek to live to the glory of God, Who hath called us out of the darkness into His marvelous life;

**ALL TOGETHER:** We moreover, engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

**AMEN**