

# Lifestyle of Service

## Definition

Service is engaging the good works that God lines up in advance for us to do, in order to bless people, share the Gospel and expand God's Kingdom.

## Beliefs

I. We believe that God's is actively working in the world to accomplish His purposes and that He invites us to join Him through good works and gospel proclamation in order to rescue, restore, and transform.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. [Genesis 2:2-3](#)

“your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” [Mathew 6:10](#)

In his defense Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working.” Jesus gave them this answer: “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. [John 5:17, 19](#)

This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. [1 Timothy 2:3-6](#)

II. We believe that God prepares people to do good works and proclaim the Gospel through calling, gifting, life experiences and the confirmation of others...

### A. Calling

not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. [Ephesians 2:9-10](#)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. [John 15:16](#)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. [1 Peter 2:9](#)

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. [2 Thessalonians 1:11](#)

### B. Gifting

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. [Romans 12:6-8](#)

I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. [1 Corinthians 7:7](#)

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers.” [Ephesians 4:11](#)

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. Therefore, I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus be cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#)

### C. Life Experience

#### **SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES**

As we personally experience God’s love and power we can share it with others.

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. [1 John 1:3](#)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms. [Ephesians 1:17-20](#)

#### **PAINFUL EXPERIENCES**

As we experience God’s hope, comfort, and leadership in the midst of pain it prepares us to minister to others.

Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. [2 Corinthians 1:4](#)

Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. [2 Corinthians 11:23-27](#)

#### **EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

Our learning becomes a tool that God can use to build up or equip others in how to walk with Him.

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. [Hebrews 5:12-13](#)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. [1 Corinthians 15:3-6](#)

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCES

In the words of Phillip Yancey, “We don’t come to know God, then do His will, we get to know God by doing his will.” As we join God in what He is doing, and see Him work, our faith and expectation grows preparing us for the next ministry assignment.

But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.” [1 Samuel 17:34-37](#)

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go... The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.” [Luke 10:1,17](#)

## CONFIRMATION EXPERIENCES

Many times, as other people observe and affirm our ministry impact, our trust in God’s power to use us rises and doorways to ministry opportunities open.

Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them... They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. [Acts 6:3,6-7](#)

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. [Acts 9:27-28](#)

The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. [Acts 11:21-25](#)

III. We believe that we are called to a primary ministry in our sweet spot (where we intentionally minister in ways that align with our gifts, talents, and calling). We also believe we are all called to Good Samaritan Ministry, as God providentially brings service opportunities before us.

## PRIMARY MINISTRY

An area of long term intentional service.

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” [Acts 6:2-4](#)

## SECONDARY MINISTRY

An awareness that I am always on call, to be available and responsive to sudden ministry needs, that arise in my presence.

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went

away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." [Luke 10:25-37](#)

IV. We believe that God intentionally connects people through relationship for ministry purposes and to develop the Church.

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman [John 4:1-45](#)

Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ [Ephesians 4:1-16](#)

V. We believe that we are responsible to develop our gifts, and grow in our ministry service to others.

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For 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, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. [Romans 12:3-8](#)

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. [2 Timothy 1:6](#)

VI. We believe that in His kindness God rewards our faithfulness in ministry service. As we join God in ministering to others and sharing the Gospel, they are blessed, we are blessed, and God is glorified.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. [Matthew 5:14-16](#)

"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. [Matthew 6:2-4](#)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." [Matthew 10:40-42](#)

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first... except to hold on to what you have until I come.'...To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations — that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to

pieces like pottery' — just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. [Revelation 2:19, 25-29](#)

## Values

- I. We value alertness to the prompting and voice of God to join Him in His work.
- II. We value partnering with God in good works whether big or small.
- III. We value serving others in our homes, neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and broader community.
- IV. We value individual ministry service and partnering together through teamwork.
- V. We value coming alongside in support of ministry partners who are already doing great work.
- VI. We value spiritual gifts, and encouraging people to seek God's direction in finding their sweet spot in ministry.
- VII. We value jumping in to serve as a present and unique need arises.
- VIII. We value celebrating together what God is doing in us and through us.
- IX. We value praying and supporting each other in our individual ministries, and partnering quarterly to serve together in our groups.
- X. We value providing opportunities for growth and development of gifts and ministry skills.

## Practices

- Helping people understand and identify their spiritual gifts through tools and affirmation.
- Serving on weekend ministry teams.
- Serving as part of a team in a specific ministry area (children's, students, groups, prayer, global impact etc.).
- Feedback on ministry effectiveness for growth.
- Serving at conferences and events.
- Praying and seeking good works individually and together in groups.
- Celebration videos and updates.

