

# THRIVE

A HANDBOOK FOR CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Growing with  
**One PLANTs One**  
discipleship

J A M E S H . H A L L

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Reverend James H. Hall  
1411 E. Stoneridge Street  
Springfield, Missouri 65803  
(417) 833-9052  
E-mail: [JHHalls@aol.com](mailto:JHHalls@aol.com)  
Web site: [www.newchristian.com](http://www.newchristian.com)

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## You are a member of God's eternal family, and you have a mission!

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Your second birth was made possible by God's eternal Son Jesus, and you became a child of God – forever, if you continue to daily trust Him with your life here on earth. Daily trust means talking and cooperating with God every day – **embracing His mission** for you in your world.

The lessons in this manual were written to help you clearly hear what God is saying to you through the Bible, His written Word, and to listen intently each day as His Spirit speaks to you. Your spiritual growth will be accompanied by more and more talking to God and depending on Him to help you obey what He tells you. You will also receive assistance in identifying and developing the spiritual gifts placed within you by the Holy Spirit.

*But you need more than this handbook and your Bible to maximize your spiritual growth. You need one or more Christian friend(s) who are also growing in their relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You and your friend(s) can discuss what is brought up in the lessons and stated in the Bible passages referenced. Each of you will learn by expressing what you see in those Bible passages, and from hearing what each of you see in the same passages. This will help you understand and obey what God is saying to you. You can celebrate together your progress, encourage each other to keep going, and correct each other when needed.*

If you don't have friends to grow with you in this manner, ask God to help you find some – at least one. Meanwhile, go ahead on your own and study the Bible, guided by these sessions, until you find the friend(s) you are praying for.

God has always been happy that you are His child, and He will be even happier as you continue to get to know Him better and better throughout your lifetime. Continue to give your best effort to being diligent in talking with God and

listening to Him talk to you. Do your best to continually cooperate with Him by depending on Him to help you know what to do and give you strength to obey.

Study the material well—for your sake, and also to be able to be a helping friend to non-following friends, new believers, and other brothers and sisters in Christ who want to grow – **by using this same material and process with them.**

The big question for you is: Are you:

- a) **on the mission** Jesus has assigned you to pursue, or are
- b) you merely attempting to maintain enough spiritual activity for God to bless you on earth and take you to heaven when you die?

My prayer is that the experience of growing together with a Christian friend (or friends) will help you stay on mission and effectively:

- a) encourage each other and hold each other accountable for applying God's truth to your daily behavior – celebrating and correcting as appropriate, and
- b) recruit and assist lost people to follow Jesus with you on earth – so they can go to heaven with you sooner or later.

Eventually we will sit down in eternity and review and give God praise for what He has done through you. Until then, I remain...

Your brother and fellow laborer in the final harvest,

Jim Hall - New Christian Life Ministries

# Session Summaries

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## Phase 1 Orientation

### *Making Contact*

#### Session 1 Your Life in Jesus

God’s loving plan for you is to (1) rescue you from the punishment your sins deserve, to have you be His eternal child; and (2) continue to grow your relationship with Him through His Spirit who lives in you – as He more and more helps you with ongoing conversation and cooperation with Him.

#### Session 2 Knowing God Is Always with You

A loving relationship with God involves both contact—being alert constantly to God’s presence and staying in communication with Him; and conduct—intentionally doing everything with God.

#### Session 3 Worshiping God, Loving God

According to Jesus, the first and greatest commandment is to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). God wants you to worship Him and love Him in words and actions that come from your heart. Such love is a fitting response to His love for you.

#### Session 4 Working with God

Jesus said that the second greatest command was: “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). God’s plan and command is for you to actively love people, in partnership with Him, responding to needs—especially people’s need for salvation.

#### Session 5 Your Spiritual Birth Announcement

Water baptism announces, illustrates, and explains your conversion and the change it brings.

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## Phase 2 Prayerful Living (based on the Lord's Prayer)

### *☞ Contact That Leads to Conduct ☞*

#### Session 6 Knowing God as Your Father

The Lord's Prayer gives us a template for praying and living that pleases God. Who you are and what your life means becomes clear when you see God as loving Father and ruling King.

#### Session 7 You are a Citizen of Heaven

"Your kingdom come" is to continue to be your prayer and life's ambition. You live this out and bring God's kingdom to earth now when you live in obedience to God and to His delegated earthly authorities.

#### Session 8 Your Daily Supply of Food

God is your source, and He will faithfully provide for your physical need—if you ask Him to, and if you honor Him with tithes and offerings.

#### Session 9 Your Daily Supply of Forgiveness

God is gracious and is faithful to forgive your sin if you ask Him to—and if you also forgive others—as He has forgiven you!

#### Session 10 Freedom through Dependence

Dependence on God brings freedom from the bondage and heartbreaking consequences of sin. God is always stronger than any temptation, circumstance, or enemy. Therefore, ask God (and act) to help you avoid temptation; and ask Him to rescue you when you are tempted, deceived, or attacked by Satan.

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## Phase 3 Responsibility

### *☞ Conduct through Contact ☞*

#### Session 11 Remembering Jesus Together

The Lord's Supper (or communion) is a special way commanded by Jesus for you to celebrate with other believers His death and the life He gives by His Spirit living in you. Examine yourself before sharing in this serious celebration. A supplement provides a guide for examining your overall progress in learning to walk with the Lord.

Session 12 **Spiritual Living**

The fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit are produced when God's love is channeled through your life. The more your heart beats with God's, the more you will extend both fruit and gifts of the Spirit to meet other people's needs—especially their need for eternal life.

Session 13 **Going with the Flow**

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you actively surrender to the Spirit and become empowered by Him—especially in being a witness to others.

Session 14 **Sowing Gospel Seed**

This session provides a biblical summary of the gospel, emphasizing the response of trust-and-obey that God requires—as well as the need to make the good news simple and clear to the unchurched.

Session 15 **Reaping**

This session explains the stages through which the Holy Spirit and human witnesses bring unbelievers to faith in Christ and union with His family, the local church. Jesus commands the family to have a welcome-home celebration and to assist the new family member. You, the not-so-new believer, can now become a discipling friend to a newborn Christian brother or sister.





# Your Life in Jesus

*After waterskiing, Dawson Trotman was tired, but not ready to leave the water. The fun-loving founder of Navigators, an organization built to evangelize the lost and disciple Christians, climbed into a motorboat for a ride. “Daws” asked two girls in the boat if they could swim. One said no, so he sat between them, locking arms with them for greater safety. Suddenly the speeding boat made a fast turn, bounced on a wave, and sent Daws and the nonswimmer into the water. He held her head above water until the boat could circle back. Another swimmer dove into the water and helped support the struggling girl until she was hauled to safety aboard the boat. But as hands reached down to grab her rescuer’s hand, Dawson Trotman sank out of sight. So died “the Navigator,” giving his life to save another’s—a powerful story of sacrifice that reminds us of the one who gave His life to save us all.*



Dawson Trotman’s life story should also remind us that a faith commitment to Christ is eternal life assurance only if it continues in a personal daily relationship with Jesus as our friend and leader. Daws encouraged believers to study and memorize God’s Word to inform their relationship with its author. Many encouragers were central to the Navigators’ strategy for reaping a spiritual harvest. This has made them world leaders in winning souls and keeping them through one-to-one mentoring.

These lessons are designed to take you to the Bible for foundational Christian truths. What you will read and discuss with your Christian friend will help you live a life of conversation and cooperation with Jesus. He desires an ever-closer personal relationship with you, and He wants you to want the same.

You’ve said yes to the new way of life provided by God the Father through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. May God bless the rest of your life as you constantly experience this truth: “Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:17–18 NLT).



## Notes

**Because He loves  
us, Jesus died so  
that we might live.**

## Part 1



# God's plan has always been for Jesus to rescue you from hell to be His child.

- A.** Jesus is able to rescue you from going to hell (eternal punishment) because He is both God and man. The following tells who Jesus is and what He has done.
1. Jesus is God. As God, He had lived in heaven since before time began. Then He was born as a baby in Israel more than two thousand years ago, at just the right time according to God's plan.
  2. Everything Jesus did on earth was good. As a man He lived to help others.
  3. He lived exactly as God told Him to live; His perfect life shows us what God is like.
  4. The Roman ruler over Israel, Pilate, executed Jesus at the request of Jewish leaders who were jealous of Jesus because of the crowds who followed Him. They hated Jesus because He exposed their sin.
  5. When He died, Jesus took God's punishment for all the things you did wrong in God's eyes (called sin). Jesus himself never sinned, so He did not deserve to be punished. But He willingly suffered your punishment so you wouldn't have to (2 Corinthians 5:21).
  6. God brought Jesus back to life, and then He returned to heaven to be eternal King. He rules now over every person who believes in Him and willingly obeys Him.
  7. One day He will return to rule the whole world with love, justice, and total authority.



In the Bible, find the book called the Gospel of John, which tells about Jesus' life. You will need to read several sections of the book called John to complete this lesson.

- B.** Jesus came to rescue you from the punishment you deserved for rebelling against God.

1. The Bible tells us that every person is guilty of sin and deserves eternal punishment. You can read more about this in the book of John, chapter 3, verses 16–20 (John 3:16–20). Also read verse 36 of that same chapter of John (John 3:36).
  - a. According to John 3:36, what will happen to every person who does not believe in Jesus Christ?
  - b. What will such a nonbeliever not see or receive?
2. Before reading John 3:36, did you understand that sin—disobeying God—is that bad? What sinful things that you’ve done in the past still seem attractive in light of those eternal consequences?
3. When Jesus died, He was being punished for your crimes against God. According to John 3:16, why did He allow himself to be treated this way?

In the space below, write John 3:16, using your name instead of the terms *the world* and *whoever*.

4. After thinking about these truths, how do you feel...
  - a. about your sins?
  - b. toward Jesus, knowing what He did for you?

Now thank Him for what He has done for you. Say it to Him just as you would tell another person. Praying is as simple as that, and God always hears.

5. Did you...
  - a. ask for forgiveness from Jesus, your sacrifice or sin payment (John 3:16)?
  - b. believe in Jesus to be your friend forever—your Savior (John 1:12; 15:14)?
  - c. commit to cooperate with Him daily as your leader and Lord (John 15:14)?

**C.** Jesus has rescued you to become God’s child!

1. To all those who receive Jesus and believe on His name, what special right does Jesus give them? Read John 1:12.
2. How does it feel, deep down, to be God's own child?
3. You can now say, "God has put His own Spirit inside of \_\_\_\_\_ to stay forever." (Read John 14:17 and fill in the blank.)
4. As a child of God, you are now in God's family with new brothers and sisters. God wants your life to be part of theirs. Like a log in a fire that burns better in the presence of other logs, your new life with God will get stronger as you spend time in the presence of your new spiritual family. That's why you should become an active part of a church that believes that the Bible is God's message to humankind.



Jesus, fully God and fully human, was the only perfect sacrifice capable of paying the penalty for your sins. He died so that you might have a new life as a beloved child of God forever.

## Part 2



### God's plan for you is new life.



Read John 3:1–8.

- A.** You have been "born again"—given a new nature by God's Spirit, who is living in you. Read about this in John 1:12–13 and 3:3–8.
1. Because of your spiritual birth, where will you one day be able to go that you would not otherwise be allowed to enter (John 3:3, 5)?
  2. Spiritual birth brings spiritual life. Your new life makes it possible for you to obey your new King, something that was impossible before no matter how hard you tried to be good. Read John 8:34–36. Whose slave were you before Jesus set you free?
  3. What is different about your life since you came to Jesus?

4. Explain what has happened inside of you—the difference Jesus has made. Would you call what this a miracle? Why or why not?

5. Explain to your Christian friend how you feel on the inside.


**B.** You are now a newborn spiritual baby who needs to grow and get to know God, your heavenly Father. Growing will always be connected to talking with God.

1. You were born again as a result of talking with God.

a. Somehow you began to know that the story of Jesus as told in the Bible is true. That was God speaking to your heart.

b. Then you talked to God when you asked Him to forgive you and to be your ruler. The result was your spiritual birth on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

2. Your new position as God's child means you now have the privilege of personal contact with Him. A personal relationship grows with conversation—so you must continually listen to God and talk often with Him. See the Plan of Action, below, for instructions on how to do this.

 God is now your heavenly Father, and you are His child. God's Spirit is living in you, so you are always in direct personal contact with God. Being close to God this way calls for ongoing conversation with Him.

## Plan of Action



**God's plan for you, His child, is to grow a personal relationship with you.**

1. Conversation with God is best learned by setting aside a regular time and place each day to be alone and quiet with God. Start with fifteen to twenty minutes of time when you can talk with God and allow Him to speak to you. How does Matthew 6:6 tell us we should pray? Where and what time of day will you commit to doing this?

Where: \_\_\_\_\_ Time each day: \_\_\_\_\_

2. In your daily quiet time, do the following:
  - a. Ask God to help you receive His message for you through what you are about to read in His Word, the Bible (John 14:26). Just pay attention to what you can understand. This is “hearing” God talk to you through the Bible.
  - b. Begin reading the Gospel of John. Keep studying chapter 1 until you meet your friend for Session 2. Read this same chapter each day, and notice how you see something new every time.
  - c. Underline the parts that speak to you strongly. Put a question mark beside the parts you don’t understand. Then use the Bible-study worksheet provided with this lesson, and write the things asked for on the worksheet. For your first day studying chapter 1 of John, write down everything the author says about Jesus; then write how those things apply to you. Just do your best as you get started on this new project. Your Christian friend will help you.
  - d. After your study time, it’s time for you to talk. In your own words, talk to God about the important things you wrote about from the chapter you studied.
    - Praise God for the things about Him you read and also for what He has done for you and for the ways He is helping you each day.
    - Talk to God about whatever else comes to your mind.
    - Be sure to thank Him for coming to live inside of you and for bringing you new eternal life.
    - Tell God how wonderful it is for you to be forgiven and to now belong to Him through Jesus.
    - Ask Him to help you with the problems you are struggling with.
    - You can also ask Him to help other people with their problems, no matter what those problems are. Remember that God created the whole universe, so He has enough power to do anything. He can even heal sickness or injury, so don’t hesitate to ask Him to do things that are impossible for man to do. With God, nothing is impossible!

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### **Reminder: Things to Do This Week**

1. Have quiet time each day, completing your Daily Journal (see Appendix A for a reproducible journal page) during this time, until you meet your friend for Session 2 on \_\_\_\_\_ (date).
2. Tell the people you usually see from day to day about the big and wonderful change Jesus has made in your life. Don’t argue or try to answer every question

they may have—just tell them what has happened to you. You can use the material you’ve already covered in this course to help you explain it to them.

3. It’s very important to make time to meet regularly with your Christian friend, who will help you understand what it means to be a Christian and pray for you every day. Also, attend the regular church meetings your friend encourages you to attend as a new Christian. Remember, a log needs other logs to burn well. Don’t stay away from other Christians! You can find them at (write in church name, address, and meeting times):



## Appendix A | Daily Journal

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DATE \_\_\_\_\_ PASSAGE \_\_\_\_\_ VERSES THAT SPOKE TO ME \_\_\_\_\_

WONDERFUL THINGS I SEE \_\_\_\_\_

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HOW THEY APPLY TO MY LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

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PRAYER NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

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PRAYER VICTORIES \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appendix B | How to Be a Discipling Friend

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### Introduction

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A literal translation of Jesus' words in Matthew 28:19 is, "Disciple all the nations." God intends for His spiritual family to love His newborn spiritual children and work with Him to disciple them until they are strong and able to disciple others. You have been discipled by someone using these **THRIVE** sessions. Now you can be a discipling friend to another new Christian using a new copy of these same sessions.

### Part 1

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God intends for His older children to receive new Christians as their own brothers and sisters (Luke 15:32). This includes:

- A. Celebrating with God the birth of new members of His eternal family (Acts 11:23).
- B. Receiving new believers in His name as members of the family whom God loves as much as the older family members (1 Thessalonians 2:7–11; 3:12).
- C. Being a friend who...
  - understands their past,
  - accepts them as they are,
  - sees the good in them, and
  - gently encourages them to grow.

### Part 2

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God's loving family helps His new children learn to walk with Him (Acts 14:21–23).

- A. Paul and his coworkers in Thessalonica...
  1. Prayed for the new Christians (1 Thessalonians 1:2–3; 3:9–13; 5:23).
  2. Helped them learn to walk with God (1 Thessalonians 2:7 to 3:13; 4:1–8).
  3. Helped them learn to love people (1 Thessalonians 4:6–12, 18; 5:11–15).
- B. Then the new believers willingly cooperated with their disciplers until they also became disciplers of new Christians (1 Thessalonians 1:6–10; 2:13–14; 4:1, 9–10).



Read 1 Thessalonians 1 through 5 to see the example set by discipling friends Paul, Silas, and Timothy as they cared for the Thessalonian church—and how the Thessalonian believers followed their example, in turn discipling others.

## Part 3

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Spiritual growth is best served by a discipling friendship between a more experienced spiritual brother or sister and a new Christian.

- A.** A discipling friend (discipler) is a guide for the new believer.
1. The discipler should explain that the sessions instruct the new believer to learn to walk with God.
  2. The discipler helps the new believer to personally experience God's presence and power while learning direct conversation with God through:
    - a. Studying His written Word and responding in prayer.
    - b. Hearing God speak while praying and through the day.
  3. The discipler should pray daily and diligently for the new believer's needs and growth.
  4. The discipler will receive from God the help he or she gives to others.
- B.** A discipling friend should encourage two-way communication by:
1. Being honest and open in conversation.
  2. Being a patient and attentive listener.
  3. Describing his or her own background and growing experiences to...
    - a. Help the new believer understand the growing process in Christian living.
    - b. Encourage the new believer to trust Jesus always.
  4. Arranging time to be with the new believer without a planned discussion, to allow friendship to grow. In this setting the new believer can talk about things that are on his or her mind and heart or ask questions. This will allow the discipler to better understand how well the new believer is grow-

ing spiritually or where he or she is struggling. “Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34).

5. Being alert to what God wants to teach him or her through the new believer, because God always works through fellowship between believers to benefit everyone involved.

## Plan of Action | The Discipling Process

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### A. Disciplers need to be trained before they disciple new believers.

1. Disciplers should always work through each session themselves before discussing the material with a new believer. This will help the discipler to know the material well and to be able to help the new believer better understand God’s truth.
2. If possible, disciplers should discuss each session with another Christian or in a small group before discussing it with a new believer. This will help them explain things more clearly.
3. Disciplers should bring their completed sessions to the meeting with the new believer as notes for reference.

### B. Disciplers need to know how to use the *THRIVE* sessions.


1. First meeting: Go through Session 1 with the new believer, assisting him or her to understand how to work through the material and to understand the truth and how it applies to everyday living. At the end of each meeting:
  - a. Explain and assign the daily time of study and prayer (quiet time) to be practiced until the next meeting between discipler and new believer.
  - b. Always take time to pray together without hurry, encouraging the new believer to talk to God as simply and naturally as if talking to another person. When you pray, use simple words so the new believer can learn how easy it is to pray by listening to you.
  - c. Arrange a regular weekly time to meet. Be faithful in meeting with new believers—even if they are not. Their spiritual life depends on it.
2. Second meeting: Go through Session 2 with the new believer, using the same activity format as with your first meeting. Give whatever help is

needed to find answers in God's Word, and discuss how those answers guide daily living. Review changes in the new believer's life, discuss their quiet-time experiences, and take turns praying. Turn to Session 3 in their handbook, and ask them to work through it on their own before your next meeting. Encourage new believers to give their best effort in completing the material but not to worry about any difficult parts. Assure them that when you meet, you will discuss and make clear the Bible's answers to the questions.

3. Third meeting: Discuss together the new believer's answers, questions, and other responses to Session 3. At the end of the meeting, give the new believer Session 4 to complete before the next meeting. Continue this process for the remaining sessions.

C. Disciplers should follow these guidelines for discipling others:

1. The sessions usually work best when used by one discipler with one new believer. If many new believers need to be disciplined, two or three can meet together with one discipler.
2. Contact the new believer at least once a week without a detailed plan for the conversation. This contact, by phone or in person, will let you check on how well the new believer is doing and will help your friendship grow.
3. Maintain a schedule for completing the sessions.
  - a. Meeting regularly is more important than completing an entire session at every meeting. Sometimes dealing with pressing needs in the new believer's life will require multiple meetings to finish a session.
  - b. If the new believer seems to be making a real effort to learn and grow, it is important to give him or her whatever time is necessary to understand and apply the truth to his or her life.

 Being a discipling friend actually begins with being a friend of sinners, as Jesus is. God wants us to rescue people from the fires of hell, but He also wants us to train (disciple) them to walk with Him in daily fellowship and obedience. An important part of their obeying God is for them to become discipling friends to others. Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19–20). So be sure to teach the new believer to disciple others while you also keep discipling new Christians.

# Appendix 1: Spiritual Health Assessment

	Doesn't describe me	Partially describes me	Generally describes me		
<b>Worship: You Were Planned for God's Pleasure</b>					
How I live my life shows that God is my highest priority. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am dependent on God for every aspect of my life. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am sensitive to the daily guidance of the Holy Spirit. ....	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in my life that I have not surrendered to (kept back from) God. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly meditate on God's Word and invite Him into my everyday activities. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I have a deep desire to spend time in God's presence. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am the same person in public that I am in private. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I have an overwhelming sense of God's awesomeness even when I do not feel His presence. ....	1	2	3	4	5

**Worship Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Connect: You Were Formed for God's Family

I am genuinely open and honest about who I am. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly use my time and resources to care for the needs of others. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I have a deep and meaningful connection with others in the church. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I have an easy time receiving advice, encouragement, and correction from others. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I gather regularly with Christians for fellowship and accountability. ....	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in my relationships that is currently unresolved. ....	1	2	3	4	5
There is nothing in the way I talk or act concerning others that I would not be willing to share with them. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit concerning my relationships and conversations. ....	1	2	3	4	5

**Connect Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Grow: You Were Created to Become Like Christ

I am quick to confess anything in my character that does not look like Christ. ....	1	2	3	4	5
A review of how I use my finances shows that I think more about God and others than I do about myself. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I allow God's Word to guide my thoughts and change my actions. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I intentionally seek to alter my lifestyle in a way that reflects the fruit of the Spirit. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am able to praise God during difficult times and see them as opportunities to grow. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I find I am making better choices to do what is right when I am tempted to do wrong. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I have found that prayer has changed how I view and interact with the world. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am consistent in pursuing spiritual habits that are helping me to model my life after Jesus. ....	1	2	3	4	5

**Grow Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Serve: You Were Shaped for Serving God

I regularly use my time to serve God. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am currently serving God with gifts and strengths He has given me. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly reflect on how my life can have an impact for the kingdom of God. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I often think about ways to use my God-given gifts and abilities to please God. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I enjoy meeting the needs of others without expecting anything in return. ....	1	2	3	4	5
Those closest to me would say my life is a reflection of giving more than receiving. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I see my painful experiences as opportunities to minister to others. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I daily seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in ways I can best serve God. ....	1	2	3	4	5

**Serve Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Go: You Were Made for a Mission

I feel personal responsibility to share my faith with those who don't know Jesus. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I am intentionally and actively using the power of the Holy Spirit in my personal life and witness. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I look for opportunities to build relationships with those who don't know Jesus. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I regularly pray for those who don't know Christ. ....	1	2	3	4	5
Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, I am more confident in my ability to share my faith. ....	1	2	3	4	5
My heart is full of passion to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who have never heard it. ....	1	2	3	4	5
I find that my relationship with Jesus comes up frequently in my conversations with those who don't know Him. ...	1	2	3	4	5
I am open to going anywhere God calls me, in whatever capacity, to share my faith. ....	1	2	3	4	5

**Go Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Transfer your scores to the Spiritual Health Plan on page 19.

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# Appendix 2: Friend Feedback Assessment

	Doesn't describe	Partially describes	Generally describes
<b>Worship: You Were Planned for God's Pleasure</b>			
It is apparent by the way this person lives his/her life that God is his/her highest priority.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is dependent on God for every aspect of his/her life.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is sensitive to the daily guidance of the Holy Spirit.....	1	2 3 4 5	
There is nothing in this person's life that he/she has not surrendered to (kept back from) God.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person regularly meditates on God's Word and invites Him into his/her everyday activities.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person has a deep desire to spend time in God's presence.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is the same person in public that he/she is in private.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person has an overwhelming sense of God's awesomeness even when he/she does not feel His presence.....	1	2 3 4 5	

**Worship Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Connect: You Were Formed for God's Family

It is apparent that this person is genuinely open and honest about who he/she is.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person regularly uses his/her time and resources to care for the needs of others.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person has a deep and meaningful connection with others in the church.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person has an easy time receiving advice, encouragement, and correction from others.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person gathers regularly with other Christians for fellowship and accountability.....	1	2 3 4 5	
There is nothing in this person's relationships that is currently unresolved.....	1	2 3 4 5	
There is nothing in the way this person talks or acts concerning others that he/she would not be willing to share with them in person.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit concerning his/her relationships and conversations.....	1	2 3 4 5	

**Connect Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Grow: You Were Created to Become Like Christ

This person is quick to confess anything in his/her character that does not look like Christ.....	1	2 3 4 5	
A review of how this person uses his/her finances shows that he/she thinks more about God and others than he/she does about himself/herself.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person allows God's Word to guide his/her thoughts and change his/her actions.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person intentionally seeks to alter his/her lifestyle in a way that reflects the fruit of the Spirit.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is able to praise God during difficult times and sees them as opportunities to grow.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person finds he/she is making better choices to do what is right when tempted to do wrong.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person has found that prayer has changed how he/she views and interacts with the world.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is consistent in pursuing spiritual habits that are helping him/her to model his/her life after Jesus.....	1	2 3 4 5	

**Grow Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Serve: You Were Shaped for Serving God

It is apparent that this person regularly uses his/her time to serve God.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is currently serving God with gifts and strengths He has given him/her.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person regularly reflects on how his/her life can have an impact for the kingdom of God.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person often thinks about ways to use his/her God-given gifts and abilities to please God.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person enjoys meeting the needs of others without expecting anything in return.....	1	2 3 4 5	
Those closest to this person would say his/her life is a reflection of giving more than receiving.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is able to see his/her painful experiences as opportunities to minister to others.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person daily seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit in ways he/she can best serve God.....	1	2 3 4 5	

**Serve Total** \_\_\_\_\_

## Go: You Were Made for a Mission

It is apparent that this person feels personal responsibility to share his/her faith with those who don't know Jesus. ..	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is intentionally and actively using the power of the Holy Spirit in his/her personal life and witness. ..	1	2 3 4 5	
This person looks for opportunities to build relationships with those who don't know Jesus.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person regularly prays for those who don't know Christ.....	1	2 3 4 5	
Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, this person is more confident in his/her ability to share his/her faith.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person's heart is full of passion to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those who have never heard it.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person finds that his/her relationship with Jesus comes up frequently in his/her conversations with those who don't know Him.....	1	2 3 4 5	
This person is open to going anywhere God calls him/her, in whatever capacity, to share his/her faith.....	1	2 3 4 5	

**Go Total** \_\_\_\_\_

Transfer these scores to the Spiritual Health Plan on page 19.

## APPENDIX 3

### ***ACTS 2 MODEL DISCIPLESHIP***

(Matt. 28:20 "teaching to do"; Heb. 10:24-25 "encouraging one another")

Five foundational **Biblical Functions** are named as essential to all followers of Christ by the **Acts 2 Model** - presented by the Discipleship Ministries Agency of the Assemblies of God. The DMA provides a "Spiritual Health Assessment" (see Appendix 1) for Christians at all levels of growth to assess themselves in these five areas by filling out the survey. One may also be assessed by a friend or spouse by having them fill out a "Friend Assessment Survey" (see Appendix 2). Scores for each function should be totaled and recorded. Functions with the lowest scores should be noted and targeted first for strengthening through individual study and application of appropriate lessons in this manual. This intentional growth process can also be pursued by discipleship partners or small groups who have also scored low on the same Biblical Functions. This kind of "encouraging one another" is referred to as "PEER DISCIPLING".

Biblical functions assessed are as follows. Note that they do not need to be viewed as working in a particular order – with the exception of Worship, which is the precedent to all of the other functions.

- a. **Worship** (passion for God),
- b. **Connect** (relationships with other believers),
- c. **Grow** (discipleship process),
- d. **Serve** (team ministries using spiritual giftings), and
- e. **Go** (relational witness with lost persons and discipling of new believers).

**THRIVE – A Handbook for Christian Growth** lessons address each of the five *Acts 2 Model* Biblical Functions as follows:

#### Worship

- L.1.** Your New Life in Jesus
- L.2** Knowing God is Always with You
- L.3** Worshiping God, Loving God(1<sup>st</sup> Com.)

#### Connect

- L.4** Working with God (2<sup>nd</sup> Com.)
- L.5** Your Spiritual Birth Announcement (water baptism)
- L.6** Knowing God as Your Father (begin on The Lord's Prayer)

#### Grow

- L.7** You are a Citizen of Heaven (Lordship)
- L.8** Your Daily Supply of Food (+ teaching on tithes/offerings)
- L.9** Your Daily Supply of Forgiveness (includes forgiving others)
- L.10** Freedom thru Dependence (resisting Satan & temptation)
- L.11** Remembering Jesus Together (Communion)

#### Serve

- L.12** Spiritual Living: The fruit of the Spirit gives motives and source of serving. SPIRITUAL SERVICE GIFTS SURVEY (Appendix 4) defines & assesses characteristics that help identify respective gifts.

#### Go

- L.13** Going with the Flow (Spirit baptism )
- L.14** Sowing Gospel Seed (witnessing)
- L.15** Reaping (leading someone to Christ)



## Spiritual Gifts Outline

by James H. Hall

Intro:

"Go after love. Really want God to step in and do things". (John 5:19-20; I Cor.12:31-13:1; 14:1)

### I. Service Gifts - ongoing ministries for ongoing needs (Romans 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:28)

#### A. Continual needs

1. Focus should be on need awareness and compassionate response.
2. Not on personal enjoyment/fulfillment.

#### B. "Service gifts" - continuing activity to meet continuing needs

1. Prophecy – speaking out the truth about the issues of life. (John the Baptist)
2. Serving/Helps – action to help with the many kinds of everyday needs. (Martha)
3. Teaching – explaining to others the truth in the Bible and how to live by it. (Paul)
4. Exhortation – getting in someone's face about following the truth they know. (Barnabas)
5. Giving – sharing physical resources to meet needs. (Joseph of Arimathea.)
6. Leadership/Administration – planning/overseeing teamwork to get things done. (Nehemiah)
7. Mercy – feeling for people in pain and helping them. (Good Samaritan)

#### C. Self-appraisal ("Which one[s] DO I have?" Eph. 4:12)

1. The command to check yourself out – Rom. 12:3,6a; I Tim. 4:16
2. Question: "What is God helping me believe I can do?" (I Peter 4:10-11; Rom. 12:6b)

Summary: God has plans for different people to do different things to meet different kinds of needs. What needs do you really *want* to help meet – and believe that you *could* help meet.

### II. Occasion Gifts – for specific occasions to meet occasional needs.

#### A. Occasional needs (I Cor. 12:4-6)

1. What is especially needed right now?
2. "Lord, how and through whom do You want to meet this immediate need?"

#### B. Occasion gifts are immediate responses to occasional needs. (I Cor. 12:7, 11)

1. Wisdom – knowing what to do when we can't tell from Scripture or circumstances.
2. Knowledge – knowing information that is not humanly available.
3. Faith – special faith that God will act in a specific situation.
4. Gifts of healings – when God gives power to heal certain physical needs.
5. Miracles – power given to meet needs beyond man's ability.
6. Prophecy, Tongues and Interpretation – God speaking *through* His people *to* His people.
7. Discerning of spirits – knowing what spirit is producing behavior at hand.

#### C. The Spirit may give a gift through **any believer** at **any time** to meet **any need**.

Summary: God is always alert to immediate needs and ready to meet them through believers who are paying attention and ready to cooperate with Him per His guidance. When have you had an unusual feeling that you were supposed to do something? Did you do it? What happened?

CONCLUSION: We should all

- 1) Be regularly exercising one or more service gifts, and
- 2) Always pay attention to the Spirit to be used in occasional gifts.



# SERVICE GIFTS SURVEY

## RECOGNIZE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE GIFT(S)

(Beside each number, write “Y” [Yes], “N” [No], or “U” [Uncertain] – and then total the number of “Y’s” for each gift.)

### **1. GIFT OF PROPHECY – the Spirit-given ability to speak God’s truth in/for a particular situation, with a view to correction, edification, or direction for a future situation. (John the Baptist)**

- 1. A strong desire to express his message to those he/she feels need to hear it.
- 2. The ability to discern the character and motives of people. (II Peter 2:1-3)
- 3. The capacity to identify, define and hate evil. (Romans 12:9)
- 4. The willingness to experience brokenness to prompt brokenness. (John 20:21)
- 5. The dependence on Scriptural truth to validate his/her authority. (I Peter 4:11)
- 6. A desire for outward behavior to demonstrate inward conviction. (I Cor. 14:25)
- 7. A directness, frankness, and persuasiveness in speaking. (Titus 2:8; Luke 3:7-8a)
- 8. A concern for the reputation and program of God. (II Samuel 12:14)
- 9. An inward weeping and personal identification with the sins of those he/she talks with.
- 10. An eagerness to have others point out his blind spots. “Then I will teach other sinners and they will repent.” (Ps 51)

(weaknesses)

- 1. A tendency to feel responsible for everyone, so it is hard to hold back when seeing things that are wrong.
- 2. A tendency to draw hasty conclusions on a few known facts, based on a built-in sense of right and wrong.
- 3. Coming to a hasty conclusion can lead to looking for confirming evidence, which can lead to taking words and actions out of context in order to prove a point. (This often reinforces a condemning spirit.)
- 4. Tendency to judge a Christian brother/sister based on known evidence at hand and not to be concerned about helping him/her overcome the problem.
- 5. “Insight” into another’s problems may be prematurely or harshly shared with them without waiting for the leading of the Spirit.
- 6. If something is partly right and partly wrong, there is a tendency to see it in extremes of either all right or all wrong. Also may magnify failures to promote repentance.
- 7. A tendency to be extremely self-critical and feel worthless when he/she fails.
- 8. Boldness and strict standards may hinder close relationships. A friend who has failed may even be cut off from fellowship.

### **2. GIFT OF SERVING (MINISTERING, HELPING) – The Spirit-given ability and attitude to serve people in supporting deeds or roles - usually practical assistance for common or physical needs. (Martha)**

- 1. The ability to recall specific likes and dislikes of people.
- 2. Alertness to detect and meet practical needs. Especially enjoys manual projects (vs. more “spiritual” activities).
- 3. The motivation to meet needs as quickly as possible.
- 4. Physical stamina to fulfill needs with disregard for weariness.
- 5. The willingness to use personal funds to avoid delays in a need being met.
- 6. The desire to sense sincere appreciation and the ability to detect insincerity.
- 7. The desire to complete a job with evidence of it being well done.
- 8. Involvement in a variety of activities with difficulty in saying “no”.
- 9. Prefers doing to talking or leading.
- 10. The tendency to think of serving deeds as relatively “un-spiritual”.

## **GIFT OF SERVING (cont'd)**

(weaknesses)

- \_\_ 1. Tendency to disregard personal comforts and home responsibilities in order to help others.
- \_\_ 2. Difficulty in saying “no”, leading to involvement in too many projects at the same time.
- \_\_ 3. Frequent disregard for personal physical limitations, creating physical exhaustion.
- \_\_ 4. Obsessive drive to “get things done”.
- \_\_ 5. Tendency to go around proper channels & use personal funds, if needed, to get jobs done as soon as possible.
- \_\_ 6. Extreme difficulty in delegating jobs to others, preferring to do the jobs themselves.
- \_\_ 7. A deep desire for sincere appreciation from the ones they serve.
- \_\_ 8. Capacity to stop what they are doing and give a “helping hand” to another need which they see, sometimes causing those they serve to become frustrated with them.

## **3. GIFT OF TEACHING – The Spirit-endowed ability to acquire truth, model it in one’s life, communicate it systematically and clearly, and apply it in a manner that increasingly transforms the student into the image of Christ. (Paul)**

- \_\_ 1. A keen interest in the personal study of the Word and in the disciplines involved in the studying of the Scriptures.
- \_\_ 2. A love of people and desire to converse with them regarding God’s truth.
- \_\_ 3. A joy in the research of truth, often equal to or surpassing the joy of presenting it.
- \_\_ 4. The ability to analyze and systematize truth and to communicate it clearly.
- \_\_ 5. The ability to apply the Word of God in such a way that the students show evidence of growth in Christ-likeness.
- \_\_ 6. A belief that this gift is foundational to other gifts.
- \_\_ 7. An emphasis on the accuracy of words and careful selection of memorable (vivid) language.
- \_\_ 8. A testing of the knowledge of those who teach him/her.
- \_\_ 9. The validation of new information by established systems of truth.
- \_\_ 10. A motivation to teach – including the enjoyment of it.

(weaknesses)

- \_\_ 1. The tendency to develop an attitude of pride as a result of his/her learning.
- \_\_ 2. The tendency to discount learning which does not take place in the classroom.
- \_\_ 3. An attitude of “It isn’t right until I check it out and say it is right.”
- \_\_ 4. The tendency to criticize sound teaching because of technical flaws or little factual errors.
- \_\_ 5. The tendency to depend more on research and giving information for effective communication, than on the Spirit.
- \_\_ 6. Tendency to give much information & validate Scriptural interpretation, & then be weak on practical application.
- \_\_ 7. The tendency to give extensive background details to validate a point or to display research ability and knowledge, which sometimes wearies or bores the listeners.
- \_\_ 8. Neglect of relationships due to giving so much time and energy to reading and study.

## **4. GIFT OF EXHORTATION – The Spirit-endowed ability to help another with words of encouragement, comfort, or exhortation.” (most preaching and counseling) (Barnabas)**

- \_\_ 1. A desire to visualize specific achievement and prescribe precise steps of action.
- \_\_ 2. A tendency to avoid systems of information that lack practical application.
- \_\_ 3. The ability to see how tribulation can produce new levels of maturity.
- \_\_ 4. A dependence on visible acceptance when speaking to individuals or groups. (“Do I hear an ‘amen?’”)
- \_\_ 5. The discovery of insights from human experience that can be validated and amplified in Scripture.

- \_\_6. An enjoyment with those eager to follow steps of action.
- \_\_7. A grief when teaching is not accompanied by practical steps of action.
- \_\_8. A delight in personal conversations that result in new insights.
- \_\_9. The readiness to give a person a second chance.
- \_\_10. Tend to be readily approached by others for counsel and encouragement. (good listeners)

(weaknesses)

- \_\_1. In visualizing long-range projects and goals for people, there is a tendency to give the impression that the goals can be reached much sooner than is realistic.
- \_\_2. A tendency to take “family time” to counsel or encourage others.
- \_\_3. Emphasis on steps of action may appear to be over-simplification of the problem or insensitivity to the feelings of the person being helped.
- \_\_4. Tendency to use illustrations of other people’s experiences and problems without their permission.
- \_\_5. Tendency to encourage persons being helped to depend on them more than on God.
- \_\_6. Enthusiastic approval of apparent progress can encourage outward conformity without an actual change of heart.
- \_\_7. Tendency to prefer “practical solutions” without Biblical foundation, when Biblical methods seem “impractical”, or may use Scripture passages out of context to support steps of action.
- \_\_8. Tendency to categorize the problem in their mind before hearing all the important facts (and give solutions), or before perceiving whether a person is open to receiving help.

**5. GIFT OF GIVING – The God-given ability, perhaps to earn, certainly to give, money or material things out of simple generosity, with care and cheer. (Joseph of Arimathea)**

- \_\_1. An ability to make wise purchases and investments.
- \_\_2. A desire to give quietly to effective projects or ministries (avoiding pressure of publicity).
- \_\_3. Attempt to use his/her giving to motivate others to give.
- \_\_4. An alertness to valid needs which he/she fears others might overlook.
- \_\_5. An enjoyment of meeting needs without the pressure of appeals.
- \_\_6. A joy when one’s gift is an answer to prayer.
- \_\_7. A concern that his/her gift be of high quality.
- \_\_8. A desire to feel a part of the work or person to whom he/she gives.
- \_\_9. No hesitation in tithing.
- \_\_10. Desire for God to get the glory.

(weaknesses)

- \_\_1. A tendency to give too sparingly to one’s own family, while giving generously to others.
- \_\_2. A resentment from family members regarding his/her generosity to others.
- \_\_3. The capacity to be deceived by people with wrong motives and unscriptural counsel.
- \_\_4. A tendency to put pressure on people who have less to give.
- \_\_5. Failure to discern God’s promptings and follow their own inclinations regarding a specific gift.
- \_\_6. A tendency to judge those who misuse funds rather than advising them.
- \_\_7. May seek to control people or ministries by their gifts.
- \_\_8. May allow those who receive their gifts to begin looking to the givers rather than to God.

**6. GIFT OF RULING OR ADMINISTRATION – A God-given capacity to envision, plan, organize, and administer with efficiency and spirituality that brings a project to a satisfactory conclusion with harmony and evident blessing. (Nehemiah)**

- 1. An ability to see the overall picture and to clarify long-range goals.
- 2. A motivation to organize that for which he/she is responsible.
- 3. A desire to complete tasks as quickly as possible.
- 4. An awareness of the resources available to complete a task.
- 5. An ability to know what can or cannot be delegated.
- 6. A tendency to stand on the sidelines until those in charge turn over responsibility to him/her.
- 7. A tendency to assume responsibility if no structured leadership exists.
- 8. An ability to endure reaction from workers in order to accomplish the ultimate task.
- 9. A fulfillment in seeing all the pieces coming together and others enjoying the finished product.
- 10. A desire to move on to new challenges when a previous task is fully completed.

(weaknesses)

- 1. A tendency to view people as “human resources” rather than human beings.
- 2. A tendency to yield to the temptation to use people under their supervision to accomplish personal ambitions.
- 3. Showing of favoritism to those who appear more loyal.
- 4. A readiness and ability to take charge, leading to the taking on of projects that were not God’s direction.
- 5. A tendency to delegate more work to individuals than they can reasonably accomplish.
- 6. The willingness to overlook major character faults in the lives of those who are useful in reaching their goals.
- 7. The capacity to become unresponsive to valid suggestions and complaints of those who are working with them.
- 8. Failure to give adequate explanations and praise to workers.

**7. GIFT OF MERCY – The Spirit-guided ability to manifest practical, compassionate, cheerful love toward those in distress, especially those whom the majority ignores. (Good Samaritan)**

- 1. The ability to feel an atmosphere of joy or distress in an individual or group.
- 2. An attraction to and an understanding of people who are in distress.
- 3. A desire to remove hurts and bring healing to others (compassion).
- 4. A greater concern for mental distress than physical distress.
- 5. An avoidance of firmness unless he/she sees how it will bring benefit.
- 6. A sensitivity to words and actions that will hurt other people.
- 7. An enjoyment and unity with those who are sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.
- 8. A closing of his/her spirit to those who are insincere and insensitive.
- 9. Patient with the shortcomings of those in need.
- 10. Tendency to be hurt when friends don’t reciprocate the same level of devotion and sensitivity.

(weaknesses)

- 1. A failure to be firm and decisive when necessary, from not wanting to hurt others.
- 2. The capacity to easily take up offenses for those who have been hurt, especially if it is a friend.
- 3. A tendency to base decisions on feelings rather than reasons.
- 4. A tendency to promote improper affections from those of the opposite gender, due to their sensitivity & understanding.
- 5. A tendency to cut off fellowship with those who are insensitive to others.
- 6. A reaction to the idea that God would allow a person to suffer for any good purpose.
- 7. Encouraging and giving sympathy to those who are suffering as a direct result of violating God’s moral laws.

\_\_8. A tendency to be possessive in friendships and to be deeply hurt when there is not a mutual commitment by the other person to the friendship.

TOTAL AND FILL IN BELOW THE NUMBER OF "Y's" FOR EACH GIFT (including both strengths and weaknesses)

Prophecy	Serving	Teaching	Exhortation	Giving	Administration	Mercy