

CLAYTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



MADE
MADE FOR
MADE FOR MORE
FOR MORE
MORE

LIFE GROUP KIT

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IN REGARDS TO CAREER...

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Welcome to our “Made for More” Life Group Kit. We hope that through this kit you will learn more about your giftings and passion, the way God has made you, and how this unique make-up can be used to lead a fulfilling and God honouring life.

In this first week we will be spending some time learning about spiritual gifts, what they are and what ours might be, as well as doing a short profile on us as a person. The purpose of this is to give us a helpful insight into who we are and how we might be best positioned in the Kingdom.

We understand the teaching around spiritual gifts is sometimes unclear and can feel conflicting and complicated. We won't be able to answer every question fully, but we are intending to provide a basic framework that explains the position of our Church Senior Leadership team and gives you opportunities to learn and grow more.

Because of this, we are offering four pathways, each with different materials and options, depending on how you want to approach this Made for More series.

1 – “Discover”

- a) 10-minute spiritual gifts test
- b) “My Profile” either online or through this LG Kit.
- c) Join a Life Group

2 – “Share”

- a) 10-minute My Profile response summary

3 – “Grow”

- a) Learn by yourself. Detailed descriptions and applications of the gifts
- b) Learn as a group: 5 week spiritual gift course on Zoom, starting 20th Aug.

4 – “Serve”

- a) Serving Opportunities



INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

This booklet is designed to be self-contained and usable on its own, but we encourage you to also seek to contribute into the “Share” and “Grow” pathways by filling out the online forms available.

Some foundational information:

We believe that in the ministry of Jesus, he displayed healing, teaching, pastoral work, grace, etc etc, and we also believe that the ministry of Jesus was done through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks of laying aside his privileges of being God, in John 5:19 we read, **“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.'”**

Philippians 2:7 says, **“rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”**

This is not to say that Jesus gave up his position as being God, as Colossians 2:9 says, **“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...”**. Rather that Jesus was willing to lay aside the benefit of his own divinity, and lay claim to the divinity that was given to him through God and the Holy Spirit. See John 3:34, **“For he is sent by God. He speaks God’s words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit.”**



To recap, we believe Jesus is God and has all the power of God. We also believe that Jesus laid aside his claim to that divine power from himself while on earth and relied on the power of God and the Holy Spirit.



INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

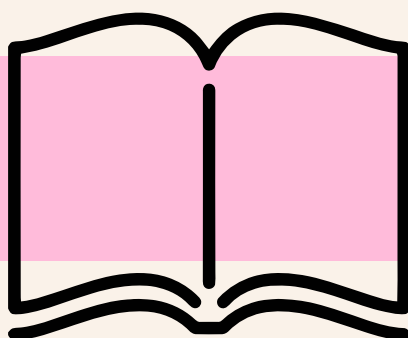
Next, we see that Scripture teaching us that the same Holy Spirit that was working in and through Jesus is now gifted to anyone who is a Christian.

JOHN 14:12-17

12 "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL DO THE SAME WORKS I HAVE DONE, AND EVEN GREATER WORKS, BECAUSE I AM GOING TO BE WITH THE FATHER. 13 YOU CAN ASK FOR ANYTHING IN MY NAME, AND I WILL DO IT, SO THAT THE SON CAN BRING GLORY TO THE FATHER. 14 YES, ASK ME FOR ANYTHING IN MY NAME, AND I WILL DO IT!

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

15 "IF YOU LOVE ME, OBEY MY COMMANDMENTS. 16 AND I WILL ASK THE FATHER, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE, [E] WHO WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU. 17 HE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO LEADS INTO ALL TRUTH. THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE HIM, BECAUSE IT ISN'T LOOKING FOR HIM AND DOESN'T RECOGNIZE HIM. BUT YOU KNOW HIM, BECAUSE HE LIVES WITH YOU NOW AND LATER WILL BE IN YOU.



GALATIANS 4:6

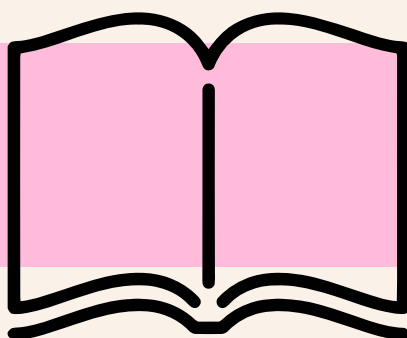
"AND BECAUSE WE ARE HIS CHILDREN, GOD HAS SENT THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO OUR HEARTS, PROMPTING US TO CALL OUT, "ABBA, FATHER."



INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

2 COR. 1:22

“AND HE HAS IDENTIFIED US AS HIS OWN BY PLACING THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR HEARTS AS THE FIRST INSTALMENT THAT GUARANTEES EVERYTHING HE HAS PROMISED US.”

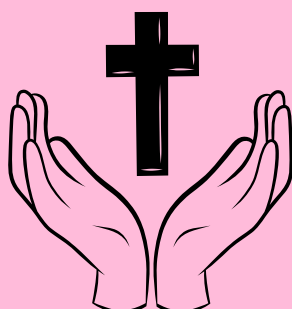
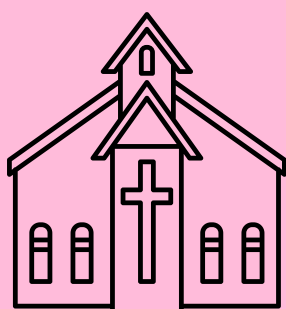


ROMANS 8:11

“THE SAME SPIRIT, WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD, LIVES IN YOU. AND JUST AS HE RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD, HE WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODY BY THE SAME SPIRIT LIVING WITHIN YOU.”

Finally, we believe that the Christians are to work together, both within the church context and outside the church context, using their giftings and passions to glorify God and to grow His kingdom.

Ephesians 4:1-16 paints a picture of a unified body of believers, listing some gifts that are used within a church context, and continues to say that we have been designed to fit together and to help each other work better.



INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Not everyone agrees on the role of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts, and here are some different points of view that you might come across.

1) Cessationist Position - the supernatural gifts like tongues, prophesy, healing, miracles function only in the early church and are not to be practiced today. This originated from the early church Father Augustine – his early position was this and later changed his mind. In modern era a theologian named Benjamin Warfield, who was afraid that if we allow tongues and prophesy then we would have revelation that would be in competition with the authority of the Bible. He and others argued for the early Augustinian cessation position in an effort to get rid of lesser forms of revelation so that there would be no competition for the Bible. People often are inclined this way because of their experiences with weird, unbalanced and extreme people who practice the gifts. We do not hold this position.



VS

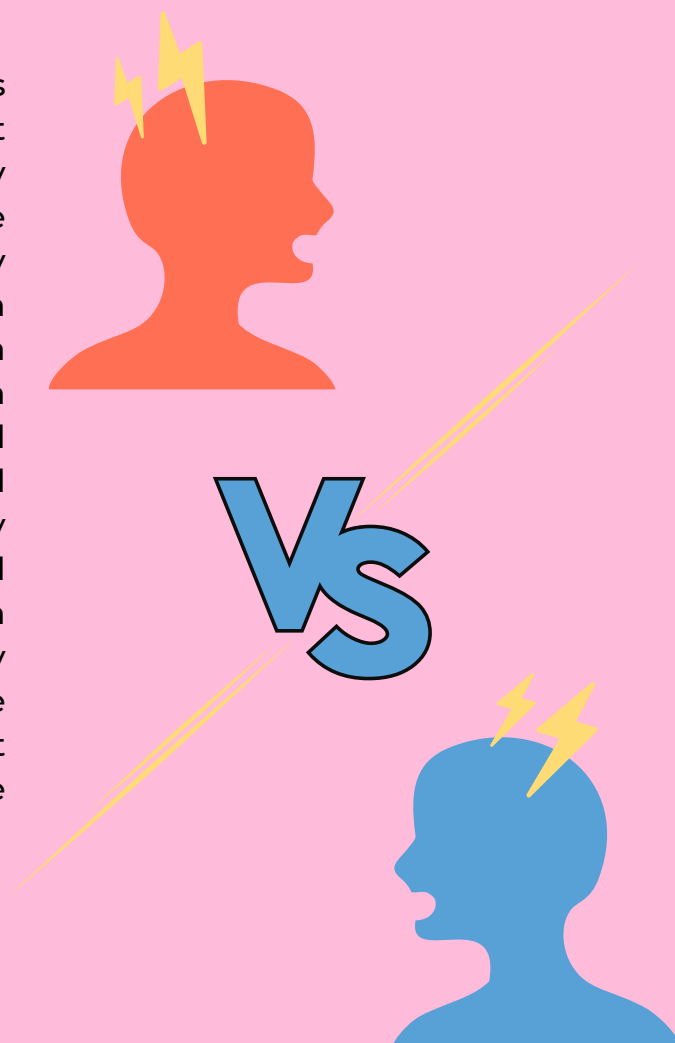


2) Controlled Charismatic Position – imagine the idea of charismatic freedom with a seatbelt. This position believes supernatural gifts are given to every generation and should be practiced today according to the limits of Scripture. We believe in tongues, prophesy, healings and miracles but practiced in a way that are biblical not violating the teachings of the Bible. There are rules for tongues, prophesies etc. that govern how these gifts are to be practiced. All these gifts exist today, sometimes they are abused, but as long as we obey the teachings of the Bible and maintain it as the highest authority, we can prevent a lot of the confusion and harm that may be caused by misuse.



INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

3) Uncontrolled Charismatic Position – It is like the charismatic position in that it believes all the gifts are for today, but they tend to functionally have a lower view of the Bible. They wouldn't say that, but they function as if contemporary revelation is in fact equal to the Bible. An example may be a person who can read the Word, and then begins to prophesy as if that is also the Word of God and not speak reference to the actual Word of God. The Bible is the final authority and we must test everything that is said and spoken according to it. There can be an abusive spiritual power – 'I am anointed by God and I speak on His behalf. Put your Bible down and listen to me.' That is how you start a toxic ministry that is more about the person than it is about God.



4) Pentecostal Position – all the gifts are in operation with this exception, that some Christians have the Holy Spirit and some don't. The only way you know you have the Holy Spirit is if you speak in tongues and tongues are essentially THE EVIDENCE for having the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul, however, says that God gives gifts to each person as He determines and we all won't speak in tongues or have the same gifts. Once Ps Mark Driscoll was told that he didn't have the Holy Spirit. But he asks, if I didn't have the Holy Spirit, how do I get convicted of sin, the change of heart, renewed mind, love for Jesus, an understanding of Scripture and the ability to serve God without the Holy Spirit? How? He has the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills us at the moment of salvation. Our position is that, if you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not EXCLUSIVELY evidenced by the speaking of tongues. Some will and some don't and God hands it out to us just as He determines.



INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL GIFTS

This is obviously a crash course in the beautiful and intricate arena of Spiritual Gifts, and we would love to offer more insight and learning through our other pathway, **“Help me grow further”**.

This leads us now to the section where we do a short Gifts Test, and a Personal Profile that explores your style of operating and passions. Even though these are simple tests, we believe that they can give you an insight that allows you to step forward into understanding how you are made and what you are made for.

Please spend some time now filling out a free Spiritual Gifts test, and then a basic Personal Profile.

- 1) Fill out the Spiritual Gifts test found at:

<https://giftstest.com/test>

- 2) Once this test is done, please make sure to screenshot or download the results so that you are able to keep track of your results.
- 3) Read up on the definitions of the gifts, as the gifts might not mean exactly what you think they do.

Next, walk through the **Personal Profile** questions on the next page of this booklet, filling out the one-page summary at the end. There is an example of the final summary page here for you to see what it will look like when finished:



MY PROFILE

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Note: see page 2 for a sample copy on how to complete the My Profile form

1. MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS *(what I do best)*

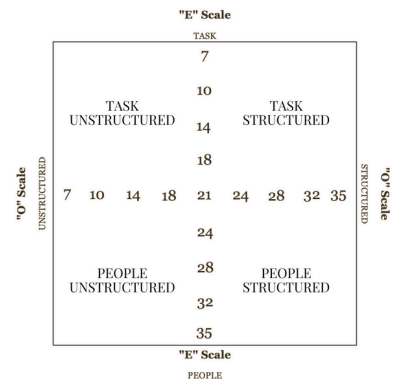
1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____

(note: to input results from the spiritual gifts test here (<https://giftstest.com/test>))

2. MY PERSONALITY *(how I best serve)*

I am energised by - PEOPLE / TASKS

I am organised by - STRUCTURED / UNSTRUCTURED



(note: circle your answer based on the personality style assessment completed on page 3 to 5)

3. MY EXPERIENCE *(why do I do what I do)*

Life - _____

(e.g. migrant, non-believer to believer, change of career, sickness, grief, divorce, blended family, single parenting, etc)

Work/Skills - _____

(e.g. carpentry, mental health worker, chaplain, dentistry, pastor, organisational leadership, strategic thinking, video creation, social media influencer, web designer, communications, etc)

Hobbies - _____

(e.g. fishing, music, coffee, basketball, golf, travelling, swimming, art, etc)

4. MY PASSION *(where I best serve)*

My passion area - _____

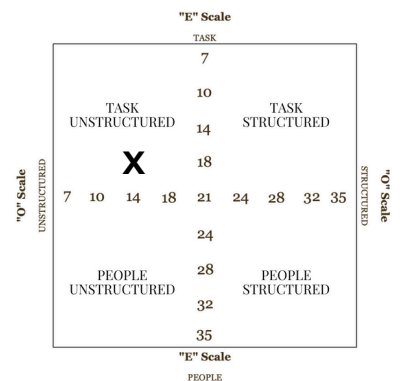
My people group - _____

My social concerns - _____

(note: refer to pages 6 to 9 for details to complete this section)

1. Discernment
2. Word of Wisdom
3. Apostleship
4. Teaching
5. Word of Knowledge

I am organised by - UNSTRUCTURED



Hobbies - music, coffee, swimming, basketball, golf, travel

My social concerns - discipleship / empowering for God's mission in all of life

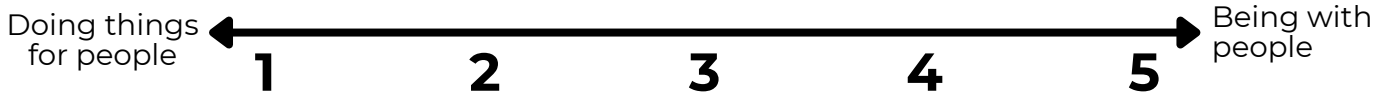
PERSONALITY

11

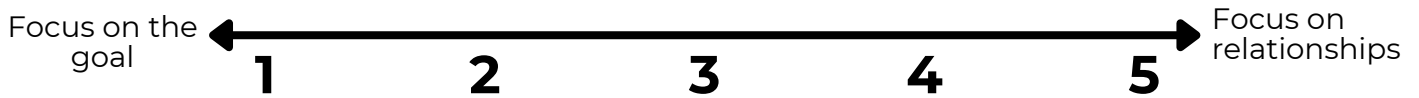
Please circle your answers and add the numbers below in TOTAL.

Personal Style Assessment - How are you ENERGISED?

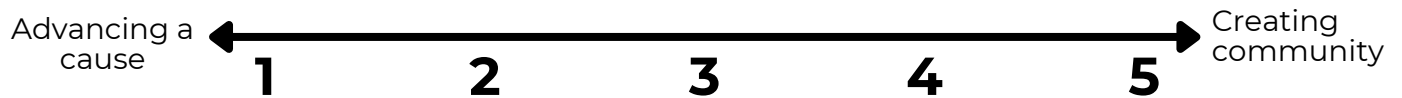
1. I am more comfortable...



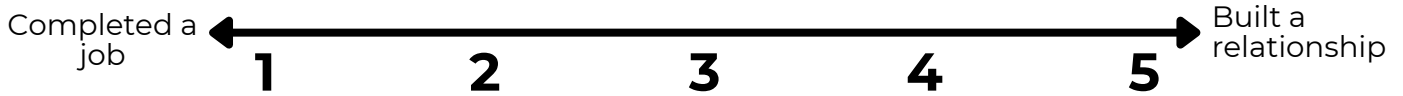
2. When doing a task, I tend to...



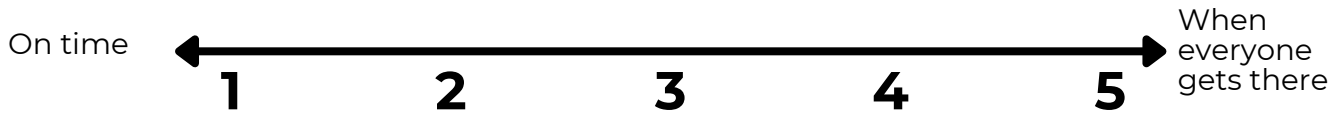
3. I get more excited about...



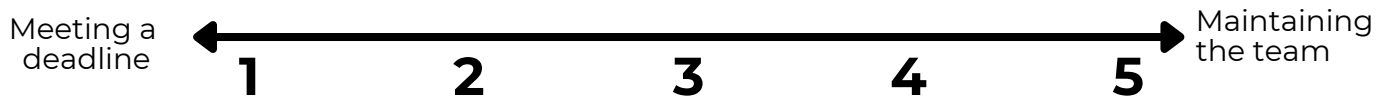
4. I feel I have accomplished something when I've...



5. It is more important to start a meeting...



6. I am more concerned with...



7. I place a higher value on...



How are you ENERGISED?

Total: **E=**

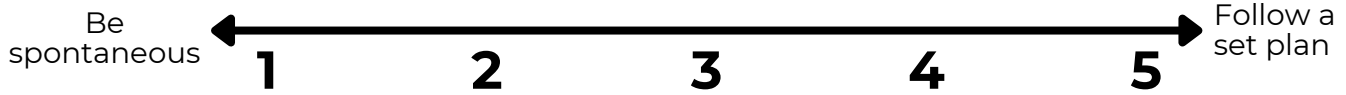
PERSONALITY

Please circle your answers and add the numbers below in TOTAL.

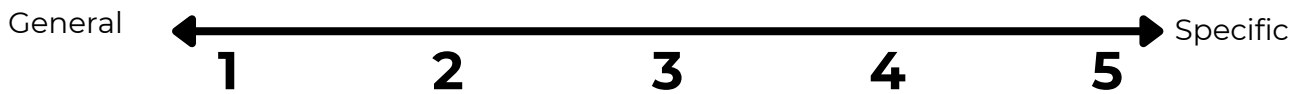
12

Personal Style Assessment - How are you ORGANISED?

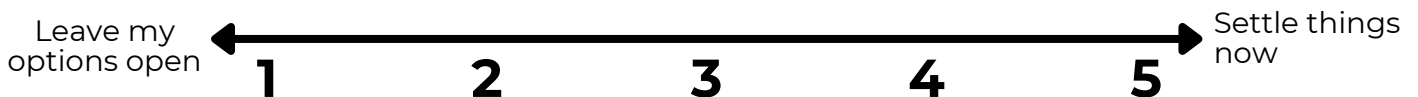
1. In life, I generally prefer to...



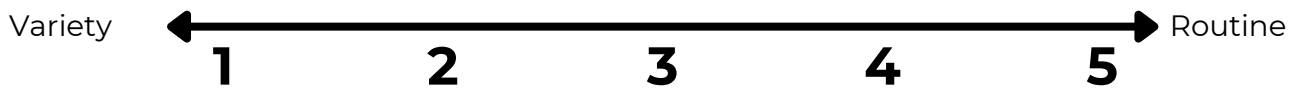
2. I prefer to set guidelines that are...



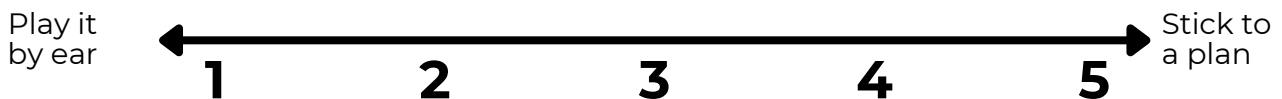
3. I prefer to...



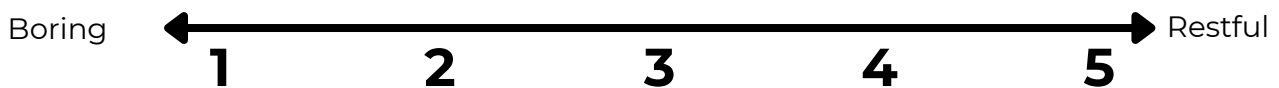
4. I prefer projects that have...



5. I like to...



6. I find routine...



7. I accomplish tasks best...

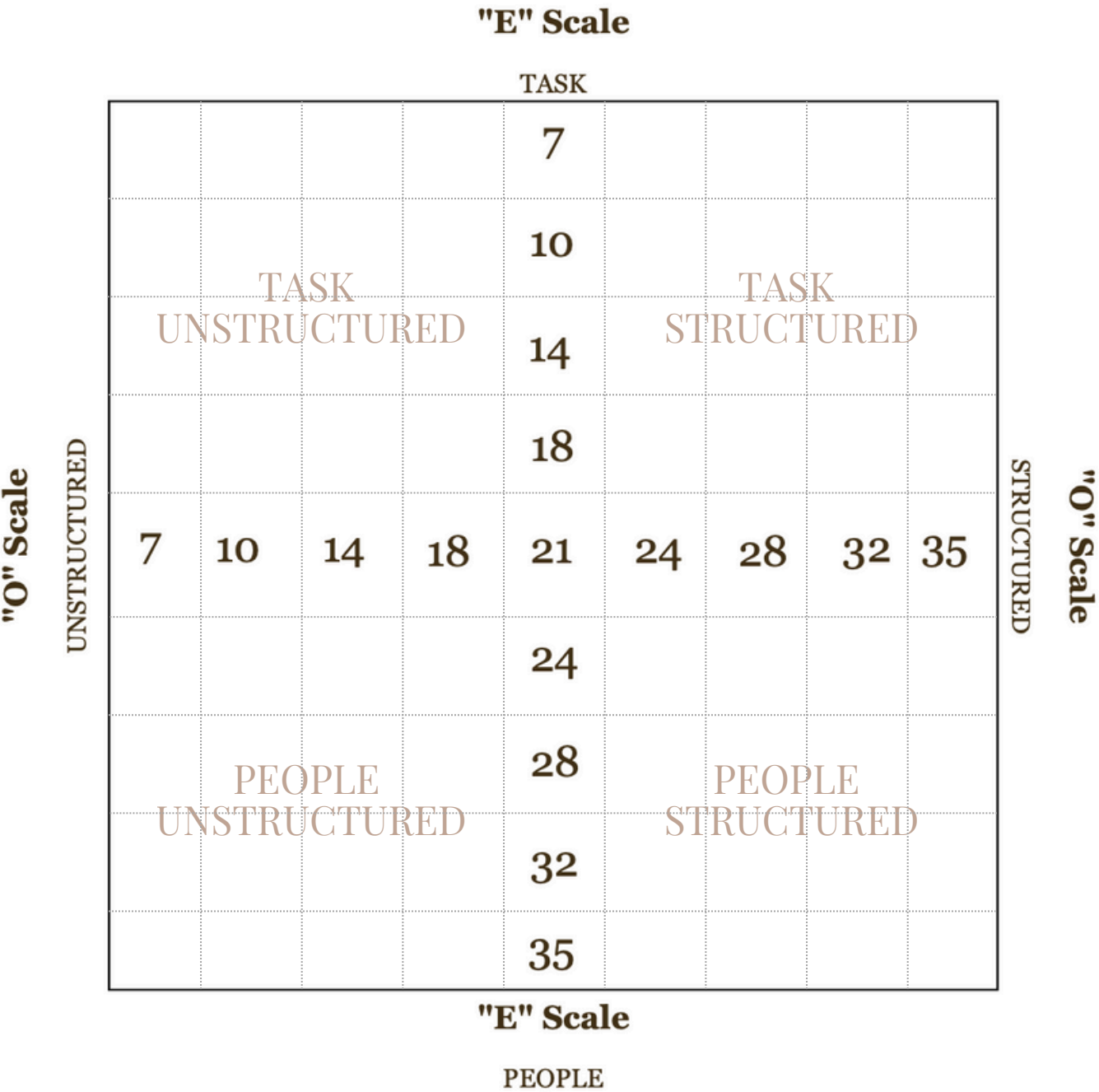


How are you ORGANISED?

Total: ○ =

YOUR PREFERRED STYLE

Based on your E and O scores, please place an X or a tick in the graph below.



Which of the four Personal Styles do you have?

My Personal Style is:

Some Ministry Passions can be centred around a people group or a social issue. Consider the partial lists and indicate any that tug at your heart by circling it. It is okay if you do not have a desire to make a difference in any of these areas.

PEOPLE GROUPS			
Women	Men	Parents	Families with young children
Singles	Single parents	Children	Youth
Tertiary	Young adults	Young and married	Divorced
Widowed	Empty nesters	Elderly	Migrants
Marginalised	Vulnerable	Disability	Others: _____

MY PEOPLE GROUP:

SOCIAL GROUPS			
Environment	Poverty	Addictions	Politics
Discipleship	Hunger	Technology	Economic
Violence	Injustice	Family	Health Care
Education	Sexuality	Literacy	Abortion
Reaching the Lost	Marriage	Others: _____	

MY SOCIAL CONCERNS:

Passion Area	Description	Serving Opportunities	
		In Clayton Church	Everyday World
Enabling Church enabled by strong governance & the right support	A church that builds adaptability in its governance & operations to enable and empower the fulfilment of the vision. A church that is above reproach, that faithfully stewards its resources and cultivates healthy accountability & empowerment of its people.	<p>Governance - church board, board internship, subcommittees (policy, finance)</p> <p>Operations - office admin, event admin, kitchen, building, policy, IT support, facilities support, land/building project committee</p> <p>Finances - finance support, stewardship committee to create a financial discipleship culture</p>	<p>Governance - governing board of other organisations</p> <p>Finances – using financial skills to help vulnerable individuals, missionaries etc.</p> <p>Together For Clayton & Beyond – operational and administrative support for our local network of churches</p>
Christ Centred Church <i>thriving in groups gathered around Jesus</i>	A church thriving in groups gathered around Jesus. A church whose head is Jesus, and whose help is the Holy Spirit. A church that reveals Jesus better together to the world than alone. A church that gathers in life groups and Sunday celebrations experiencing life transformation through the uncompromising truth of God's Word, their encounters with the Holy Spirit and the tangible love of Jesus through one another. A church that encounters more of Jesus together than alone.	<p>Sunday Services - worship, audiovisual, safety and security, preaching, design, stage managers, musicians (eg drummers), communion leaders, service leaders</p> <p>Chapel service - sound and media operator</p> <p>Creative Comms - social media, website, video production</p> <p>Next Generations Ministry - creche, kids church, youth, campus, young adults</p> <p>Life group leadership</p> <p>Gathering Ministry - Women, Men, 55 plus ministry</p> <p>Pastoral Care - Elderly, Sick Marriage - Pre marriage, Marriage</p> <p>Prayer/Prophetic Ministry</p> <p>Connect Team</p> <p>New believers - mentors ALPHA - facilitators</p>	<p>Cafe Care Ministry – supporting vulnerable people both spiritually and practically</p> <p>Together For Clayton and Beyond – prayer and church plant initiatives</p> <p>Social media - digital discipleship</p> <p>External organisations eg Churches of Christ denomination, Focus on the Family, Missions Australia, Wealth with Purpose</p>

Passion Area	Description	Serving Opportunities	
		In Clayton Church	Everyday World
Everyday Church <i>representing Jesus in our everyday moments</i>	<p>A church that believes Christ wants to be in everyone, everywhere and in everything. A church where people are freed from the disease of ME and everyday life becomes opportunities to represent Jesus - where mistakes become opportunities to model Christ-like humility, promotion to model Christ-like servanthood, work to contribute to society, family to pass the baton of faith to the next generation, hobbies to build relationships with those far from Jesus, money to bless and serve those in need. People who are discipled in the every day and people who make disciples in the everyday moments.</p>	<p>Mother's group</p> <p>Small business</p> <p>Parenting / Family</p> <p>Workplace ministry</p> <p>Non for profit organisations</p> <p>Playgroup</p>	<p>Christian singles eg Space Between network (Joelle Kabamba)</p> <p>Faith and work eg City Bible Forum</p> <p>Families and marriage eg Focus on the Family</p>
Local Church <i>walking alongside stakeholders to transform Clayton</i>	<p>A church that embraces the community of Clayton as our own. We see ourselves becoming a people that walks alongside the community leaders, seeking to make the city better together. A people through whom acceptance is given, hope is re-birthed, restoration discovered and Christ is found. A people who embrace our unique calling to be His light in the most multicultural suburb in one of the most multicultural nations. A people where Jesus has broken down our walls of prejudice so we can build a diverse, multicultural and united church that reflects our community.</p>	<p>Love Loud You Fit</p> <p>Love Loud Meals - meal coordinator, delivery drivers</p> <p>Love Loud Sow A Seed</p> <p>Love Loud Love Thy Neighbour</p> <p>Encounter English Learning - tutors or teachers</p> <p>Playgroup - helpers</p> <p>Evangelism</p>	<p>Together for Clayton and Beyond – evangelism network</p> <p>Neighbourhood Houses – Dixon, Nottingham House</p> <p>Monash Council – interest in serving the Clayton community with your skills</p>

PASSION AREA

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Passion Area	Description	Serving Opportunities	
		In Clayton Church	Everyday World
Global Church <i>reaching the unreached people groups</i>	A church that welcomes and makes a home for international students, to disciple and send them back globally with a commitment and vision of the Great Commission . A church that focuses on global mission partnerships that empower a disciple-making movement globally among the unreached people groups	Global committee Pastoral Care for Global Workers Training & Mobilising Short Term Mission (STM) Global worker among unreached people groups Global unreached diaspora workers Financial support/advise for global workers	Other missions organisations - Compassion Australia, Missions Australia, World Vision, Church Missionary Society
Pioneering Church <i>pioneering new frontiers and spheres</i>	A church whose focus is in making disciples that multiply . A church where leaders equip and members are empowered to change lives by making disciples of Jesus. A church that is committed to multiplying leaders who can birth vision, with the boldness and courage to lead out a disciple-making movement in different spheres of influence.	Church planting or church planting team Mental Health workers group Pioneering disciple making movements in your industry	Together For Clayton – passion to see church planting among our network of churches in Clayton Education Sector - working with Faith Values Organisation to bring the Christian worldview into public schools

READ / REFLECT / DISCUSS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- 1) ARE YOU SURPRISED WITH YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS RESULTS? DO YOU AGREE/DISAGREE? (MAYBE THE OTHER PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE GROUP CAN COMMENT ON WHETHER THEY THINK YOUR RESULTS ARE ACCURATE...REMEMBER THIS IS A FREE SIMPLE ONLINE TEST, AND TO BE TAKEN AS A HELPFUL TOOL RATHER THAN AN EXACT SCIENCE)
- 2) WHEN YOU LOOK AT YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS, WHAT TYPE OF PERSON DO YOU ENVISION PERSONIFYING THESE GIFTS?
- 3) DO YOU THINK THAT THIS TEST IS ILLUMINATING, OR HAS IT BEEN CONFUSING? WHY?
- 4) WHAT IS YOUR HISTORY WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS? ARE THEY SOMETHING THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH? ARE THEY SOMETHING THAT YOUR FAMILY OR CHURCH HAS TALKED ABOUT, OR HAVE THEY BEEN A QUIET TOPIC?

PERSONAL PROFILE

- 1) WHEN YOU LOOK AT YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE AS A WHOLE, WHAT INSIGHT DOES IT GIVE YOU ABOUT YOURSELF?
- 2) DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE OPERATING IN YOUR SWEET SPOT, WHETHER THAT BE WORK OR MINISTRY OR LIFE IN GENERAL?
- 3) DO YOU THINK GOD HAS PLACED CERTAIN PASSIONS IN YOUR HEART? AND IF SO, DO YOU THINK THERE IS A RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOU TO OPERATE IN THAT AREA?
- 4) CAN YOU THINK OF BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE USING GIFTINGS, CALLINGS, AND PASSIONS?



SPIRITUAL GIFTS & MINISTRY

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A couple core beliefs that we hold about Spiritual Gifts is that a) they are for the common good and b) that they are varied.

We get this from reading 1 Corinthians 12, and specifically verses 7 and 12-14, and Ephesians 4:11-16.

1 Cor 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

1 Cor. 12:12-14 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS & MINISTRY

Ephesians 4:11-16

11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

Dr. Roger Barrier has written,
“It breaks my heart that spiritual gifts aren't taught or emphasised much throughout Christendom these days. Their utilisation is critical for the Church to function properly in society.”

SPIRITUAL GIFTS & MINISTRY

**ANOTHER HAS WRITTEN,
“...CONGREGATIONS ARE SPIRITUALLY
IMPOTENT WHEN THE MEMBERS DO
NOT FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY
ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO
MANIFEST GOD’S MINISTRY AND
POWER THROUGH THE GIFTS HE HAS
GIVEN.”**

While there are many ways of categorising the gifts, gifts of speaking and gifts of serving, or establishing gifts and supporting gifts and ministry gifts, or whatever categories you might use, in the end, we probably all agree that Spiritual Gifts are to be used in a communal space and are not designed for individuals in a solo setting.

A seeming weakness of the church is that there is no person who can do everything. Every person in the church requires something from someone else, and so when we exist on our own there is a need and a skill deficit that we cannot fill without someone else. But what we can easily view as a weakness is in reality a huge strength. It is a strength because this reliance on others teaches us two wonderful things: that we are not the most important person in the room, and that the room is not as powerful when we are not there. When we can hold humility and responsibility in healthy tension, then we are in a great place as a church.





BASIC THOUGHTS ON SPIRITUAL GIFTS...

1. Our gifts are to be used and lived out with the Lordship of Jesus in mind. Our gifts need to lift our own eyes, as well as the eyes of others back to Jesus.

2. Our gifts are given to us for the sake of the church at large. Our gifts mature and grow the body of Christ, our gifts bring the fullness of God's character to the gathered body of believers.

3. We trust that God designed us to have a diversity of gifts, and so it is not a competition but a collaboration of gifts. After all, they are called "Spiritual Gifts" and not "Spiritual Rewards". Embrace your own unique giftings and keep clear of the destructive nature of comparison.



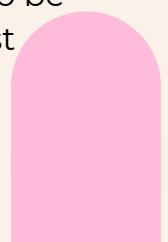
4. Using our gifts is an expectation and not an option. Ignoring the way God has made you is not a wise or a responsible way of living.



Romans 12:6-8

6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

It is our hope in that reading this short section about Spiritual Gifts that you would feel encouraged and empowered to use what God has given you. If we truly believe that each believer is endowed with a gift from God to help build and enable the body of believers to progress, then that should prompt you to actively use what God has given you. A body needs all its parts if it to function in its fullest capacity. A church needs all its attendees and members to be activated in the use of their gifts for the church to function in its fullest capacity.



READ / REFLECT / DISCUSS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS & MINISTRY

- 1) IS IT A FLAW IN THE DESIGN, OR A STROKE OF GENIUS THAT WE ARE DESIGNED TO NEED EACH OTHER?
- 2) SHARE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS QUOTE, "... CONGREGATIONS ARE SPIRITUALLY IMPOTENT WHEN THE MEMBERS DO NOT FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO MANIFEST GOD'S MINISTRY AND POWER THROUGH THE GIFTS HE HAS GIVEN."
- 3) DO YOU THINK OF YOUR GIFTING THROUGH THE LENS OF "LIFTING PEOPLE'S EYES TO JESUS"?
- 4) DISCUSS EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE USING THEIR GIFTS IN OUR CHURCH AND SHARE HOW YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO USE YOURS.
- 5) IF YOU WERE DESIGNING A PROCESS FOR HOW LONG SOMEONE BECOMING ACTIVE IN SERVING WITHIN THE CHURCH SETTING, WHAT WOULD IT LOOK? SHOULD PEOPLE WAIT 6 MONTHS? SHOULD PEOPLE ONLY SERVE IF THEY FEEL SPECIFICALLY CALLED? SHOULD EVERY MEMBER HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVE?
- 6) DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE GIFTS THAT ENABLE THE CHURCH BODY TO BE MORE INFLUENTIAL IN OUR COMMUNITY? IF NO, WHY NOT? IF YES, WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR YOU?



IN REGARDS TO CAREER....

“WHAT IS MY CALLING?”

A really significant question that a Christians may ask themselves is, “What is my calling?” For some of us it may be that God has lead us in a very clear way to what we should be doing, for others it has felt like it is more of a slow drifting towards a career or vocation that interests us but not really a Holy Spirit leading. For some it feels like an inescapable destination, for others it could have been a dozen different options. So, how do our Spiritual Gifts and our individual design speak into the long-term direction of our life?

John Calvin had an interesting theory behind the idea of giftings and callings. He didn't tie our calling to a position or role in society. But rather he suggested that our calling the work itself of discovering of our talents and gifts and finding the space for our talents and gifts to be used. He is quoted,

“For as God bestows any ability or gift upon any of us, He binds us to such as have need of us and as we are able to help.”



Or in other words, God has given every one of us passions, talents, and giftings, and just as much as God gifts us those gifts, He also expects us to find the people and the scenario that need us exercising those gifts.

IN REGARDS TO CAREER...

The City Bible Forum has a wonderful article titled 'Is My Vocation a Spiritual Gift?', which discusses in helpful terms about ways that we can think about career and vocation in the same way we also think about ministry and calling.

I am going to use their three main points from that article to help guide how we think about career and Spiritual Gifts.

(as copied from or inspired by the article)

1) God is on mission. Jesus is building God's kingdom with his mission partners, the church. But the church doesn't only gather in worship, it also scatters throughout the week. God has a purpose for us while we're scattered.

2) Where we work is where we are called. Not every circumstance is ideal. Slaves are told to win their freedom if they can. Still be encouraged that your life of service can be worship to God, even if the system is still broken. Ask God to open your eyes to how He would work through us where we are.



3) Our work is an opportunity to witness. While your actual employment might not be a Spiritual Gift, it acts as a context in which your Spiritual Gifts can be deployed to build the kingdom and bring people to Christ.

With this in mind, we would encourage you to ask yourself two important questions as you consider what life looks like in terms of career and long-term influence.

REFLECT

ASK YOURSELF:

- A) DOES MY CAREER LINE UP WITH MY PASSIONS, TALENTS, AND GIFTINGS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME?
- B) DO I SEE HOW I CAN BE A REDEEMING AGENT THROUGH MY VOCATION, BOTH IN MY WORKSPACE AND FOR THE GREATER KINGDOM?

Work and faith are such large pillars in our lives and we need to reshape how we think about them if we are to live fully integrated lives. We easily pull relationships and ministry into the faith sphere, but it's not as intuitive to bring career and work into that same sphere. So as we look through Spiritual Giftings make sure to give ample thought to how they affect your career choices, as well as your career impact and satisfaction.

Finally, if you are wanting just a little more clarity about what God might be wanting from you in terms of career and vocation, Crystal McDowell has come up with a memorable anagram that should help us refocus ourselves on God and open us up to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.



D – DO OUR BEST AT WHAT WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENTLY

“WHATEVER YOUR HAND FINDS TO DO, DO IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT” (ECCLESIASTES 9:10).

E – ENTER INTO MORE QUIET TIME WITH GOD

“MY EYES STAY OPEN THROUGH THE WATCHES OF THE NIGHT, THAT I MAY MEDITATE ON YOUR PROMISES” (PSALM 119:148).

C – CEASE ANXIOUS THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR FUTURE

“THEREFORE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW, FOR TOMORROW WILL WORRY ABOUT ITSELF. EACH DAY HAS ENOUGH TROUBLE OF ITS OWN” (MATTHEW 6:34).

I – INQUIRE ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES THAT GOD OPENS UP FOR US

“WHAT HE OPENS NO ONE CAN SHUT, AND WHAT HE SHUTS NO ONE CAN OPEN” (REVELATION 3:7).

S – SEEK ADVICE FROM THOSE WHO ARE IN THE FIELD WE ARE DRAWN TOWARDS

“PLANS ARE ESTABLISHED BY SEEKING ADVICE; SO IF YOU WAGE WAR, OBTAIN GUIDANCE” (PROVERBS 20:18).

I – IGNORE THE TEMPTATION TO MAKE MONEY THE MOST IMPORTANT GOAL

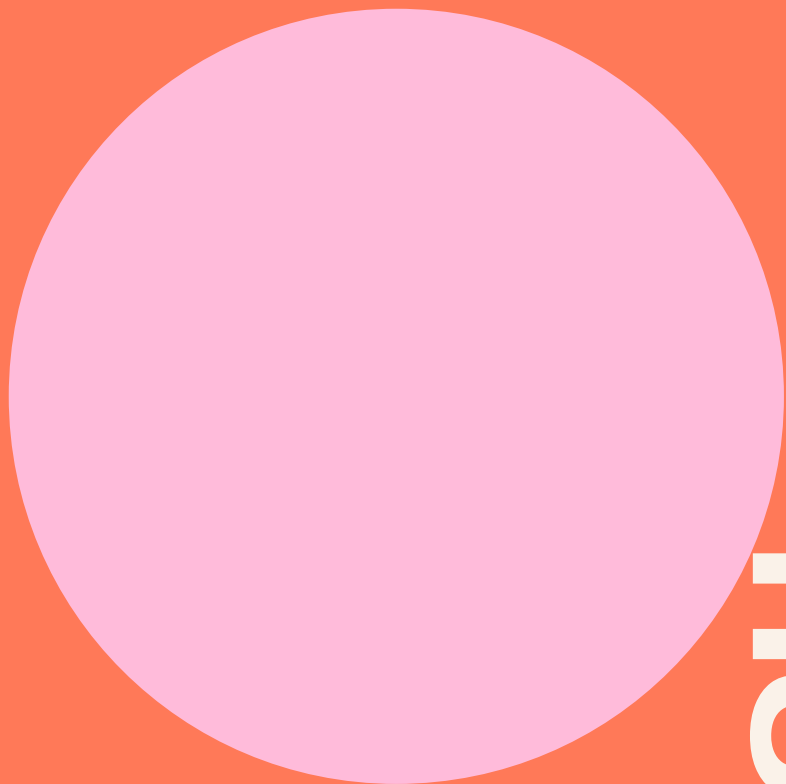
“WHOEVER LOVES MONEY NEVER HAS ENOUGH; WHOEVER LOVES WEALTH IS NEVER SATISFIED WITH THEIR INCOME. THIS TOO IS MEANINGLESS” (ECCLESIASTES 5:10).

O – ORGANISE YOUR LIFE IN PREPARATION FOR CHANGE

“PUT YOUR OUTDOOR WORK IN ORDER AND GET YOUR FIELDS READY; AFTER THAT, BUILD YOUR HOUSE” (PROVERBS 24:27).

N – NAVIGATE YOURSELF TOWARDS YOUR GOD-GIVEN CALLING AND PURPOSE IN ANY FIELD OF WORK

“THE PURPOSES OF A PERSON’S HEART ARE DEEP WATERS, BUT ONE WHO HAS INSIGHT DRAWS THEM OUT” (PROVERBS 20:5).



**THANK YOU
FOR HELPING
US MAKE
DISCIPLES**

Clayton Church of
Christ

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