



**THE GREATER FAITH
CHURCH OF DELIVERANCE**

NEW MEMBERSHIP MANUAL



**THE GREATER FAITH CHURCH OF DELIVERANCE
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GREETINGS

Greetings beloved and may grace and peace always abide with you. It is with great pleasure to be the first to welcome you to The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance (**GFCD**), your new spiritual haven and family. First Lady Carter, the Carter family and I Pastor Mark Q. Carter Sr. are excited about your arrival. We thank God for ordering your steps to be a part of such a wonderful spirit-filled family of believers who all are striving for the excellence in the High Calling of Jesus Christ. It is an honor and privilege to **“receive you as a friend, embrace you as family.”**

The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance (**GFCD**) is a family-centered church that thrives in unity, excellence; love, while achieving holiness, righteousness and the total prosperity of God in a spirit-filled atmosphere to build the whole (**man**) for servitude in the Kingdom of God. As your Pastor and First Lady of the GFCD we are committed to the charge of the office according to **John 21:16** when Jesus put into question of Peter’s love for Him and Jesus told him, **“...Feed my Sheep,”** and with the help of our God’s hand and the prayers of the righteous we all shall accomplish His will upon Christ return. Again we are excited and welcome you to your new home and church family.

One thing I always want you to know about your Pastor, Pastor Mark Q. Carter Sr., **“I AM A SOUL WINNER!!”** With this in mind, I take winning the soul of the whole man seriously as they are transformed in the renewing of their minds to serve in our Father’s Kingdom.

Once more, and on the behalf of The GFCD family we thank God for leading you to work with us in this vineyard and are excited to see what God is going to do next in your life.

Your Leaders,

Pastor Mark Q. Carter Sr. & Lady Kimberly R. Carter

WHY WE ARE NOT PART OF A DENOMINATION OR ORGANIZATION?

By now it is our prayer that you are feeling “at home” and part of the great family of The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance. We trust that you fully understand that you are received, loved, and essential to the purpose of God and GFCD.

The membership manual is designed to equip you to fulfill your personal purpose as well as your collective purpose in the body of Christ. This will be achieved by answering your questions regarding GFCD, and familiarizing you with the organizational structure of our church, and by identifying the different facets of the ministry that can assist you in growing as a member of GFCD and the body of Christ.

One of the most common questions asked prior to anyone becoming a member of GFCD is, **“What denomination are you?”**

A denomination can be defined as:

- The act of naming
- A religious sect

Therefore, GFCD is not associated with any established denomination, (i.e. Baptist, Methodist, and Assemblies of God) nor are we part of any national convention. Consequently, we are considered non-denominational. Yet because we embrace wholeheartedly the teachings of Paul in Acts 1:4-8 and 2; 1-4, we are part of the Pentecostal tradition. While there are countless, “Pentecostal” denominations or movements, our founding Pastors has never been “led of God” to unite with a specific denomination just for the sake of having a name.

However, this does not mean that we are lacking in organization or that we do not believe in fellowship. We truly believe in the **“koinonia”** the “coming together” or the fellowship of believers. The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance, readily welcome and fellowships with all believers in the body of Christ.

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

WHY A NEW MEMBER'S CLASS?

You might be wondering, "Why a new member's class?"

We are convinced that you must first be committed to membership in a church family and committed to the habits for spiritual maturity before you are ready for ministry. Membership and Maturity are the foundation for Ministry.

THE PURPOSE FOR THIS CLASS

Ephesians 4; 11-12 ***"God has given pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up."***

The Bible teaches that the pastors are the **administrators** and the people are the **ministers**. That is the strategy in relation to our structure.

THE PRINCIPLE UNDERGIRDING THIS CLASS

My ministry is determined by my MAKEUP. What God made me to be determines what He intends for me to do. I will understand the purpose I was created for when I understand the kind of person I am. This is the secret of knowing God's will for my life.

God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us inborn talents and temperaments, spiritual gifts and all sorts of life experiences and then not use them. We believe by reviewing and studying these factors you will discover the ministry God has for you, the unique way God intends for you to serve Him.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between "attendees" and "members" can be summed up in one word: **COMMITMENT**.

At Greater Faith Church of Deliverance, we recognize the need for a formal membership.

We ask you to commit to membership for four (4) reasons:

A Biblical Reason. Christ is committed to the church. "...Christ loved the church, and He gave His life for it.

A Cultural Reason. It is an antidote to our society. We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything-a job, a marriage, our country. This attitude has even produced a generation of religious "church shoppers and hoppers." Commitment always builds character.

A Practical Reason. It defines who can be counted on. Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Even our country takes a census and requires voter registration. Membership identifies our family.

A Personal Reason. It produces spiritual growth. The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you are not committed to any specific church family.

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A MEMBER?

Greater Faith Church of Deliverance never asks members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches and only expects members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are communicated in the:

MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with Greater Faith Church of Deliverance's statements, strategy and scriptures, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with Greater Faith Church of Deliverance church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to my church family to do the following:

1. Protect the unity of The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance

- By acting in love toward my church family.
- By refusing to gossip or spread discord
- By following church leadership

"So let us concentrate on the thing which makes for harmony and growth of our fellowship together." (Romans 14:19)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of you mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to the needs..." (Ephesians 4:29)

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you." (Hebrews 13:17)

2. Share the responsibility of The Greater Faith of Deliverance

- By praying for church
- By inviting the un-churched to attend
- By warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly."

1st Thessalonians 1:2

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in so that My House will be full."

Luke 14:23

"So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ have warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified."

Romans 15:7

3. Serve the ministry of Greater Faith Church of Deliverance

- By discovering my gifts, and talents
- By being equipped to serve my pastors
- By developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you." 1st Peter 4:10

"God gave...some to pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4: 11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interest, but also to the interest of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Philippians 2: 3-4, 7

4. Support the testimony of Greater Faith Church of Deliverance

- By attending faithfully
- By living a godly life
- By giving regularly

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another."
Hebrews 10:25

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the Gospel of Christ."
Philippians 1:27

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion of what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1st Corinthians 16:2

OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENT

Beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into actions. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following seven practices:

Bible as our sole authority.

"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right." (2 Timothy 3:15)

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?"

We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The bible is a basis for all we believe.

Autonomy of each local church.

"Christ is the head of His Body, the church. He is the source of the Body's life..." Colossians 1:18

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group of religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control.

Priesthood of every believer.

"Christ loves us, and by his death, he has freed us from our sins and made us a Kingdom of priest to serve God" Revelation 1:16

"You are...the King's priest...God's own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." 1 Peter 2: 9

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full-time Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation.

We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Tithing

"A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord."

Leviticus 27:30

At Greater Faith Church of Deliverance we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving.

Immersion

"For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ..." Colossians 2:12

We practice baptism by immersion of water-the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands. Matthew 3:13-17

Spirit-led Living

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing." John 15: 5

Telling others about Christ

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." 1 Peter 3:15

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.

"...Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ saving him." 1 Corinthians 9: 22

OUR VISION, MISSION, VALUES & STATEMENT OF FAITH

OUR VISION: "To bring every race, culture and creed together throughout this community and throughout the world, admonishing them and serving their needs according to the commandments and the Love of Jesus Christ"

OUR MISSION: "**Grow** in our relationship with God while encouraging others and supporting the continual growth of individuals and our church; **Serve** our wider community while actively responding to People's needs at every level: spiritual, emotional, social and physical; **Communicate** the message of Jesus while presenting the Gospel to talk to Him; **Build** the Church Community by sustaining each person involved in our church through relationship and resource through leadership development."

OUR VALUES: Biblical based, Spirit Led, Excellence, Integrity, Family Oriented and World View.

The GFCD leadership is committed to ministering effectively with the opportunities and resources entrusted to us. With this goal in mind, we have sought to clarify our vision, mission, values and future. Everything we do is with total reliance on the Spirit of God through much prayer and fasting to lead our thinking... "**Jesus said, upon this rock I will build my Church...**" (**Matt 16:18**) and the GFCD leadership have faith in that promise and are faithfully keeping the charge as the leadership. We purpose and extremely value putting God at the center of all we do and by making sure His Honor and Glory is first, we search ourselves in every decision, "Will what we do bring the greatest glory and praise to our God?"

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH (*what we believe*)

In essential beliefs-we have unity.

"There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..." Ephesians 4: 4-6

In non-essential beliefs- we have liberty.

"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...so then each of us shall give an account of himself to God...so whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God." Romans 14; 1-4, 12, 22

In all our beliefs- we show charity.

"...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also their very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains...but have no love, I amount to nothing at all."
1 Corinthians 13: 2

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

THE ESSENTIAL WE BELIEVE

Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely, inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principals by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human contact, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

The True God

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker, and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious its holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three person, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

The Fall of Man

We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created in holiness, under the law of his maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from the holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense of excuse.

The Way of Salvation

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly through grace; through the mediatory offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderness sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Justification

We believe the Scriptures teach the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as belief in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

The Freeness of Salvation

We believe the Scriptures teach that the blessing of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent, and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner of earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Regeneration

We believe the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again, and that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is affected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth. So as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its' proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Repentance and Faith

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior.

God's Purpose of Grace

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active initiation of His free mercy; that it encourages that use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effect all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain in with regard to ourselves demand and deserves that utmost diligence.

Sanctification

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence of power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of appointed means especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

Holy Spirit

We believe the Scriptures teach that the baptism of the Holy Ghost is essential to the life of the believer as shown in Acts 2:1-6. We believe that with the indwelling of the Holy Ghost the gifts of God are manifested in the life of the believer.

Preservation of Saints

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their preserving attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

The Law of Gospel

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precept, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the Holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

A Gospel Church

We believe the Scriptures teach that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that it's only spiritual officers are Bishops of Pastors, and Deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

MINISTRY

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT MINISTRY

The Greek word for ministry is the word “**diakonos**.” What word do we get from that? Deacon. The word “deacon” simply means servant. The word “diakonos” means to serve.

THREE TYPES OF MINISTRY

- Ministry to the **Lord**.

First, we minister to the Lord. - Acts 13: 2

- Ministry to **other believers**.

Then we minister to other believers. - Hebrews 6:10

- Ministry to unbelievers

Then we also minister to **unbelievers**. - Matthew 5:1-3

THREE TYPES OF MINISTRY NEEDS

We minister to **Physical** needs.

God says in Matthew 25:35-40, “***I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, I needed clothes and you clothed me, sick and you cared for me, in prison and; you visited me. Whenever you have done this to the least person, you did it to me.***”

We minister to **Emotional** needs.

1 Thessalonians 5:14, “***Warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.***”

We minister to **Spiritual** needs.

2 Corinthians 5:18, “***God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.***”

THE PURPOSE OF MINISTRY

What is the purpose of ministry: ***Each of us has a means of helping the entire church?*** God wants to use me to build up His body.

1 Corinthians 12: 5, “***There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord, we are serving. The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. All of you together are the one body of Christ and each one of you is a separate and necessary part.***”

THE PRIORITY OF MINISTRY

These things the Bible teaches about ministry.

TEN FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

I have been **CREATED** for ministry.

Ephesians 2:10, ***“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”***

I have been **SAVED** for ministry.

2 Timothy 1:9, ***“It is He who saved us and chose us for his holy work, not because we deserved it but because that was his plan long before the world began.”***

I have been **CALLED** into ministry.

Galatians 1:15, God, in his grace, chose me even before I was born, and called me to serve him.”

Ephesians 4:1, ***“I urge you to live a life worthy of calling you have received.”***

1 Peter 2:9-10, ***“You have been chosen by God himself. You are priest of the King. You are God’s very own.***

All this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were less than nothing, now you are God’s own!”

I have been **GIFTED** for ministry.

1 Peter 4: 10, ***“God has given each of you some special abilities. Be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings.”***

I have been **AUTHORIZED** for ministry.

2 Corinthians 5:20, ***“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors.”***

I am **COMMANDED** to minister.

Mark 10:45 Jesus said, ***“Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve.”***

To Apchippus Paul says, ***“Take heed to the ministry you have received for the Lord and fulfill it.”***

I am to be **PREPARED** for ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-12, ***“God have pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works for ministry so that the Body of Christ may be built up.”***

The Body of Christ **NEEDS** my ministry.

1 Corinthians 12:27, ***“All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is separate and necessary part of it.”***

I am **ACCOUNTABLE** for ministry.

Romans 14:12, ***“So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”***

There are many parables in the New Testament-like the parable of the talents.

I will be **REWARDED** for ministry.

Colossians 3:23-24, ***“Whatever you do, work at it with all you heart, as working for the Lord, not men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.”***

PROCEDURE FOR DISCOVERING MY MINISTRY

Romans 12: 1-8

I dedicate my body

Verse 1: “I urge you to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God which is your spiritual worship.”

I eliminate competing distractions.

Verse 2: “Don’t conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

I evaluate my strengths.

Verse 3: “Don’t cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or you importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you.”

I cooperate with other believers.

Verse 4-5: “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not have the same function. So in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others.”

1 Corinthians 12 teaches us that:

Every member has a ministry in Christ's body.

Every member has a different function.

Every member’s ministry is important.

Every member belongs to all the others.

1 Corinthians 12, ***“Each of us is part of one Body of Christ. The eye can never say to the hand, I don’t need you. The head cannot say to the feet, I don’t need you. And some of the parts that even seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. So God puts the body together in such a way that extra hour and care is given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important.”***

I activate my gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:6-14, ***“We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing, leadership, showing mercy.”***

HOW GOD SHAPED ME FOR MINISTRY

Job 10:8, ***“Your hands ‘formed’ me and ‘shaped’ me,”***

Jeremiah 1:5, ***“God started uniquely shaping you even before you were born.”***

Psalms 139, ***“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous. You were there while I was being formed. You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe.”***

I was **shaped** for purpose.

I am **unique**.

I am **wonderfully** complex.

Romans 9:19-21, ***“What right do you have, a human being, to cross examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter, ‘Why did you have me this shape?’ A potter can do what he likes with the clay.”***

MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY

S-SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Corinthians 7: 7, ***“Each man has its own gift from God. One has this gift, another has that.”***
So the first question we’re going to look at is, “What am I gifted to do?”

H-HEART

Revelation 17:17, ***“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose.”***

A-ABILITIES

2 Corinthians 3:5-6, ***“Our competence comes from God.”***

“I have given him skills, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.” God says He gives people abilities.

P-PERSONALITY

1 Corinthians 2:11, ***“No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself.”***

E-EXPERIENCES

Acts 10:10-13, Revelation 1:10 what **spiritual** experiences have I had?

What **painful** experiences have I Had?

Proverbs 20: 30, ***“Sometimes it takes painful experiences to make us change our ways.”***

2 Corinthians 1:4, ***“God helps us in our troubles, so we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God.”***

What educational experiences have I had?

Proverbs 4:13, ***“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life; guard it well.”***

What ministry experiences have I had?

2 Corinthians 9:13, ***“Because of the services by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel.”***

MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL DIFFERENT FACTORS

1 Corinthians 12: 4-6, ***“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit gives them.”***

There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served.

There are different abilities to perform services, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each one, for the good of all.

OUR WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

WHY DO WE BOW DOWN AND KNEEL?

Psalms 95:6

“O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.”

WHY DO WE STAND WHEN WE SING?

2 Chronicles 20:19

“And the Levites, of the Children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high.”

Psalms 135:2-3

“You who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises to his name; for it is pleasant.”

WHY DO WE LIFT OUR HANDS?

Psalms 134:2

“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.”

Psalms 63:4

“Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in your name.”

1 Timothy 2:8

“I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting.”

WHY DO WE CLAP OUR HANDS?

Psalms 47:1

“O clap your hands, all ye people: shout unto God with the voice of triumph.”

WHY DO WE AUDIBLY PRAISE UNTO GOD?

Psalms 103:1

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”

Psalms 34:1

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

Psalms 100:1

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.”

Revelations 19:1,6

“And after these things, I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying Alleluia; Salvation and glory honor and power, unto the Lord our God.”

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude and as the voice of many waters and the voice of mighty thunderings saying "Alleluia: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

WHY DO WE SPEAK IN TONGUES AND IN ENGLISH?

1 Corinthians 14: 14-15

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

WHY DO WE HAVE THIS TYPE OF WORSHIP?

John 4: 23, 24

"But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."

Philippians 3: 3

"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

WHY DO WE SING CHORUSES AS WELL AS HYMNS?

Ephesians 5: 18-19

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

Colossians 3:16

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord."

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

1 Corinthians 12:7

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."

1 Corinthians 14:3

"But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."

Amos 3:8

"....the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?"

WHY DO WE HAVE SPEAKING IN TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES?

1 Corinthians 12:7-10

V. 7 *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”*

V. 8 *“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit.”*

V. 9 *“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.”*

V. 10 *“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.”*

1 Corinthians 14: 5, 27, 39

V.5 *“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesietf than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interprets, that the church may receive edifying.”*

V.27 *“If a man speaks in an unknown tongue, let it by two or at the most by three and that by course; and let one interpret.”*

V.39 *“Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.”*

V,40 *let all things be done decently and in order*

Acts 2:1-4

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they all were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

WHY ARE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PART OF THE WORSHIP SERVICES?

Psalms 150:1-6

“Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of His power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breathe praise the Lord, Praise ye the Lord.”

Revelation 14:2

“And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps.”

WHY DOES THE WHOLE CHURCH PRAY AT ONCE FOR SPECIFIC NEEDS?

Acts 4:24

“And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth and the sea and all that is in them.”

THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF GIVING?

The ministry of giving is an act of worship. It is the giving first of ourselves and then of all we possess to God.

2 Corinthians 8: 4-5 ***“Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord and unto us by the will God.”***

HOW DO WE MINISTER TO THE LORD IN GIVING?

We present our bodies as living sacrifices and our possessions not only to praise Him but to serve others in love.

Romans 12:1 ***I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.***

Galatians 5:13 ***For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love, serve one another.***

WHY IS MINISTRY TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH A MINISTRY TO GOD?

Ministry to others in the church is a ministry to God because those who are in Christ are a part of Christ.

Matthew 25:40 ***...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.***

WHAT ARE WE TO GIVE TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH?

We are to give of our substance, our time and energy, and our hospitality.

Hebrews 13:16 ***And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased.***

HOW MUCH ARE WE TO GIVE TO OTHERS IN THE CHURCH?

The Holy Spirit directs our giving once we have given ourselves to Him. We give according to what we have, what is needed, and what is our fair share of responsibility.

Romans 12:13 ***Contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.***

2 Corinthians 8:12-14 ***For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not. For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want; that there may be equality.***

ARE THERE ANY SCRIPTURAL GUIDELINES AS TO WHAT PERCENTAGE OF OUR ASSETS IS A FAIR SHARE?

Yes. God instructed Israel to give in detailed ways as a picture of how each in the New Covenant Church is responsible to give.

1 Corinthians 10:11 ***Now all these things happened unto them for examples: And they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.***

WHAT LESSONS DO WE LEARN ABOUT GIVING FROM THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO ISRAEL?

God expects us to give a basic percentage of all we possess and to help others who are in need.

Luke 6:38 ***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***

Malachi 3:10 ***Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

Giving a systematic, regular support of the ministries God has placed over us.

2 Chronicles 31:12 ***And (they) brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: over which Conoiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next.***

Nehemiah 10:38 ***And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and the Levites shall bring up the tithes of the tithe unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house.***

We are to give the first and the best of what we have to God.

Proverbs 3:9 ***“Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase.”***

God expects us to be merciful to the poor.

Exodus 23:11 ***But the seventh year thou shalt let it (the land) rest and lie still, that the poor of thy people may eat...***

Deuteronomy 15:11 ***For the poor shall never cease out of the land; therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to the poor, and to thy needy in thy land***

We are to give to God’s house and allow His ministers to be directed in determining how our gifts are to be used.

Malachi 3:10 ***Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house...***

1 Chronicles 26:20 ***And of the Levites, Ahijah was over the treasures of the house of God, and over the treasures of the dedicated things.***

WHAT IS A TITHE?

A tithe is a tenth. It is the portion that belongs to God.

Leviticus 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.

DID THE GIVING OF TITHES BEGIN WITH THE LAW OF MOSES?

No. Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils of victory of Melchizedek, a priest of God, Jacob delivered a tenth of all he owned to God after his vision at Luz.

Genesis 14:18-20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine; and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him ... And (Abraham) gave him tithes of all.

WHY DID ABRAHAM GIVE TITHES TO GOD?

Abraham had seen that God owned everything and had blessed him with abundance. Through his giving, Abraham told God that he was trusting Him alone to provide for him.

Genesis 14: 19-20 And (Melchizedek) blessed him, and said, Blessed by Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And (Abraham) gave him tithes of all.

WHAT BLESSINGS DID GOD PROMISE TO THOSE WHO TITHED?

God promised every kind of prosperity to those who were obedient in their giving.

Malachi 3:10-11 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts.

WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURES MEAN BY “THE STOREHOUSE?”

It is the place where we regularly receive our spiritual food. Israel, the Tabernacle or the Temple was the central place of worship. Under the New Covenant, the Local Church is the place of regular worship.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

WHAT IS AN OFFERING?

An offering is a gift to the work of God that is beyond the tithe. It is a free will contribution to support a special need or person or to express thanks.

WHAT ARE ALMS?

Alms are works of mercy or charitable gifts to relieve the poor.

Ezekiel 18:7 ***...hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment.***

Proverbs 22:9 ***He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.***

WHAT DID JESUS TEACH US ABOUT GIVING?

Jesus taught that the most important part of giving is the attitude of our heart.

He taught:

That clinging to earthly wealth can make us lose out in eternal wealth.

Luke 12:33-34 ***Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where not thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.***

We should not give expecting to be rewarded by men.

Matthew 6:1 ***Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.***

We are not to keep more than we need but are to share what we have.

Luke 3:11 ***He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.***

Giving in genuine sacrifice pleases God more than much wealth given without meaning.

Mark 12: 43-44 ***...Verily, I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.***

Giving is as much a part of serving God as prayer and fasting.

Matthew 6: 3, 5, 16 ***But when thou doest alms... And when thou prayest... moreover when ye fast***

Our giving is a measure of what we can receive.

Luke 6:38 ***Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***

HOW DID THE EARLY CHURCH MINISTER IN GIVING?

Giving was an important part of the outreach of the church which was giving to others as well as caring for its own members.

The first deacons were appointed to provide for the widows.

Acts 6:1-3 And in those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve the tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

In the Jerusalem church, no man considered his goods as his own.

Acts 2: 44-45 ***And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.***

Prospering local churches supported poorer churches in other places.

2 Corinthians 8: 1-5 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord and unto us by the will of God.

The Philippian Church helped to support traveling ministers.

Philippians 4: 14-15 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

HOW DOES GOD WANT US TO MINISTER BY GIVING TODAY?

God wants us to give in ways which glorify Him and which prepare us to receive more blessings from Him. Therefore, we should give:

Willingly

2 Corinthians 8:12 ***For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.***

Generously

2

Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall he reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully

Gladly

2 Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Simply

Romans 12: 8 ...he that giveth let him do it with simplicity...

HOW IS GIVING RELATED TO BROTHERLY LOVE?

The only way love within us is shown to others is by what we do. Compassion is shown by taking care of our brother's needs.

1 John 3:17-18 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

CAN WE LOVE GOD WITHOUT SHOWING LOVE TO OTHERS?

No. The Bible tells us very forcefully that we cannot love God and hate our brother at the same time.

1 John 4: 20-21 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar; for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him. That he who loveth God love his brother also.

WHAT IS HOSPITALITY?

Hospitality is showing kindness and care to others by inviting them to your own home. It is a very personal way of giving to others.

1 Peter 4: 9 "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."

Romans 12:13 "Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

TO WHOM SHOULD WE GIVE HOSPITALITY?

We should give hospitality to those in the Church, to strangers and to those in special need.

Hebrews 13: 1-3 ***Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.***

WHAT IS TO BE OUR REAL REASON FOR GIVING?

Giving is our response to God's love that is so freely given to us.

Matthew 10:8 ***...freely ye have received, freely give.***

WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR GIVING?

Our first responsibility is to support the ministry and work of the Local Church. Then we are to give to our brother and to the needy.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house...

1 Corinthians 16:2-3 ***Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.***

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

DOES GOD REQUIRE US TO SUPPORT OUR MINISTERS FINANCIALLY?

Yes, God frees His servants to give all their time and energy to providing for our spiritual needs. We are to care for their material needs.

Romans 15:27 ***...For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritually things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.***

1 Corinthians 9:6-11, 14 ***Or I only and Barnabas have not we power to forbear working? Who goeth warfare any time at his own charges? Who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the***

fruit therefore? Or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock? Say I these things as a man? Or saith not the law the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

Luke 10:7 ***...for the laborer is worthy of his hire...***

WHO DOES GOD USE TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF HIS SERVANTS?

God has purposed that we who benefit from the ministry should share our material goods with those who minister to us.

Galatians 6:6 ***...And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.***

WHO DOES GOD USE TO SUPPLY THE NEEDS OF THE MINISTRY?

Our giving keeps us free to continue to receive and it makes us, fruitful people.

Philippians 4:17 ***Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.***

Luke 6: 38 ***Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***

WHAT LESSON ARE WE TO LEARN THROUGH GIVING?

We are to learn that God is the source of supply of all that we need and enjoy.

Philippians 4:19 ***But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

1 Timothy 6:17-18 ***Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy: That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate***

(share).

WHEN WE TAKE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD'S HOUSE, HOW DO WE KNOW THEY WILL BE USED FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE KINGDOM?

Our responsibility is to give, not concern ourselves with what has been done with what we have given. After we have brought our tithes and offerings to His house as He commanded, our duty has been fulfilled. The stewards in charge of God's money after it comes into God's house, now becomes responsible for it.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful

WHAT BLESSINGS ARE PROMISED TO THE GENEROUS GIVER?

As we allow God to create a generosity in our spirits, He promised us the following blessing:

Increase.

Proverbs 11: 24-25 ***There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.***

Health.

3 John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

A spiritual foundation for the future.

1 Timothy 6:19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Fruits of Righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.

WHAT IS STEWARD?

A steward is one who is in charge of the goods or property belonging to another. God has made us stewards over everything He has given us worldly. We own nothing. Rather, we are stewards of God's possessions. We must be faithful to take good care of what has been put in our charge.

Psalms 50: 10-12 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.

Haggai 2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.

WHY DOES GOD USE US AS STEWARDS OF HIS POSSESSIONS?

He uses us to develop our character in preparation for inheriting the Kingdom. Ye are heirs of God and shall rule with Him if we are faithful. Faithful determines our rewards.

Romans 8: 17 ***And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...***

1 Peter 1: 4 ***To an inheritance, incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.***

SCRIPTURAL TERMINOLOGY

SCRIPTURAL TERMINOLOGY:

THE ANOINTING - The presence, and the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life.

TO MINISTER - To serve or help another by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3: 5, 6 ***...but our sufficiency is of God; who also hath made us able ministers of the New Testament...***

THE GLORY - The manifestation of God's presence and splendor of the spiritual and physical faculties of man.

1 King 8: 10, 11 ***....The cloud filled the house of the Lord; so that the priest could not stand to minister ... for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord.***

REVELATION - The manifestation of God's will and truths to man.

Ephesians 1: 17 ***...The Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.***

THE WORD - The term used when referring to scriptures written in the Bible.

SPIRITUAL GIFT DEFINITIONS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS DEFINITIONS

While not meant to be dogmatic or final these definitions and supporting Scriptures do correspond to characteristics of the gifts as expressed in the Wagner-Modified Houts Questionnaire.

Administration

The gifts of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and execute effective plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

Luke 14: 28-30; Acts 6:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Titus 1:5

Apostleship

The ability to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches, with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters which is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches.

Acts 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Galatians 2:7-10; Ephesians 3:1-9; Ephesians 4:11-14

Craftsmanship/Art

The ability to use one's hands, thoughts and mind to further the kingdom of God through artistic, creative means and may also serve to lead others in forming their abilities in this area. The gift may also be used in the areas of maintenance, care and upkeep of the church ground for the benefit and beautification of God's kingdom

Exodus 30: 22-25; Exodus 31: 3-11; 2 Chronicles 34: 9-13; Acts 18: 2-3

Discernment

The gift of discerning of spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know with assurance whether certain behavior purported to be of God is in reality divine, human Satanic.

Matthew 16: 21-23; Acts 5: 1-11; Acts 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12: 10; 1 John 4: 1-6

Evangelism

The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to share the gospel with unbelievers in such a way that men and women become Jesus' disciples and responsible members of the Body of Christ.

Matthew 28:18-29; Acts 14:22; Romans 12:8; 1 Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 10:25

Faith

The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purpose of God for his work.

Acts 11: 22-24; Acts 27: 21-25; Romans 4: 18-21; 1 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 11

Giving

The gift of giving is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to contribute their material resources to do the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness.

Mark 12: 41-44; Romans 12: 8; 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7; 2 Corinthians 9: 2-8

Healing

The gift of healing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it please God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means.

Acts 3:1-10; Acts 5: 12-16; Acts 9:32-35; Acts 28: 7-10; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28

Helps

The gifts of helps is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling those others to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts.

Mark 15: 40-41; Luke 8: 2-3; Acts 9:36; Romans 16 1-2; 1 Corinthians 12:28

Hospitality

The gifts of hospitality is a special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to provide an open house and warm welcome to those in need of food and lodging.

Acts 16: 14-15; Romans 12:9-13; Romans 16:23; Hebrews 13: 1-2; 1 Peter 4:9

Intercession

The gift of intercession is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray for extended periods of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to their prayers, to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

Luke 22: 41-44; Acts 12:12; Colossians 1: 9-12; Colossians 4: 12-13; 1 Timothy 2: 1-2; James 5: 14-16

Interpretation

The gift of interpretation is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to make known in the vernacular the message of one who speaks in tongues.

1 Corinthians 12: 10, 30; 1 Corinthians 14: 13; 1 Corinthians 14: 26-28

Knowledge

The gift of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to discover, accumulate, analyze, and clarify information and ideas which are pertinent to the well-being of the Body.

Acts 5:11; 1 Corinthians 2: 14; 1 Corinthians 12:18; 2 Corinthians 11:6; Colossians 2: 2-3

Leadership

The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily band harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

Luke 9:1; Acts 15: 7-11; Romans 12: 8; 1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:17

Mercy

The gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals (both Christian and non-Christian) who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds which reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.

Exodus 33:19; Matthew 20: 29-34; Matthew 25: 34-40; Mark 9: 41; Luke 10:33-35; Acts 11: 28-30; Acts 16: 33-34; Romans 12:8

Miracles

The gift of miracles is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.

Acts 9: 36-42; Acts 19: 11-20; Acts 20: 7-12; Romans 15: 18-19; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 2 Corinthians 12:12

Missions

The gift of missions is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to minister whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a second culture.

Acts 8:4; Acts 13:2-3; Acts 22:21; Romans 10:15; 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23

Music

The gift of using one's voice in the singing of praises to the Lord for the benefit of others, or to play a musical instrument to praise the Lord and for the benefit of others.

Deuteronomy 31:22; 1 Samuel 16:16; 1 Chronicles 16: 41-42; 2 Chronicles 34: 12; Psalms 150

Pastoring

The gift of pastoring is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to assume a long term personal responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.

John 10: 1-8; Ephesians 4: 11-14; 1 Timothy 3: 1-7; 1 Peter 5: 1-3

Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely anointed utterance.

Luke 7:26; Acts 15: 32; Acts 21: 9-11; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; Ephesians 4: 11-14

Service

The gift of services is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to identify the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results.

Acts 6: 1-7; Romans 12:7; Galatians 6:2, 10: 2 Timothy 1: 16-18; Titus 3:14

Teaching

The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and minister of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

Act 18: 24-28; Acts 20: 20-21; Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11-14; James 3:1

Tongues

The gift of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to speak to God in a language they have never learned and/or received and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through divinely anointed utterance in a language they never learned.

Mark 16:17; Acts 2: 1-13; Acts 10: 44-46; Acts 19: 1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 1 Corinthians 14: 13-19

Wisdom

The gift of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ.

Acts 6:3, 10; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-13; 1 Corinthians 12:8; James 1: 5,6; 2 Peter 3: 15, 16

ORDINANCES

WATER BAPTISM

One question that seems never to be answered is, "What about baptism?" Baptism is a vital part of the believer's life, yet there seems to be a great deal of confusion as to the importance of baptism, as well as the method in which we should baptize. This information has been prepared to help you understand the importance that Jesus placed on baptism, as well as the proper method with which to be baptized.

WHAT ABOUT BAPTISM?

Jesus said, "Therefore, go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

Every conversation that is described in any detail at all in the New Testament after the establishment of the church includes baptism. Belief was always a prerequisite.

True belief in Jesus as Savior and Lord was the condition that had existed before one Christian baptized another.

Acts 8: 36-38

Baptism was never willingly administered to an unbeliever. It is impossible to obey the Lord and at the same time refuse to be baptized, but a wonderful, glorious opportunity to be identified with our Lord in the marvelous way.

BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE

John the Baptist honored baptism.

He was sent of God and did the work of God.

He preached repentance and baptized many in the Jordan River, Matthew 3:16

Christ honored baptism

He walked about 70 miles to be baptized by John the Baptist and said, "... Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Matthew 3:15

He included baptism in the Great Commission, "Go ye therefore, and teach **all** nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19

In this Great Commission he joined preaching the Word with baptism.

God honored baptism.

At the time Jesus was baptized, God spoke from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son...,"
Matthew 3:17

The Apostles honored baptism.

When he preached at Jerusalem on the Jewish Day of Pentecost, Peter preached repentance and baptism. Three thousands trusted Christ and were baptized,
Acts 2:36-41

Peter baptized a Roman Centurion named Cornelius and others,
Acts 10: 42-48

Paul baptized a merchant women named Lydia, who believed,
Acts 16: 14-15

Paul baptized a jailer in Philippi after the man and others believed on Jesus,
Acts 16: 30-33.

The Ruler of the Jewish Synagogue in Corinth believed on Jesus with all his heart, and many Corinthians was baptized,
Acts 18:8

Christians in the Word honored baptism.

Philip, chosen in Acts 6 to be a special minister in the Jerusalem church, led an Ethiopian to accept Christ and be baptized,
Acts 8:26-38

Baptism "...means the ability to face God with clear conscience, for there is every true baptism the virtue of Christ's rising from the dead,"
1 Peter 3:21

We must be very careful not to conclude that baptism saves, for Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "By grace are you saved through faith". We are not saved by church membership, faithful attendance, the Lord's Supper, baptism, or all of these things put together. We trust ourselves to Jesus Christ as our Savior, and He alone has the power to save.

Baptism symbolized the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and our own relationship to His victory over sin, death and grave.
Romans 6:3-5

The one being baptized is presenting himself as a dead person to be buried with Christ, saying, "***I am finished with the old life. I want to live in the power of the Resurrection Life of Jesus. I will be loyal (faithful) to the kingdom of God.***"

HOW DO WE BAPTIZE?

There is some confusion in the church world today as to the method of baptism. Should we baptize in Jesus name only or should we be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost? This question comes from the book of Acts where we read repeatedly the command to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Acts 19:5

Why the straight forward reference to the name of Jesus? Acts 19:1-6 best explains this question. Paul found certain believers worshipping at Ephesus and asked, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

They responded that they did not understand what Paul meant by the Holy Ghost. Paul then asked, "Unto what then were ye baptized, or by what authority have ye been baptized?" Were they baptized by the laws of the Jewish purification, John's baptism, or by the authority?

They then responded, "By John's baptism, or by the authority of John the Baptist." Paul then replied that John had baptized repentance with the power and authority of God, but now there was a new and everlasting covenant.

Jesus had paid the price for sin and had conquered hell, death and the grave. Now it was time to recognize the authority of Jesus Christ, to identify with his death, burial and resurrection. They willingly obeyed and received the indwelling Spirit of God as well as the baptism of the Holy Spirit. All that we do in the New Testament Church is done in the authority of the name of Jesus, for there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved. All power in heaven and earth rest upon that name and the ability of the believer to use that name.

WHAT METHOD DO WE USE?

We believe that it is pleasing to God when we totally immerse those who come from water baptism. We are buried with Him in baptism and raised to walk again in the newness of life. What should be said over the person being baptized, if anything?

Jesus established this in **Matthew 28: 18-19**, "***All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.***"

Baptism is done by two (2) called ministers of the gospel and it may not necessarily be the Senior Pastor doing the baptizing. The men who are to be baptized should bring a towel, slacks, a white shirt, white socks, and a change of clothes. The women who are being baptized should bring a towel and a change of clothes (suitable for maintaining moisture without being transparent after becoming wet), preferably a dark T-shirt, dark skirt, white socks and a change of clothes.

SHOULD MY BABY BE BAPTIZED?

The practice of infant christening came from an old doctrine that babies were guilty of sin inherited by Adam. Therefore, they were christened or “Christianize” and given a “Christian name.”

Now we understand that we become a Christian by receiving Christ as Savior by faith and then we obey Him in immersion or baptism as He commands. “By grace are ye saved through faith...” The capacity is beyond the grasp of an infant who is christened.

There is no precept or example in the New Testament for infant baptism. Throughout the Scriptures, there are certain elements always connected with baptism. Jesus told his disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) to teach and make disciples, then to baptize them. Infants cannot be taught in this capacity.

Mark’s Gospel account of the same incident (Mark 16:15-16) indicates one must be a believer and be baptized. A baby cannot exercise this kind of faith. In Acts 2:37-38, the Apostle Peter was preaching, the people were convicted of their sins and wanted to know how to be saved.

Peter told them to repent and be baptized. Conviction and repentance are beyond infants’ minds. Phillip told the Ethiopian he could be baptized if he believed with his whole heart. The man confessed Christ first, then was baptized (Acts 8:36-37). In the “household” baptism that is elaborated on in the New Testament, it is clearly shown that these conditions were present. The baptized were hearers and believers, they rejoiced and they served.

Then surely God must consider a child “safe” if not saved. Otherwise He would have given definite instruction in His Word. II Samuel 12:15-23 indicates that a baby went to its eternal reward after death where its godly father would also go after his death (heaven).

We do not baptize babies. However, we do follow the tradition of blessing babies and dedicating them to the Lord. After a married couple is blessed with a child, many times others want to be part of the child’s development and spiritual growth. A scheduling for Baby Dedication, where God-parents are recognized must be made through the Church Office.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE LORD'S SUPPER

In a congregation such as Greater Faith Church of Deliverance, members come from many different backgrounds. Some of us are experiencing new spiritual ideas for the first time. Some have come from churches which place great emphasis on formality and ritual, some from churches which have placed their focus on the concerns of social welfare, and still others from churches, much like ours which center their ministry in the Bible.

Nowhere is there a greater diversity of experience than in the manner in which we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Even some of the strong Bible believing churches practice the Lord's Supper in different ways or at different intervals than we do here at The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance. For these reasons, it is good to see what the Bible teaches about this memorial given to us by the Lord.

Mark 14: 22-25 ***"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, blessed and brake it, and gave to them and said, Take, eat; this is My Body.***

And He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

And He said unto them, This is My Blood of the new testament which is shed for many.

Verily, I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

WHY DO WE PARTICIPATE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The Lord Himself commanded us to do this!

The Apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 11:23-29 ***"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread...(and) took the cup also saying, Do this in remembrance of Me.***

For as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup ye do show the Lord's death till He comes."

Just as we follow the Lord's command to be baptized and understand it to be a picture of His death, burial and resurrection, so we follow His command to partake of the communion feast with one another and understand that this is a picture of His body being crucified on the cross and His blood being shed for our sins.

The central purpose of the Lord's Supper is to bring the sacrifice to Christ and all its blessed results to mind. Each time around the table we are again reminded of how great his love for

each of us is. We are emphatically told by Paul that we should not eat or drink ***“without recognizing His body.”***

1 Corinthians 11: 29

WHAT IS THE LORD’S SUPPER?

The feast, as it was celebrated in the Bible, is always eaten with two simple elements, bread and the fruit of the vine. The Lord has chosen two common and ordinary elements to remind us, whenever we eat them, of His sacrifice and love for us. While these elements become especially meaningful at the time of communion, they are also there to remind us of this love at every meal of the day.

Though the elements are only natural food, the Lord has caused us to think of them as representing His Body and Blood. We, who are saved, who are covered by the Blood of the Lamb and who are part of the Body of Christ, are instructed at this time to judge ourselves rightly so that we will not be judged (1Corinthians 11:31). Thus, we are provided a special time for repentance.

HOW SHOULD WE COME?

We should be examining our lives. We should not hesitate to set things right with our fellow believers and with the Lord.

WHEN SHOULD WE COME TO THE TABLE?

The Bible does not give a clear and specific command but Acts 20:7 implies that the disciples in Troas celebrated the Lord’s Supper on the Lord’s Day. Paul knew when he arrived there, early in the week, that the disciples would gather for communion on the first day of the week and that he would be able to preach to them. The rebuke to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11:20-21 and 1 Corinthians 16:2, has an implication that on the first day of the week the Corinthian church met together at the Lord’s Table and to bring their offerings.

In the Old Testament, the priest came each week to eat the Bread of the Presence from the Golden Table of the Tabernacle Leviticus 24:5-9. The bread is a type of Christ John 6:27-59. The table appeared to be a type of the Lord’s Table. The priest of the New Testament, that is the believers, 1Peter 2:9, gathered about the Lord’s Table to partake of Communion, a bread just as the priest of the family of Aaron ate from the Golden Table of the Bread of the Presence.

The question remains, when should we come to the Table, each Sunday, each Wednesday, once a month, twice a month, when? All of the above is correct as well as any other time you might believe to be appropriate. Whether it be once a week or once a month, whether it be at home

or at the church services, Jesus set the pattern when He said, **“As often you do it, do it in remembrance of me.”**

WHY BREAD AND GRAPE JUICE?

The bread symbolizes two things. The Body of Jesus that which was broken for our well-being and also the church (the Body of Christ) through which we draw fellowship, unity, and a working, understanding of the Kingdom of God. The grape juice symbolizes the Blood of Jesus which is shed for the remission (removal) of our sins.

1Corinthians 10:16-17 ***The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread***

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN WE PARTAKE?

In the few minutes that we remember Jesus in the way He requested, we can do a self-examination or worship. Without our permission, our minds can wander from one subject to another if not purposefully directed. Satan will even use the quiet time to accuse us of sin and remind us just how unworthy we really are.

For this reason, we are instructed in how to occupy our thought during Communion.

1 Corinthians 11:28 tells us to examine ourselves. This self-examination will lead us to evaluate our priorities in life as revealed by our calendar and checkbook! We can assure the Lord of our love and loyalty to Him. We ought to commit our lives to some place of meaningful service. We need to consider how vital church services are for our growth.

The second area the Bible deals with is in 1 Corinthians 11:29, where we are told to “discern the Lord’s Body.” Usually we tend to think that this refers to the physical body of Jesus at Calvary. This is certainly in harmony with His command to “Do this in remembrance of me.” However, much of the context of 1 Corinthians has to do with the Body of Christ. We are directed to consider the Church, our local assembly and the entire worldwide Body of Christ.

When we meditate after eating the symbols or elements, we must thank God for the Church and commit ourselves to its success in getting the Gospel out. Why not pray for the person on either side, for those behind us and in front of us, for those we have sent overseas, and for the pastors and his/her staff?

PASTOR

Ephesians 4: 11-13 ***“...He gave some apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelist; and some PASTORS and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:***

Till we all come into the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, choose Pastors. The word for pastor in Greek is poiman, which means shepherd. God does not use the title pastor or shepherd without a purpose. The first quality about a pastor is that he/she is a leader. The Pastor leads his/her flock and makes decisions concerning them.

The Word declares their main objective is not to build buildings, but to build people, **“perfecting the saints,”** equipping them for the work of the ministry to edify the body of Christ. The pastor’s office is not to be for one year or any set time by man. **It is God who called and it will be God who releases.**

He/she is to teach them the Word of God and spend much time in the Word and prayer to feed his/her gift and mature in their office. The Pastor should be aware that many in his/her congregation are more knowledgeable in some areas than he/she is. Many of them have great expertise in natural fields and can benefit him/her through counsel. He/she must remain teachable. If the Pastor leans on the anointing of his/her office, they will **always be successful** in their place as Pastor and leader of the flock.

1 Timothy 3:1-7 ***When God calls a Pastor, He gives them a Pastor’s heart: the desire to help people spiritually. A Pastor is to take the office willingly, rather than by constraint (necessity). He/she is not to take the office for filthy lucre. Money must not be reason for accepting the office.***

The Pastor is not to be a dictator: “Neither as being lords over God’s heritage.” A Pastor leads and he/she never tells the congregation to do anything they would not do themselves, both by the word or deed. It should be clear that the Pastor does not own the flock in any sense. He/she merely has the responsibility to admonish and to feed them from the Word of God.

Once the people walk out the door, whether they live the Word is their responsibility. This is not to say that the Pastor has no concern for them. He/she simply cannot watch over their lives daily. Their ultimate accountability is to God. However, those on full time or volunteer staff are accountable to God first and then the Pastor for their lifestyles and example to the body of Christ.

At The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance the Pastor receives Shepherd/love offerings. This is a gift given through a designated space on the offering envelope. It is biblical in that the Pastor sows to us spiritual things and it is that the Pastor reaps our carnal things (1 Corinthians 9:11).

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL (CLERGY)

Men or women who are affiliated with The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance with a calling of the Lord to full time services, ordained or licensed to carry out the ministerial functions associated with this assembly:

Ordained Ministers are full time proven ministers of the necessary experience and scriptural qualifications who hold the office of an assistant who have actively demonstrated a specific calling and ability to oversee the work of the ministry as pastor, evangelist, missionary, etc.

To ordain or appoint means to set apart a person divinely called to a special ministry in and for the church. It does not always apply communication of power; although no person has scriptural right to be ordained to an office until he/she is qualified to fill it. Ordination is simply the recognition of a qualified person to do what he/she is divinely called to do.

It is a recognition by the church and its leaders of a man or women, who has certain gifts and made certain preparations for a particular work for God. The person to be ordained is not only chosen by God, but also, recognized by the church and set apart by proper church officials in a special service of instructions, prayer, and laying on of hands. First of all, ordination comes from God and it is God's Word that disqualifies that individual.

Licensed ministers are ministers actively engaged in the work of the Lord, whose purpose is to give them-selves wholly to the ministry.

DEACONS AND DEACONESS

Romans 16: 1-4 I commend unto you Phebe our sister. Which is a servant of the church... That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints... for she hath been a succourer of many and of myself also.

Greet Priscilla and Aquilla, my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles

From the above passage of scripture, we find some very important facts concerning the office of deacon and deaconess. These people meet certain criteria set by the Word of God, such as **men and women of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and faith, appointed or recommended by those in authority over them.** We, also, find that deacons can be either man or woman.

Deacons and deaconess are servants. The Greek rendering of servant is diakones, whereby we arrive at the word deacon. It means to run an errand, an attendant, waiter of tables or in other menial duties, teach and minister, technically deacon or deaconess. The word appointed means to place down, to designate, constitute, ordain, etc. To commend, as Paul did in Acts 6:1-6, means to introduce, approve, exhibit or stand near.

From the above scriptures, as well as many others found in the Bible, Greater Faith Church of Deliverance recognizes the office of deacon and deaconess. The qualifications of a deacon or deaconess, as well as his/her mate, are found in:

1 Timothy 3:8-13

“Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of deacon, being found blameless.

From these qualifications, we find this person must be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in strong drink, not pursuing dishonest gain, holding the deep truth of God’s Word with a clear conscience and first tested. If married, then married to one worthy of respect, not a malicious talker, temperate, trustworthy in everything and able to manage the children and household well.

The appointment of deacons and deaconess comes from the recommendation of those, who have had the opportunity to observe the daily life of the individual, as well as their spiritual walk with God.

The length of time will be no less than one year of service. This individual is then presented to the Pastor and pastoral elders for approval. Upon approval, the individual will be set into the office of deacon and deaconess.

HELPS MINISTRY

In everything there are those who labor for the Lord without the traditional title of deacons, elders, etc. Many times their labor goes unnoticed by many. Yet, these people are a vital part of the move and family of God and hold a God-ordained office within the church body.

1 Corinthians 12:22-23, 28 “...those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: and those members of the body, which we think to be less honorable, upon these we bestow more abundant honor; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondary prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, HELPS, governments, diversities of tongues:

The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance has many members that operate in the ministry of helps, co-laboring with the Pastor to carry out the God-given vision of the ministry. These people assist in the work of the Lord in many ways. They can be found in every aspect of the ministry, such as ushers, greeters, media ministry, children's ministry, youth ministry, adult ministry, etc. Whenever God has established a department head to forward the work of the Lord, you find a number of co-laborers fulfilling the call of Ministry of Helps.

Ministry of Helps is volunteer workers under direct supervision of the Director in charge of the particular department and must meet certain qualifications.

HOW TO BENEFIT FROM MEMBERSHIP

HOW TO BENEFIT FROM MEMBERSHIP

Now, how do you get the most out of your membership? The purpose of membership in a local church is to be in a position where you can be taught the Word of God and can develop your spiritual maturity. We find in the Bible in Ephesians 4:11-12 that ministry gifts were given so that believers could mature. It is our goal to minister to you in such a way that you may mature in the things of God.

You can get the most out of your membership by understanding your purpose for being a member. When the membership appeal was made, the commitment to you was to provide the necessary staff to meet the spiritual needs you have and to stand before you anointed to teach you the things of God in a manner where you may both understand them and apply them. We have fellowship opportunities, but unfortunately, we cannot force you to come to the fellowship opportunities.

In the fellowship opportunities, the worship services, Bible studies and the various other ministries that we have, you will meet and develop relationship with other believers in the church. It is very important that you surround yourself with people who have made a decision to give their lives to Christ and to commit their lives to ministry.

DISCIPLINE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

It is essential that every believer be established on a secure, solid foundation which assures stability. From it, wholeness is developed-physically, spiritually, emotionally, morally, socially and financially. The importance of a solid foundation is been illustrated in Matthew 7: 24-27. The story gives an account of two men decided to build houses. The wise man built his house on a rock, a solid immovable, unwavering foundation. The foolish man builds his house upon sand. Both houses look gorgeous from the outside, appealing to the eye of the beholders. However, as the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon the house, the house established on the rock **did not** fall. The house built on sand fell greatly! How tragic you may say, if only the foolish man would have considered the essence of the type of foundation he built upon.

There are certain principles in the Word of God, which one planted and exercised by faith, will determine whether you will stand or fall greatly. One such scripture emphasizes the importance of membership and church attendance. Total commitment and active participation with a local church body are mandated for spiritual growth.

Hebrew 10:25 “Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other”

WORSHIP

You are part of this body of believers, so you will not want to neglect personal prayer and study of the Word.

Each member has a responsibility for maintaining a life that is an example of righteousness and living by the Spirit of God.

Each member must consider the importance of faithfulness to all services. This is how you're church home and you, as a part of the body, will continue to grow. Therefore, you will want to be an active participant.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Here is how to set up an appointment for ministry. Simply request a meeting online via our website at www.thegfcd.org/meeting-request at least 5 days prior to the appointment time. Please complete the online form in it's entirety and our administration will get back to you within 72 hours to let you know the status of your request.

COUNSELING/ADVISEMENT

There are times in your life when you will need someone to talk with for counsel or advisement. Sometimes we seek help because of great distress or pain. We may suffer specific symptoms such as depression or anxiety. Our marriage or relationships may be vulnerable or at risk. We are keenly isolated, or we have a deep longing to live more fully, to find God's deepest purpose for our life. Whatever the need, counseling is available. Finding a well-respected, caring, and fully capable man or woman, who is also a minister, can be one of the most satisfying places to begin that journey.

WEDDINGS

It is a joy to our heart to see people come together in the institution of marriage as we do perform weddings at our church. You must make an appointment with the **Church**

Administrator, if you or your children who attend the church desire to have a wedding at the church.

Our church has wedding ceremonies for our members as well as non-members. We do rent our church to non-members for weddings and other activities if the church does not have a scheduled service or activity. The church Executive Minister will schedule appropriate dates and times.

The Pastor will have at least **(3) pre-material session**. In the session, the Pastor and First Lady will go over with the bride and groom several things concerning marriage, concerning the ceremony, answer whatever questions you may have and explain how our weddings are done and what decorations and music are acceptable. It is necessary for the bride and groom to complete a mandatory pre-marital class in order for the Pastor to officiate the ceremony. **Please contact the church administrator (gfdcchurch@gmail.com).**

BENEVOLENT HELP

What do you do when you need some assistance? We have a Benevolence Ministry to help meet the needs of the grieving family and we take up offerings from time to time for our Members who are experiencing challenges. **If you have a need, you should get in touch with the church administrator (gfdcchurch@gmail.com).**

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Concerning the death of an immediate family, if one of your immediate family members passes away and goes to be with the Lord, it is your responsibility to inform the church of it. Please do not trust, or expect the Holy Spirit to reveal something to us that you could easily tell us. Please do not tell another member of the church, expecting them to communicate it to us. As you let the church office know, we will minister to your spiritual needs. **The Pastor or the Minister of Special Care will be with you.** We will get with you to see what assistance we can be to you in making the necessary arrangements. It is our purpose to be available to meet whatever spiritual needs you and your family may have at that time. If your love one was un-churched, we will make our church available for services when possible. You must follow the established guidelines for memorial services. It is **not** our commitment to attend the memorial services of every one of your loved ones. Only those loved ones in your immediate family. There are special cases of course, where if you were raised by an aunt or uncle and they were like a parent to you that must be communicated to us and we will do our part to minister to you during that time just as we would for an immediate family member.

For death of loves ones who are members of our church, it is your responsibility to convey your desire to your family as to whether or not your home going services will be held at our church. It is not ours to fight or contend with your family. So if you do not cover these things with them, we will simply go along with the wishes of your family.

If the family does not wish for the services to be held at GFCD Church, we will attend wherever the services are held within reason and we will do what we can. If a (Home going Service) funeral is to be held at our church, we will assign the coordinator to arrange all of the events and everything will be done decently and in order.

WHEN YOU ARE IN THE HOSPITAL

If you are admitted to the hospital, it is your responsibilities to communicate that to us either directly, or have one of your love ones communicate it to the staff. Please do not just communicate it to a member of the church, but directly to the church office so that we can minister to you at that time. It is our desire to know, it is our desire to pray for you, it is our desire to visit with you and to have your brothers and sisters in the Lord pray with you during that time. The bible say's in **James 5:14 "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:"**

WEDDINGS

If you are interested in having a wedding at the GFCD Church please schedule an appointment with the church administrator the check availability, and for further information about building leasing, rules, and guidelines.

If you are interested in Pastor Carter marrying you, please note that he has separate charges and requirements. Please ask the church administrator for information. Please note that you may be directed to complete and online form to complete your request.

BUILDING RENTALS

If you are interested in leasing any part of the church for services, parties, etc. please see the church administrator for charges, guidelines, and contracts. Please note that you may be directed to complete and online form to complete your request.

WHAT WE BELIEVE AND TEACH

WHAT WE BELIEVE AND TEACH

We believe in the triune God and Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; Jesus Christ is the true God and true man.

We believe the Holy Spirit is a divine person.

We believe all scriptures are given by the inspiration of God.

We believe all have sinned and come short of the glory of God and are in need of salvation.

We believe salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men.

We believe it is the will of God that every Believer be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We believe healing provided in the redemptive work of Christ and is available to every Believer.

We believe the Church consists of all those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

We believe there shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust.

We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the water baptism and observance of the Lord's Supper.

CONCLUSION

After reading this Membership Manual, our prayer is that you have felt the vision and the very heart of this ministry. Here at The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance, we are totally committed to you and your family and assisting you to **“Grow in grace, greater faith and deliverance!”**

Every program is prayerfully planned with you and your family in mind and helping you to attain a closer walk with God.

Please do not see The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance as a **“church as usual,”** where we go to church each week and go through the motions! But rather, see us as a spiritual dwelling; a place where you and your family can grow in every area of your life!

Our ministry team stands ready to assist you! We pray that you experience the love of God each time you enter The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance and that you will permit the Holy Spirit to shape you into a vital part of The Greater Faith Church of Deliverance Family.

AGAIN, WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME & FAMILY!