

Hitting Your S.T.R.I.D.E.

“He has given each one of us a special gift according to the generosity of Christ... He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.”

— Ephesians 4:7, 11, 12 (New Living Translation)

One key membership expectation at the Church of the Resurrection is that each member will give time and energy in service to others. That expectation is based on the Bible passage quoted above (see also 1 Peter 2:5, 9, 10). However, it can be hard to decide where and how we will serve. There are so many good and important ministries. Not even the most dedicated Christian can possibly respond to all of the calls that cross our path. The question is, how shall we choose?

Our answer is a process we call S.T.R.I.D.E., which stands for:

Spiritual Gifts
Talents
Resources
Individuality
Dreams
Experiences

Trusting
Prayerful
Conscientious
Objective
Inspiring
Motivating
Faith-filled
Nurturing
Persevering
Visionary
Intuitive
COMPASSIONATE
Responsible
Comforting
Resourceful
Organized
Sensitive
RELATIONAL
Merciful
Challenging
HUMBLE
Optimistic
Giving
Adaptable

TALENTS/SKILLS/ABILITIES

(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> CPR/First Aid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music – Vocal | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Coach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Craftsmanship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Editing | <input type="checkbox"/> Intercession |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Artistic | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Team Player |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera Operator | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encourager | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Data Entry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Press Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Video Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving | <input type="checkbox"/> Vision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clerical | <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Knowledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Disciple Bible Study Graduate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Music - Instrumental |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Puppets | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compassion | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Script Writing | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Graphics | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Set Design/Construction | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computerized Photography | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Listener | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Language | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sound Mixing | |

Just as you cannot fit a square peg into a round hole (at least, not without doing a lot of damage), you cannot fit all people into the same ministry positions. Every position, and every person, is unique. The purpose of the S.T.R.I.D.E. process is to help you understand how God has created you, and to help you find an area of service that fits you well.

This guide will introduce you to the S.T.R.I.D.E. process, and help you start down the path of meaningful service. There is much we can't cover here — please consider this the beginning of your journey, not the end! As the Holy Spirit urges you to learn more, and deepen your understanding of how God has equipped you to serve Him, the church offers Serving from the Heart classes several times a year, as well as personal consultations and support from the Connections Ministries office. You'll want to check them out at the appropriate time. But for now, let's get started!

S — Spiritual Gifts

In a nutshell, here are some of the main things the Bible teaches us about spiritual gifts:

- Every Christian (yes, even YOU) has one or more God-given spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7)
- Spiritual gifts are given, not for personal improvement or profit, but to serve others (1 Peter 4:10)
- God, not us, chooses which spiritual gifts we receive (1 Corinthians 12:18)
- Any spiritual gift is given to some (not all) Christians (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:29, 30) — this means:
 - We're each gifted to fill a different place in God's service — both envy and ego are ruled out
 - Only as we all do our unique parts will the church achieve its God-intended effectiveness
- The Church operates like our body, with each part doing its special function, and all directed by the Head (Jesus Christ) (Romans 12:4-8)

So which spiritual gifts has God given you? Ultimately, the best way to discover that is to “try out” various service areas. Those areas in which you are most effective, that bring you the most joy, and in which you receive the greatest support and confirmation from fellow Christians will be the ones in which God has gifted you to serve. Use this guide to narrow the options so you can focus your choice of which service areas you want to try out.

Here's an exercise to help you start thinking about which gifts God may have given you. Listed on the adjacent page are 16 gifts identified in Scripture that are often used in service at Church of the Resurrection. Under each gift's name is a word or phrase that indicates its contribution to the church along with a list of words that are often descriptive of people having that gift. If five or more words on a list are true of you, you may have received that gift. To further explore the gifts you may have, ask one or more Christian friends or family members who know you well to do the same process for you, without knowing your answers.

T — Talents

Everyone (not just Christians) is born with natural talents. We may also develop talents through workplace experiences, schooling, and in other ways. God often takes our talents and uses them with our spiritual gifts. To help you assess your talents, prayerfully study the list to the left and check all that apply.

CIRCLE THE GIFTS YOU MAY HAVE:

<p>Administration <i>Efficiency</i></p> <p>Conscientious Objective Efficient Organized Dependable Thorough Goal-oriented</p>	<p>Exhortation <i>Encouragement</i></p> <p>Affirming Motivating Consoling Challenging Reassuring Comforting Positive</p>	<p>Helps <i>Assistance</i></p> <p>Available Reliable Pragmatic Dependable Willing Selfless Servant-oriented</p>	<p>Prophecy <i>Conviction</i></p> <p>Confronting Convicting Uncompromising Penetrating Outspoken Authentic Compelling</p>
<p>Apostleship <i>New Ministries</i></p> <p>Entrepreneurial Cause-driven Risk-taking Adaptable Persevering Adventurous Culturally sensitive</p>	<p>Faith <i>Confidence</i></p> <p>Prayerful Assured Trusting Illuminating Optimistic Convinced Hopeful</p>	<p>Leadership <i>Direction</i></p> <p>Diligent Visionary Persuasive Influential Role model Activating Inspiring</p>	<p>Teaching <i>Application</i></p> <p>Articulate Analytical Practical Well-grounded Authoritative Incisive Teachable</p>
<p>Discernment <i>Clarity</i></p> <p>Insightful Truthful Confronting Intuitive Receptive Perceptive Decisive</p>	<p>Giving <i>Resources</i></p> <p>Charitable Generous Responsible Disciplined Depends on God Good steward Resourceful</p>	<p>Mercy <i>Care</i></p> <p>Empathetic Tender Sensitive Responsive Kind Caring Burden-bearing</p>	<p>Word of Knowledge <i>Awareness</i></p> <p>Comprehending Astute Rational Observant Diligent Reflective Studious</p>
<p>Evangelism <i>The Good News</i></p> <p>Confident Relational Faith-sharing Outgoing Spiritual Challenging Communicator</p>	<p>Healing <i>Wholeness</i></p> <p>Faith-filled Power in prayer Submissive Compassionate Spiritual Humble Trusts in God</p>	<p>Pastor-Teacher <i>Shepherding</i></p> <p>Nurturing Disciple-maker Guiding Relational Protective Facilitating Instructing</p>	<p>Word of Wisdom <i>Guidance</i></p> <p>Reasonable Thoughtful Clear-sighted Skillful Sensible Obedient to God's will Wise</p>

R — Resources

The word “resources” may bring finances to mind. Our resources also include our time, our contacts, our hobbies and many other things. The real question is, how are we using our resources? Jesus urged us to “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” (Matthew 6:20) In other words, He called on us to find ways to invest our earthly resources in things that have eternal value. This is an important part of our service profile: how am I using my resources? How could I use them more effectively to advance God's Kingdom?

I — Individuality

Are you a “big picture” person, or do you like to work out every detail of a project? Which is harder — being with 12 other church members discussing a need, or being alone writing a proposal about that need? It's important to understand your individuality — the way that you work best.

There are many ways to understand personal styles. For S.T.R.I.D.E., we work with two dimensions: one axis from Extrovert (energized through interaction with people) to Introvert (energized by reflection, usually alone), and the other from Stable (prefer deadlines, structure, accountability and systems) to Flexible (focused on goals, preferring to leave details to be worked out). This produces four basic styles:

Extrovert/Stable: like clearly-defined relationships, warm, thoughtful, loyal, trusting

Extrovert/Flexible: spontaneous, enthusiastic, fun, inspirational, welcome change

Introvert/Stable: quiet, reflective, practical, thorough, fact-oriented

Introvert/Flexible: prefer general guidelines, self-confident, competitive, risk-taking, visionary

Few people are “pure” examples of just one style, but most of us can identify one of these four styles that seems to describe us best. Seek ministry opportunities that are a good fit for your style.

D — Dreams

God cares about every need that exists on earth — every hurt, every brokenness, and every lost person. But He knows that such expansive caring is beyond our humanness. That is why He places a dream (a desire, a passion, an interest, a calling) in each of our hearts. Our dream helps to define the sphere in which our gifts can function best.

Our dreams are often about helping a particular people group (e.g. the elderly), advancing a particular cause (e.g. relieving hunger), or exercising a particular function in a helping way (e.g. mentoring). The list to the right is meant to help you begin thinking about where your dream lies. But remember: you may not yet have been exposed to the area in which God wants you to serve. In the end, as with our gifts, we discover our dreams through trying various areas of service, and finding the one(s) that give us the greatest joy, fulfillment and effectiveness. Please check the list of dreams to the right and check all that apply.

E — Experience

Good or bad, our experiences have made us who we are today. As we look at life through the eyes of God, we come to understand that His gracious, healing touch can use all of our experiences to prepare us for service. Our pain can help us minister to others in pain. Our success can give hope and direction to others who are failing. All of our experiences — family, work, ministry, relationships, circumstances — are building blocks God can use to equip us to serve. So review your life experiences, and prayerfully ask God to guide you in using those experiences to bless others.

Hitting your S.T.R.I.D.E.

And there you have it — a quick outline of how you can find your S.T.R.I.D.E. for service to God and others. There is, of course, more to learn, and the real fun of the process comes in actually getting involved in service, “getting our hands dirty” for God.

Next steps

For help in connecting your S.T.R.I.D.E. with a service opportunity, the following options are available:

DREAMS

(Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse Victims | <input type="checkbox"/> Jr. High Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction/ Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Discipleship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babies | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-School | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Moms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving | <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Care Giving | <input type="checkbox"/> Underprivileged |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grief/Grieving | <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary Students |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proofreading | <input type="checkbox"/> Minorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Encouragement of Others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Relationship with God | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronically Ill | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing Impaired | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. High Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Widows/ Widowers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping | <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospice Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Families |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating | <input type="checkbox"/> Written Word of God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design Work | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infertility | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sports | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developing Leaders | _____ |