



**YOUTH SABBATH
SCHOOL LESSONS**

First Year, Third Quarter

Church Membership
Privileges and Duties

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Contents

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP—PRIVILEGES AND DUTIES

1. THE BODY OF CHRIST	5
2. IMPORTANCE OF BELONGING TO THE CHURCH	8
3. THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.	11
4. THE PRIVILEGE OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	14
5. RIGHTS OF CHURCH MEMBERS	17
6. PRACTICAL PRIVILEGES AND RIGHTS	20
7. THE PRIVILEGE OF WORSHIP.	23
8. PRACTICAL DUTIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS	26
9. CHURCH ATTENDANCE	30
10. ORDER AND CHURCH DISCIPLINE	33
11. SPIRITUAL RESOURCES.	37
12. APOSTLES, PROPHETS, AND TEACHERS	40
13. ADDITIONAL GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT	43

INTRODUCTION

The Youth Sabbath School Lessons for this quarter are about the far-reaching implications of church membership. These things are not always taken seriously enough nor seen in their true importance.

The church was established by the Lord Jesus Christ for a specific purpose—to be the light of the world to those around it and to give His truth to all mankind. His church is made up of individuals, and each one has a very special place to fill in His body. Every member has both privileges and responsibilities. It is a great blessing to belong to the church of Jesus in the last days, as it places each member in a special relationship to God and His Son. The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, becomes his special Companion and Teacher.

Since every privilege is connected to responsibilities, these are outlined in these lessons. If they are learned well and accepted, difficulties, misunderstandings, and discord will be absent and great joy and happiness will be part of each one's spiritual experience. As you earnestly study the concepts in these lessons, God will grant you great blessings.



The Body of Christ

“The church is God’s agency for the proclamation of truth, empowered by Him to do a special work; and if she is loyal to Him, obedient to all His commandments, there will dwell within her the excellency of divine grace. If she will be true to her allegiance, if she will honor the Lord God of Israel, there is no power that can stand against her.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 600.

1. To what is God’s church compared? Colossians 1:18.
2. Of what does a body consist? 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14.



“The Lord has wrought with you, enabling you to act your part as His workman; but there are other workmen also who are to act their part as His instrumentalities. These help to compose the whole body. All are to be united as parts of one great organism. The Lord’s church is composed of living, working agencies, who derive their power to act from the Author and Finisher of their faith. They are to carry forward in harmony the great work resting on them. God has given you your work. But He has other instrumentalities, and to them He has given their work, that all may become, through sanctification of the truth, members of Christ’s body, of His flesh and of His bones. Representing Christ, we act for time and for eternity; and men, even worldly men, take knowledge of us that we have been with Jesus and have learned of Him.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 174.

3. What is necessary for a body or an organism to be healthy and function efficiently? 1 Corinthians 12:15-17, 25.

“God’s people are not to be in confusion, lacking order and harmony, consistency and beauty. The Lord is greatly dishonored when disunion exists among His people. Truth is a unit. The unity that God requires must be cultivated day by day if we would answer the prayer of Christ.... His servants are to be one, as Christ is one with the Father; their powers, illuminated, inspired, and sanctified, must be united

to make a complete whole. Those who love God and keep His commandments are not to draw apart; they are to press together.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 174, 175.

4. What interesting fact is revealed in the function of the human body? 1 Corinthians 12:21-24. How can we apply this to the church?

5. What three meanings are found in the following texts for the word “church”?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 10:32; 12:28; Philipians 3:6.

 - b. Romans 16:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:1.

 - c. 1 Corinthians 11:18; 14:19, 23.

The Greek word *Ekklesia* and its Hebrew equal, *Qahal*, signify a congregation or assembly—those who are called together, or a gathering of God’s children. They are individuals who are called together to form an assembly or congregation. It is in this sense that Luke speaks of the church in Acts 7:38.

6. In view of the many Christian churches in the world today, of how many of them is Jesus the Head? Romans 12:4, 5; Ephesians 5:23.



“When, in the midst of his blind error and prejudice, Saul was given a revelation of the Christ whom he was persecuting, he was placed in direct communication with the church, which is the light of the world. In this case Ananias represents Christ, and also represents Christ’s ministers upon the earth, who are appointed to act in His stead.... Christ is the fountain; the church is the channel of communication.”
–*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 122.

“There is but one church in the world who are at the present time standing in the breach, and making up the hedge, building up the old waste places;...” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 50.

7. To whom does Christ pay particular attention in His church? 1 Corinthians 12:18; Matthew 18:14.



“He walks in the midst of His churches throughout the length and breadth of the earth. He watches them with intense interest to see whether they are in such a condition spiritually that they can advance His kingdom. Christ is present in every assembly of the church. He is acquainted with everyone connected with His service. He knows those whose hearts He can fill with the holy oil, that they may impart it to others. Those who faithfully carry forward the work of Christ in our world, representing in word and works the character of God, fulfilling the Lord’s purpose for them, are in His sight very precious. Christ takes pleasure in them as a man takes pleasure in a well-kept garden and the fragrance of the flowers he has planted.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 418, 419.

Thought questions

1. What is the difference between God’s church and earthly organizations?
2. How do you relate the church to its members, and vice versa?
3. What channel does God use to tell people about His great plan of redemption?

Importance of Belonging to God's Church

1. What earnest desire did Christ express in His High Priestly prayer? John 17:21.

“As all the different members of the human system unite to form the entire body, and each performs its office in obedience to the intelligence that governs the whole, so the members of the church of Christ should be united in one symmetrical body, subject to the sanctified intelligence of the whole.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 16.

2. What does Christ expect of those who form the spiritual body of His church? Philippians 2:5; Romans 15:5, 6.

“God is leading out a people to stand in perfect unity upon the platform of eternal truth. Christ gave Himself to the world that He might ‘purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.’” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 17.

3. What is the connection between church membership and one's personal salvation? Acts 4:12.

“Let all understand the words that I now write. Those who are laborers together with God are but His instruments, and they in themselves possess no essential grace or holiness. It is only when they are cooperating with heavenly intelligences that they are successful. They are but earthen vessels, the depositories in which God places the treasure of His truth. Paul may plant, and Apollos water, but it is God alone that gives the increase.



“God speaks through His appointed agencies, and let no man, or confederacy of men, insult the Spirit of God by refusing to hear the message of God's word from the lips of His chosen messengers. By refusing to hear the message of God, men close themselves in a chamber of darkness. They shut their own souls away from the

vast blessings and rob Christ of the glory that should come to Him, by showing disrespect to His appointed agencies.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 53, 54.

4. Why do members of the church sometimes begin to find fault with it? Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Timothy 4:10.

“Christ has a church in every age. There are in the church those who are not made any better by their connection with it. They themselves break the terms of their election. Obedience to the commandments of God gives us a right to the privileges of His church.” –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1079.

5. In what stage of development is the church of God today? Revelation 12:17.



“Some people seem to think that upon entering the church they will have their expectations fulfilled, and meet only with those who are pure and perfect. They are zealous in their faith, and when they see faults in church members, they say, ‘We left the world in order to have no association with evil characters, but the evil is here also;’ and they ask, as did the servants in the parable, ‘From whence hath it tares?’ But we need not be thus disappointed, for the Lord has not warranted us in coming to the conclusion that the church is perfect; and all our zeal will not be successful in making the church militant as pure as the church triumphant.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 47.

6. What does independent actions on the part of church members in matters of faith and practice cause? 1 Corinthians 12:25, 27.

“Though we have an individual work and an individual responsibility before God, we are not to follow our own independent judgment, regardless of the opinions and feelings of our brethren; for this course would lead to disorder in the church.” –*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 30.

7. In what manner does God intend to gather and save His people? Revelation 22:17.



“God is leading a people out from the world upon the exalted platform of eternal truth, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. He will discipline and fit up His people. They will not be at variance, one believing one thing and another having faith and views entirely opposite, each moving independently of the body. Through the diversity of the gifts and governments that He placed in the church, they will all come to the unity of the faith. If one man takes his views of Bible truth without regard to the opinion of his brethren, and justifies his course, alleging that he has a right to his own particular views, and then presses them upon others, how can he be fulfilling the prayer of Christ? And if another and still another arises, each asserting his right to believe and talk what he pleases without reference to the faith of the body, where will be that harmony which existed between Christ and His Father, and which Christ prayed might exist among His brethren?”
—*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, pp. 29, 30.

Thought questions

1. What personal reasons can you give for belonging to a particular church?

2. How much tolerance do you have for:
 - a. the church’s shortcomings, if any?

 - b. inconsistency between teachings and individual practice?

3. Who actually builds the church? What does this mean to you?



Purpose of Church Membership

1. For what purpose did Jesus organize His church? Matthew 5:14-16; Acts 13:47.

“The church is organized for service; and in a life of service to Christ, connection with the church is one of the first steps. Loyalty to Christ demands the faithful performance of church duties. This is an important part of one’s training; and in a church imbued with the Master’s life, it will lead directly to effort for the world without.” –*Education*, pp. 268, 269.

2. Only in what way can a Christian grow spiritually? John 15:4, 5; Hebrews 10:25.

“Very close and sacred is the relation between Christ and His church—He the bridegroom, and the church, the bride; He the head, and the church the body. Connection with Christ, then, involves connection with His church.” –*Education*, p. 268.

3. What longing of Christ is to be fulfilled through the functions of the church? Ephesians 4:12-26.

“The members of the church need now to confess their backslidings and press together. My brethren, allow nothing to come in that will separate you from one another or from God. Talk not of differences of opinion, but unite in the love of the truth as it is in Jesus.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 11, 12.

4. If we are loyal church members who love the truth and the cause of God, what will be the result? Ephesians 4:13, 14.

5. What mystery is revealed in one's association with God's church? Ephesians 3:9, 10.

6. What was the first lesson the apostle Paul learned about the church? Acts 9:17, 18, 26.

"Thus Jesus gave sanction to the authority of His organized church and placed Saul in connection with His appointed agencies on earth. Christ had now a church as His representative on earth, and to it belonged the work of directing the repentant sinner in the way of life....

"When, in the midst of his blind error and prejudice, Saul was given a revelation of the Christ whom he was persecuting, he was placed in direct communication with the church, which is the light of the world."
—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 122.

7. How does God make His will known to men? Revelation 1:1.

The five-step channel of revelation through which God speaks is: (1) God, (2) Christ, (3) the angel, (4) the prophet, (5) the people.

"God has made His church on the earth a channel of light, and through it He communicates His purposes and His will. He does not give to one of His servants an experience independent of and contrary to the experience of the church itself. Neither does He give one man a knowledge of His will for the entire church, while the church—Christ's body—is left in darkness. In His providence, He places His servants in close connection with His church, in order that they may have less confidence in themselves, and greater confidence in others whom He is leading out to advance His work." —*Gospel Workers*, p. 443.

8. How can God's purpose for the church be frustrated?

"There have been in the church those who are constantly inclined toward individual independence. They seem unable to realize that independence of spirit is liable to lead the human agent to have too much confidence in himself, and to trust in his own judgment rather than to respect the counsel and highly esteem the judgment of his brethren, especially of those in the offices that God has appointed for the leadership of His people. God has invested His church with special authority and power, which no one can be justified in disregarding and despising; for He who does this despises the voice of God." —*Gospel Workers*, pp. 443, 444.

Thought questions

1. What is your personal purpose in belonging to the church?
2. How do you fulfill God's purpose in church membership?
3. In what ways is church membership a blessing to you? How do you think it can help you even more than it does now?



The Privilege of Church Membership

1. What two ordinances are church members privileged to participate in? Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.



“The ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper are two monumental pillars, one without and one within the church. Upon these ordinances Christ has inscribed the name of the true God.

“Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance to His spiritual kingdom. He has made this a positive condition with which all must comply who wish to be acknowledged as under the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Before man can find a home in the church, before passing the threshold of God’s spiritual kingdom, he is to receive the impress of the divine name, ‘The Lord our Righteousness.’ Jeremiah 23:6.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 91.

2. Into what special circle is the new convert brought? Ephesians 3:14-16; 1 John 3:1.

“In Christ we are all members of one family. God is our Father, and He expects us to take an interest in the members of His household, not a casual interest, but a decided, continual interest.” –*Evangelism*, p. 352.

3. What great advantage is there in being adopted into the heavenly family? John 15:16; 16:24.

“The gospel places a high value upon humanity as the purchase of the blood of Christ, and it teaches a tender regard for the wants and woes of man.” –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 287.

4. To whose influence is every church member exposed? Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:10; John 16:13.

“Every church is in need of the controlling power of the Holy Spirit, and now is the time to pray for it. But in all God’s work for man He plans that man shall cooperate with Him. To this end the Lord calls upon the church to have a higher piety, a more just sense of duty, a clearer realization of their obligations to their Creator. He calls upon them to be a pure, sanctified, working people. And the Christian help work is one means of bringing this about, for the Holy Spirit communicates with all who are doing God’s service.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, pp. 266, 267.

5. What privilege for the members is contained in the gospel commission? Mark 16:15.

“Angelic agencies, though invisible, are cooperating with visible human agencies, forming a relief association with men. Is there not something stimulating and inspiring in this thought that the human agent stands as the visible instrument to confer the blessing of heavenly agencies? As we are thus laborers together with God, the work bears the inscription of the divine. With what joy and delight all heaven looks upon these blended influences, influences which are acknowledged in the heavenly courts! Human agencies are the hands of heavenly instrumentalities, for heavenly angels employ human hands in practical ministry. Their acts of unselfish ministry make them partakers in the success which is a result of the relief offered. This is Heaven’s way of administering saving power. The knowledge and actions of the heavenly order of workers, united with the knowledge and power which are imparted to human agencies, relieve the oppressed and distressed.” –*My Life Today*, p. 305.

6. What does every faithful church member do here on earth? 1 Peter 4:8-10.

“We are stewards, entrusted by our absent Lord with the care of His household and His interests, which He came to this world to serve. He has returned to heaven, leaving us in charge, and He expects us to watch and wait for His appearing. Let us be faithful to our trust, lest coming suddenly He finds us sleeping.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 37.

7. What wonderful testimony did the apostle Paul give of the believers in Corinth? 1 Corinthians 14:25, last part.

"The religion of Christ transforms the heart. It makes the worldly-minded man heavenly-minded. Under its influence the selfish man becomes unselfish, because this is the character of Christ. The dishonest, scheming man becomes upright, so that it is second nature to him to do to others as he would have others do to him. The profligate is changed from impurity to purity. He forms correct habits; for the gospel of Christ has become to him a savor of life unto life....

"When a soul receives Christ, he receives power to live the life of Christ." –*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 12.

Thought questions

1. What other privileges are there in church membership, besides the ones mentioned in this lesson?
2. How do you feel about God's trusting you with the gospel commission?
3. What does it mean to have Jesus within you?



1. What personal right does everyone receive when he or she joins the church family? Jeremiah 34:15; Galatians 5:1.

"None should consent to be mere machines, run by another man's mind. God has given us ability to think and to act, and it is by acting with carefulness, looking to Him for wisdom, that you will become capable of bearing burdens. Stand in your God-given personality. Be no other person's shadow. Expect that the Lord will work in and by and through you." –*Messages to Young People*, p. 192.

2. While personal freedom is everyone's right, what will be seen in the converted Christian? Philippians 2:4.

"Thoughtless Christians manifest by their neglect of others that they are not in union with Christ. It is impossible to be in union with Christ and yet be unkind to others and forgetful of their rights. Many long intensely for friendly sympathy. God has given each of us an identity of our own, which cannot be merged in that of another; but our individual characteristics will be much less prominent if we are indeed Christ's and His will is ours. Our lives should be consecrated to the good and happiness of others, as was our Saviour's. We should be self-forgetful, ever looking out for opportunities, even in little things, to show gratitude for the favors we have received of others, and watching for opportunities to cheer others and lighten and relieve their sorrows and burdens by acts of tender kindness and little deeds of love." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, pp. 539, 540.

3. What may every repentant, converted Christian rightfully expect? 1 John 1:9.

"Here is where thousands fail: they do not believe that Jesus pardons them personally, individually. They do not take God at His word. It is the privilege of all who comply with the conditions to know for

themselves that pardon is freely extended for every sin. Put away the suspicion that God's promises are not meant for you. They are for every repentant transgressor." –*Steps to Christ*, pp. 52, 53.

4. What does the acceptance by faith of this divine promise give God's child? Philipplans 4:7; Isaiah 48:14.
5. What special relationship exists between Christ and the members of His body? Hebrews 11:6; 1 Peter 5:6, 7.

"Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears, before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him. He who numbers the hairs of your head is not indifferent to the wants of His children. 'The Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.' James 5:11. His heart of love is touched by our sorrows, and even by our utterance of them. Take to Him everything that perplexes the mind. Nothing is too great for Him to bear, for He holds up worlds. He rules over all the affairs of the universe. Nothing that in any way concerns our peace is too small for Him to notice. There is no chapter in our experience too dark for Him to read; there is no perplexity too difficult for Him to unravel." –*Steps to Christ*, p. 100.

6. As God's sons and daughters, what promise may one rightfully claim? John 16:24.

"Every promise in the word of God furnishes us with subject matter for prayer, presenting the pledged word of Jehovah as our assurance. Whatever spiritual blessing we need, it is our privilege to claim through Jesus. We may tell the Lord, with the simplicity of a child, exactly what we need. We may state to Him our temporal matters, asking Him for bread and raiment as well as for the bread of life and the robe of Christ's righteousness. Your Heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things, and you are invited to ask Him concerning them. It is through the name of Jesus that every favor is received. God will honor that name, and will supply your necessities from the riches of His liberality." –*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 133.

7. What surrounds and blesses every member? 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Romans 1:10

"The believers were ever to cherish the love that filled the hearts of the apostles after the descent of the Holy Spirit. They were to go forward in willing obedience to the new commandment: 'As I have loved you, that ye also love one another.' John 13:34....

"But the early Christians began to look for defects in one another. Dwelling upon mistakes, giving place to unkind criticism, they lost sight of the Saviour and of the great love He had revealed for sinners. They became more strict in regard to outward ceremonies, more particular about the theory of the faith, more severe in their criticisms. In their zeal to condemn others, they forgot their own errors. They forgot the lesson of brotherly love that Christ had taught. And, saddest of all, they were unconscious of their loss. They did not realize that happiness and joy were going out of their lives, and that soon they would walk in darkness, having shut the love of God out of their hearts." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, p. 241.

Thought questions

1. Do you find that your rights are always in harmony with your desires?
2. How can you explain that "loving others" is a right as well as a duty?
3. What difference is there between the rights of a church member and those of a non-member?



Practical Privileges and Rights

1. What rights are conveyed to the individual member by the church organization? Exodus 18:13, 14, 21, 22.

“As Jethro remained in the camp, he soon saw how heavy were the burdens that rested upon Moses. To maintain order and discipline among that vast, ignorant, and untrained multitude was indeed a stupendous task. Moses was their recognized leader and magistrate, and not only the general interests and duties of the people, but the controversies that arose among them, were referred to him. He had permitted this, for it gave him an opportunity to instruct them; as he said, ‘I do make them know the statutes of God, and His laws.’ But Jethro remonstrated against this,... and he counseled Moses to appoint proper persons as rulers of thousands, and others as rulers of hundreds, and others of tens.... These were to judge in all matters of minor consequence, while the most difficult and important cases should still be brought before Moses,...” *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 300, 301.

2. How is this democratic system exercised? Exodus 18:25; Acts 6:3, 6.

“God has not set any kingly power in the Seventh-day Adventist Church to control the whole body or to control any branch of the work. He has not provided that the burden of leadership shall rest upon a few men.

“Every member of the church has a voice in choosing officers of the church. The church chooses the officers of the state conferences. Delegates chosen by the state conferences choose the officers of the union conferences, and delegates chosen by the union conferences choose the officers of the General Conference. By this arrangement every conference, every institution, every church, and every individual, either directly or through representatives, has a voice in the election of the men who bear the chief responsibilities in the General Conference.” *—Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 236, 237.

3. What method of choosing church officers is not reliable?



“Let none be led from the sound, sensible principles that God has laid down for the guidance of His people, to depend for direction on any such device as the tossing up of a coin. Such a course is well pleasing to the enemy of souls; for he works to control the coin, and through its agency works out his plans. Let none be so easily deceived as to place confidence in any such tests. Let none belittle their experience by resorting to cheap devices for direction in important matters connected with the work of God.

“The Lord works in no haphazard way. Seek Him most earnestly in prayer....

“I have no faith in casting lots. We have in the Bible a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in regard to all church duties.... To cast lots for the officers of the church is not in God’s order.” –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 6, p. 1054.

4. What responsibility is reserved to church members in good standing? 1 Timothy 3:1-13.

“Great care should be exercised in selecting officers for the new churches. Let them be men and women who are thoroughly converted. Let those be chosen who are best qualified to give instruction, those who can minister both in word and in deed. There is a deep-seated necessity for work in every line.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 85.

5. What spiritual privilege is too often discounted or not appreciated by the members of the church? Colossians 3:17.

Answer: Speaking and acting in the name of Christ.

6. What great blessing is promised in times of danger? Psalm 91.
7. What rights were restored to the prodigal son when he returned to his father’s house? Luke 15:22, 23.

“In his restless youth the prodigal looked upon his father as stern and severe. How different his conception of him now! So those who are deceived by Satan look upon God as hard and exacting. They regard Him as watching to denounce and condemn, as unwilling to receive the sinner so long as there is a legal excuse for not helping him. His law they regard as a restriction upon men’s happiness, a burdensome yoke from which they are glad to escape. But he whose

eyes have been opened by the love of Christ will behold God as full of compassion. He does not appear as a tyrannical, relentless being, but as a father longing to embrace his repenting son....

“In the parable there is no taunting, no casting up to the prodigal of his evil course. The son feels that the past is forgiven and forgotten, blotted out forever.” —*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 204.

8. What other important right is entrusted to church members? Galatians 6:1, 2; Matthew 18:15-17.

“In the spirit of meekness, ‘considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted’ (Galatians 6:1), go to the erring one, and ‘tell him his fault between thee and him alone.’ Do not put him to shame by exposing his fault to others, nor bring dishonor upon Christ by making public the sin or error of one who bears His name. Often the truth must be plainly spoken to the erring; he must be led to see his error, that he may reform. But you are not to judge or to condemn. Make no attempt at self-justification. Let all your effort be for his recovery. In treating the wounds of the soul, there is need of the most delicate touch, the finest sensibility. Only the love that flows from the Suffering One of Calvary can avail here.” —*The Desire of Ages*, p. 440.

9. What will the redeemed experience when they enter the New Jerusalem? Revelation 21:23, 24.

“Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, ‘You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in.’ We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city.” —*Early Writings*, p. 17.

Thought questions

1. In what manner can you engage in your church’s mission?
2. What does the following expression mean to you: “Each Christian speaks for the Master”?
3. How do you consider God?

1. What characterized the first Christian church? Acts 2:43-46.

“God wants His people to be united in the closest bonds of Christian fellowship; confidence in our brethren is essential to the prosperity of the church; union of action is important in a religious crisis.”
 –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 3, p. 446.

2. Why is worship a wonderful privilege? Psalm 111:1.



“This example of devotion to God should emphasize the importance of religious worship and the necessity of subordinating our selfish, worldly interests to those that are spiritual and eternal. We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God. The truths of His word lose their vividness and importance in our minds. Our hearts cease to be enlightened and aroused by the sanctifying influence, and we decline in spirituality. In our intercourse as Christians we lose much by lack of sympathy with one another. He who shuts himself up to himself is not fulfilling the position that God designed he should. We are all children of one Father, dependent upon one another for happiness. The claims of God and of humanity are upon us. It is the proper cultivation of the social elements of our nature that brings us into sympathy with our brethren and affords us happiness in our efforts to bless others.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 541.

3. What yearly event was a great blessing for the people of Israel? Leviticus 23:40-42.

“This feast was to be preeminently an occasion of rejoicing. It occurred just after the Great Day of Atonement, when the assurance had been given that their iniquity should be remembered no more. At peace with God, they now came before Him to acknowledge His goodness and to praise Him for His mercy. The labors of the harvest being ended, and the toils of the new year not yet begun, the people were free from

care, and could give themselves up to the sacred, joyous influences of the hour. Though only the fathers and sons were commanded to appear at the feasts, yet, so far as possible, all the household were to attend them, and to their hospitality the servants, the Levites, the stranger, and the poor were made welcome....

“At these yearly assemblies the hearts of old and young would be encouraged in the service of God, while the association of the people from the different quarters of the land would strengthen the ties that bound them to God and to one another.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 540.

4. Summarize the following texts in one word each to answer the question, What is the purpose of worship? Psalms 113:1; 118:1; 119:97-99; 122:6-9.

“It is only when men begin to worship that they begin to grow.” –Calvin Coolidge.

“Worship liberates the personality by giving a new perspective to life, by integrating life with the multitude of life forms, by bringing into the life the virtues of humility, loyalty, devotion, and rightness of attitude, thus refreshing and reviving the spirit.” –Roswell C. Long.

“God intended that His people, Israel, should be light bearers to all the inhabitants of the earth. In maintaining His public worship they were bearing a testimony to the existence and sovereignty of the living God. And this worship it was their privilege to sustain, as an expression of their loyalty and their love to Him.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 528.

5. What benefits does true worship give? Psalm 149:1-4.

“The Lord desires His children to take comfort in His service, and to find more pleasure than hardship in His work. He desires that those who come to worship Him shall carry away with them precious thoughts of His care and love, that they may be cheered in the employments of daily life, that they may have grace to deal honestly and faithfully in all things.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 103.

6. Who are called to worship? Colossians 3:11; Matthew 28:19, 20.

“The Jewish people had been made the depositaries of sacred truth; but Pharisaism had made them the most exclusive, the most bigoted, of all the human race. Everything about the priests and rulers—their

dress, customs, ceremonies, traditions—made them unfit to be the light of the world. They looked upon themselves, the Jewish nation, as the world. But Christ commissioned His disciples to proclaim a faith and worship that would have in it nothing of caste or country, a faith that would be adapted to all peoples, all nations, all classes of men.”
—*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 819, 820.

7. What elements in our personal attitudes have an influence on how we worship God? Genesis 35:2; Psalm 24:3, 4.

“I am often pained as I enter the house where God is worshiped, to see the untidy dress of both men and women. If the heart and character were indicated by the outward apparel, then certainly nothing could be heavenly about them. They have no true idea of the order, the neatness, and the refined deportment that God requires of all who come into His presence to worship Him. What impressions do these things give to unbelievers and to the youth, who are keen to discern and to draw their conclusions?” —*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 498.

Thought questions

1. What blessings do you receive in the house of worship?
2. How can you increase your joy?
3. In addition to participation in the church services, what other forms of worship are there?



Practical Responsibilities of Church Members

1. What is the purpose of God's church? Matthew 5:13, 14.



"The church of Christ was organized for missionary purposes. Christian missionary work furnishes the church with a sure foundation, a foundation having this seal, 'The Lord knoweth them that are His.' 2 Timothy 2:19. By it the members are inspired with zeal to deny self, to put forth self-sacrificing efforts to send the truth to the regions beyond. It has a salutary influence upon unbelievers; for as the workers labor under divine supervision, worldlings are led to see the greatness of the resources that God has provided for those who serve Him. We are laid under a most solemn obligation to furnish, in Christian missions, an illustration of the principles of the kingdom of God. The church is to work actively, as an organized body, to spread abroad the influence of the cross of Christ." *—Gospel Workers*, p. 464.

2. What is needed to carry out the gospel work on earth? Malachi 3:10.

"In the days of Israel the tithe and freewill offerings were needed to maintain the ordinances of divine service. Should the people of God give less in this age? The principle laid down by Christ is that our offerings to God should be in proportion to the light and privileges enjoyed.... The word of the gospel, as it widens, requires greater provision to sustain it than was called for anciently; and this makes the law of tithes and offerings of even more urgent necessity now than under the Hebrew economy." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 528, 529.

3. How liberal were the contributions of the Hebrew people? Leviticus 27:30, 32; Exodus 30:12-15; Deuteronomy 26:5, 8-11.

"The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity." *—Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 527.

4. What is the difference between tithes and offerings? Leviticus 27:30, 32; Nehemiah 10:32, 33, 35-39.

“The tithe was to be exclusively devoted to the use of the Levites, the tribe that had been set apart for the service of the sanctuary. But this was by no means the limit of the contributions for religious purposes. The tabernacle, as afterward the temple, was erected wholly by freewill offerings; and to provide for necessary repairs and other expenses, Moses directed that as often as the people were numbered, each should contribute a half shekel for ‘the service of the tabernacle.’ In the time of Nehemiah a contribution was made yearly for this purpose.... From time to time sin offerings and thank offerings were brought to God. These were presented in great numbers at the annual feasts. And the most liberal provision was made for the poor.

“Even before the tithe could be reserved there had been an acknowledgment of the claims of God. The first that ripened of every product of the land was consecrated to Him. The first of the wool when the sheep were shorn, of the grain when the wheat was threshed, the first of the oil and the wine, was set apart for God. So were also the first-born of all animals; and a redemption price was paid for the first-born son. The first fruits were to be presented before the Lord at the sanctuary, and were then devoted to the use of the priests.” –*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 526.

5. Upon what do the missionary efforts of the church to a great degree depend? Acts 24:17; Romans 15:26, 27.



“Paul had with him a large sum of money from the Gentile churches, which he proposed to place in the hands of the brethren in charge of the work in Judea; and because of this he made arrangements for these representative brethren from various contributing churches, to accompany him to Jerusalem....

“That there may be funds in the treasury for the support of the ministry, and to meet the calls for assistance in missionary enterprises, it is necessary that the people of God give cheerfully and liberally. A solemn responsibility rests upon ministers to keep before the churches the needs of the cause of God and to educate them to be liberal. When this is neglected, and the churches fail to give for the necessities of others, not only does the work of the Lord suffer, but the blessing that should come to believers is withheld.” –*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 390, 341.

6. Besides our means, what does the Lord expect His followers to give to Him? John 1:43.

“There is work for every one of us in the vineyard of the Lord. We are not to seek that position which will yield us the most enjoyment or the greatest gain. True religion is free from selfishness. The missionary spirit is a spirit of personal sacrifice. We are to work anywhere and everywhere, to the utmost of our ability, for the cause of our Master.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 386.

7. What are some ways in which we can share the gospel?



“God expects personal service from everyone to whom He has entrusted a knowledge of the truth for this time.... There are many ways in which church members may give the message to those around them. One of the most successful is by living helpful, unselfish, Christian lives. Those who are fighting the battle of life at great odds may be refreshed and strengthened by little attentions which cost nothing. Kindly words simply spoken, little attentions simply bestowed, will sweep away the clouds of temptation and doubt that gather over the soul....



“Church members are to do evangelistic work in the homes of their neighbors who have not yet received full evidence of the truth for this time....

“Many of God’s people are to go forth with our publications into places where the third angel’s message has never been proclaimed.... The sick and suffering are to be helped....



“Lend your neighbors some of our smaller books. If their interest is awakened, take some of the larger books. Show them *Christ’s Object Lessons*. Tell them its history, and ask them if they do not want a copy....

“A thousand doors of usefulness are open before us. We lament the scanty resources at present available, while various and urgent demands are pressing us for means and men. Were we thoroughly in earnest, even now we could multiply the resources a hundredfold. Selfishness and self-indulgence bar the way.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, pp. 30, 33-35, 38.

8. How many believers are called to be missionaries? Mark 16:15.

“There is earnest work for every pair of hands to do. Let every stroke tell for the uplifting of humanity. There are so many that need to be helped....

“The Lord has a place for everyone in His great plan. Talents that are not needed are not bestowed. Supposing that the talent is small, God has a place for it, and that one talent, if faithfully used, will do the very work God designs that it should do.” – *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 37.

9. What will be the reward for faithful service? Isaiah 52:7.

“Those who give their lives to Christlike ministry know the meaning of true happiness. Their interests and their prayers reach far beyond self. They themselves are growing as they try to help others. They become familiar with the largest plans, the most stirring enterprises, and how can they but grow when they place themselves in the divine channel of light and blessing? Such ones receive wisdom from heaven. They become more and more identified with Christ in all His plans.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 42.

Thought questions

1. What have you experienced by paying the holy tithe?
2. How important do you believe missions are in today's world?
3. What relationship do missions have to your personal salvation?



Church Attendance

1. What practice is of vital importance to the welfare of the church and its members? Hebrews 10:25, first part.

“We sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another in the service of God.” –*Steps to Christ*, p. 101.

2. When is church attendance especially important? Hebrews 10:25, last part.
3. What happens when one does not to participate in the church services?

“Some have made a serious mistake in neglecting to attend the public worship of God. The privileges of divine service will be as beneficial to them as to others, and are fully as essential. They may be unable to avail themselves of these privileges as often as do many others. Physicians will frequently be called upon the Sabbath to visit the sick and may be obliged to make it a day of exhausting labor. Such labor to relieve the suffering was pronounced by our Saviour a work of mercy and no violation of the Sabbath. But those who regularly devote their Sabbaths to writing or labor, making no special change, harm their own souls, give to others an example that is not worthy of imitation, and do not honor God.

“Some have failed to see the real importance, not only of attending religious meetings, but also of bearing testimony for Christ and the truth. If these brethren do not obtain spiritual strength by the faithful performance of every Christian duty, thus coming into a closer and more sacred relation to their Redeemer, they will become weak in moral power. They will surely wither spiritually unless they change their course in this respect.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, pp. 539, 540.

4. Of what is church attendance a part? Luke 4:16.

“They should, upon that day especially, interest their families in its observance and assemble at the house of prayer with the few or with the many, as the case may be. They should devote their time and energies to spiritual exercises, that the divine Influence resting upon the Sabbath may attend them through the week. Of all the days in the week, none are so favorable for devotional thoughts as the Sabbath.”
–*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 2, p. 704.



5. What is necessary to receive a blessing in the church service? John

“Although God dwells not in temples made with hands, yet He honors with His presence the assemblies of His people. He has promised that when they come together to seek Him, to acknowledge their sins, and to pray for one another, He will meet with them by His Spirit. But those who assemble to worship should put away every evil thing. Unless they worship Him in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness, their coming together will be of no avail.” –*Prophets and Kings*, p. 50.

6. What is an important part of worship? Exodus 19:10; Leviticus 6:10, 11.

“All those who come into His presence should give special attention to the body and the clothing. Heaven is a clean and holy place. God is pure and holy. All who come into His presence should take heed to His directions, and have the body and the clothing in a pure, clean condition, thus showing respect to themselves and to Him. The heart must also be sanctified. Those who do this will not dishonor His sacred name by worshiping Him while their hearts are polluted and their apparel is untidy. God sees these things. He marks the heart preparation, the thoughts, the cleanliness in appearance, of those who worship Him.” –*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 1119, 1120.

7. What atmosphere is pleasing to God during the worship hour?

“To the humble, believing soul, the house of God on earth is the gate of heaven. The song of praise, the prayer, the words spoken by Christ’s representatives, are God’s appointed agencies to prepare a people for

the church above, for that loftier worship into which there can enter nothing that defileth....

“When the worshipers enter the place of meeting, they should do so with decorum, passing quietly to their seats. If there is a stove in the room, it is not proper to crowd about it in an indolent, careless attitude. Common talking, whispering, and laughing should not be permitted in the house of worship, either before or after the service. Ardent, active piety should characterize the worshipers.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, pp. 491, 492.

Thought questions

1. List some ways in which you think the church service can be made more impressive and memorable.
2. How can you personally contribute to the worship services?
3. How are you particularly blessed by the church services?



1. What is necessary in the church family, just as in a regular family? 1 Corinthians 14:40.

“There is order in heaven. There was order in the church when Christ was upon the earth, and after His departure order was strictly observed among His apostles. And now in the last days, while God is bringing His children into the unity of the faith, there is more real need of order than ever before; for, as God unites His children, Satan and his evil angels are very busy to prevent this unity and to destroy it.” —*Early Writings*, p. 97.

2. Why is gospel order so important in the church? 1 Timothy 1:1, 3-5.

“Men whose lives are not holy and who are unqualified to teach the present truth enter the field without being acknowledged by the church or the brethren generally, and confusion and disunion are the result. Some have a theory of the truth, and can present the argument, but lack spirituality, judgment, and experience; they fail in many things which it is very necessary for them to understand before they can teach the truth. Others have not the argument, but because a few brethren hear them pray well and give an exciting exhortation now and then, they are pressed into the field, to engage in a work for which God has not qualified them and for which they have not sufficient experience and judgment. Spiritual pride comes in, they are lifted up, and act under the deception of thinking that they are laborers. They do not know themselves.” —*Early Writings*, pp. 97, 98.

3. What danger to the spiritual welfare of the church is averted when gospel order is practiced? 2 Peter 3:16.

“It is the desire and plan of Satan to bring in among us those who will go to great extremes—people of narrow minds, who are critical and sharp, and very tenacious in holding their own conceptions of

what the truth means. They will be exacting, and will seek to enforce rigorous duties, and go to great lengths in matters of minor importance, while they neglect the weightier matters of the law—judgment and mercy and the love of God. Through the work of a few of this class of persons, the whole body of Sabbath keepers will be designated as bigoted, Pharisaical, and fanatical. The work of truth, because of these workers, will be thought to be unworthy of notice.”—*Evangelism*, p. 212.

“I saw the necessity of the messengers, especially, watching and checking all fanaticism wherever they might see it rise. Satan is pressing in on every side, and unless we watch for him, and have our eyes open to his devices and snares and have on the whole armor of God, the fiery darts of the wicked will hit us.... I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.”—*Early Writings*, p. 63.

4. After studying God’s word and accepting it as truth, what firm conviction should take hold of every Christian? Galatians 1:9, 11, 12.



“Our faith in reference to the messages of the first, second, and third angels was correct. The great waymarks we have passed are immovable. Although the hosts of hell may try to tear them from their foundation, and triumph in the thought that they have succeeded, yet they do not succeed. These pillars of truth stand firm as the eternal hills, unmoved by all the efforts of men combined with those of Satan and his host. We can learn much, and should be constantly searching the Scriptures to see if these things are so. God’s people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where the final ministration of our great High Priest in the work of the judgment is going forward—where He is interceding for His people.”—*Evangelism*, p. 223.

5. What responsibility does every member have? Galatians 6:1.

“In the spirit of meekness, ‘considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted’ (Galatians 6:1), go to the erring one, and ‘tell him his fault between thee and him alone.’ Do not put him to shame by exposing his fault to others, nor bring dishonor upon Christ by making public the sin or error of one who bears His name. Often the truth must be plainly spoken to the erring; he must be led to see his error, that he may reform. But you are not to judge or to condemn. Make no attempt at self-justification. Let all your effort be for his recovery. In treating the

wounds of the soul, there is need of the most delicate touch, the finest sensibility. Only the love that flows from the Suffering One of Calvary can avail here. With pitying tenderness, let brother deal with brother, knowing that if you succeed, you will 'save a soul from death' and 'hide a multitude of sins.' James 5:20." –*The Desire of Ages*, p. 440.

6. When necessary, what steps are to be followed to help one who is in spiritual danger? Matthew 18:15-18.

"'Verily I say unto you,' Christ continued, 'Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

"This statement holds its force in all ages. On the church has been conferred the power to act in Christ's stead. It is God's instrumentality for the preservation of order and discipline among His people. To it the Lord has delegated the power to settle all questions respecting its prosperity, purity, and order. Upon it rests the responsibility of excluding from its fellowship those who are unworthy, who by their unchristlike conduct would bring dishonor on the truth. Whatever the church does that is in accordance with the directions given in God's word, will be ratified in heaven." –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 501, 502.

7. In whom is the authority of the church invested in questions of church membership? 1 Timothy 5:20.

"Shall a few persons in a board meeting take upon themselves the responsibility of disfellowshipping the erring one? 'If he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church.' Let the church take action in regard to its members.

"'But if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.' If he will not heed the voice of the church, if he refuses all the efforts made to reclaim him, upon the church rests the responsibility of separating him from fellowship. His name should then be stricken from the books." –*Gospel Workers*, pp. 500, 501.

8. What is the purpose of discipline of any kind? Mark 9:31, first part.

"Take to your brother the remedy that will cure the disease of disaffection. Do your part to help him. For the sake of the peace and unity of the church, feel it a privilege as well as a duty to do this. If he will hear you, you have gained him as a friend." –*Gospel Workers*, p. 499.

Thought questions

1. What blessings come from maintaining order in the church?
2. What relationship is there between order and discipline and the individual member's religious freedom?
3. How is it possible to help a person overcome a bad habit?



1. What did Jesus do when he ascended to heaven? Ephesians 4:8.

“When Christ ascended to heaven, He left the work on earth in the hands of His servants, the undershepherds. ‘And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; 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 in 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 fullness of Christ.’

“In sending forth His ministers our Saviour gave gifts unto men, for through them He communicates to the world the words of eternal life.” –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, p. 237.

2. For how long were these gifts to be provided to the church? Ephesians 4:13.

Most Christians today think that the time for the spiritual gifts is long past and was limited solely to the early church. We do not believe that this is correct. God did not intend the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be limited to certain times or people. They are to be found in His church at all times. Gross error, unbelief, and apostasy were what made them cease. The presence of the Holy Spirit was crowded out of the lives of professed Christians, and so naturally He could not manifest Himself in them. Therefore, since unbelief made the gifts disappear, the rebirth of genuine faith will certainly bring them back. A return to the original faith and practice will bring the spiritual gifts back into the church.

3. Why did the Master distribute a variety of gifts? Ephesians 4:12.

“From the endless variety of plants and flowers, we may learn an important lesson. All blossoms are not the same in form or color. Some possess healing virtues. Some are always fragrant. There are professing Christians who think it their duty to make every other

Christian like themselves. This is man's plan, not the plan of God. In the church of God there is room for characters as varied as are the flowers in a garden. In His spiritual garden there are many varieties of flowers." –*Evangelism*, p. 99.

4. To be beneficial, however, what must every gift be? 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7.

"Their talents, however diverse, may all be under the control of the same Spirit. In every word and act, kindness and love will be revealed; and as each worker fills his appointed place faithfully, the prayer of Christ for the unity of His followers will be answered, and the world will know that these are His disciples." –*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 145.

5. Write down the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28.

"The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ's service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men." –*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 328.

6. What is the purpose of these gifts in the church? 1 Corinthians 12:25; Ephesians 4:12.

"As presented through different individuals, the truth is brought out ... in its varied aspects. One writer is more strongly impressed with one phase of the subject; he grasps those points that harmonize with his experience or with his power of perception and appreciation; another seizes upon a different phase; and each, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, presents what is most forcibly impressed upon his own mind—a different aspect of the truth in each, but a perfect harmony through all. And the truths thus revealed unite to form a perfect whole, adapted to meet the wants of men in all the circumstances and experiences of life." –*The Great Controversy*, p. 6.

7. What text ties one of these spiritual gifts to the remnant church? Revelation 12:17.

8. According to what standard are these gifts distributed? Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Matthew 25:15.

“To every man God has given ‘according to his several ability.’ The talents are not apportioned capriciously. He who has ability to use five talents receives five. He who can improve but two, receives two. He who can wisely use only one, receives one. None need lament that they have not received larger gifts; for He who has apportioned to every man is equally honored by the improvement of each trust, whether it be great or small.” –*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 328.

Thought questions

1. What spiritual gifts have you received from God?
2. How can you develop and progress in the use of these gifts?
3. What do you understand the phrase, “according to his several ability,” to mean?



Apostles, Prophets, and Teachers

1. What is first on the list of gifts that God has put in His church? 1 Corinthians 12:28; Mark 3:13, 14.

“The disciples were to go forth as Christ’s witnesses, to declare to the world what they had seen and heard of Him. Their office was the most important to which human beings had ever been called, second only to that of Christ Himself. They were to be workers together with God for the saving of men. As in the Old Testament the twelve patriarchs stood as representatives of Israel, so the twelve apostles stand as representatives of the gospel church.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 445.

An apostle [one who is sent] is someone with qualities of leadership, one who has a knowledge of salvation and to whom the church has given official authority. The office of apostleship is laid upon a man by the church in acknowledgment of the abilities that have been given him and developed by the Holy Spirit.

2. How were Paul and Barnabas ordained for service? Who sent them out? Acts 13:2, 3.

“Both Paul and Barnabas had already received their commission from God Himself, and the ceremony of the laying on of hands added no new grace or virtual qualification. It was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office, and a recognition of one’s authority in that office. By it the seal of the church was set upon the work of God....

“The circumstances connected with the separation of Paul and Barnabas by the Holy Spirit to a definite line of service, show clearly that the Lord works through appointed agencies in His organized church.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 442, 443.

3. What important gift comes second in the apostle Paul’s enumeration? 1 Corinthians 12:28.

"From the earliest times, prophets had been recognized as teachers divinely appointed. In the highest sense the prophet was one who spoke by direct inspiration, communicating to the people the messages he had received from God. But the name was given also to those who, though not so directly inspired, were divinely called to instruct the people in the works and ways of God. For the training of such a class of teachers, Samuel, by the Lord's direction, established the schools of the prophets." *-Education*, p. 46.

Thus, there are two different meanings for the word "prophet." Have you found them?

4. What is the purpose of the gift of prophecy in particular? Ephesians 4:12, 13.

5. What difference is there between this gift and the others? Amos 3:7.

The gift of prophecy is entrusted to those who serve as the eyes of the church, who are used by God as special instruments to bear messages from God to the church. In ancient times, the prophets were called "seers," and thus they were the spiritual eyesight of the church. A prophet was not appointed by human authority, since this came directly from the Holy Spirit and God. The prophet is not called or set aside by the church but is directly anointed, or set aside, by the Lord Himself.

6. What influential gift is mentioned after prophets? 1 Corinthians 12:28.

"In all true teaching the personal element is essential. Christ in His teaching dealt with men individually. It was by personal contact and association that He trained the twelve. It was in private, often to but one listener, that He gave His most precious instruction....



"The same personal interest, the same attention to individual development, are needed in educational work today....

"The teacher should constantly aim at simplicity and effectiveness. He should teach largely by illustration, and even in dealing with older pupils should be careful to make every explanation plain and clear. Many pupils well advanced in years are but children in understanding.

"An important element in educational work is enthusiasm....

“The teacher in his work is dealing with things real, and he should speak of them with all the force and enthusiasm which a knowledge of their reality and importance can inspire.” –*Education*, pp. 231-233.

7. Is every Christian supposed to have all of the gifts of the Spirit? 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

“God has different ways of working, and He has different workmen to whom He entrusts varied gifts. One worker may be a ready speaker; another a ready writer; another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer; another the gift of singing; another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God, because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith; but all are to work under the same Head. The diversity of gifts leads to a diversity of operations; but ‘it is the same God which worketh all in all.’ 1 Corinthians 12:6.” –*Gospel Workers*, p. 483.

Thought questions

1. What may be the difference between an apostle’s work and that of a prophet?
2. How does a teacher work?
3. What is the benefit of having individuals with different gifts in the church?



Additional Gifts of the Spirit

1. Explain the importance of the other gifts mentioned by the apostle Paul that are found in the church. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

The word of wisdom. To some people the Holy Spirit imparts the ability to give wise advice. Good counselors are people who are levelheaded, who can see through a thing and sort it out, separating the emotional dross from the real issue. They can express well what they think, and they can speak with good sense and authority.

The word of knowledge. This should not be confused with the word of wisdom. Much knowledge, a good education, does not necessarily imply wisdom. These are people who devote their skill and time to gathering facts and figures—knowledge. They use these skills to further the kingdom of God. The gift of knowledge is the natural bent toward learning. It is a most useful and necessary gift within the church.

The gift of faith. Faith is a gift. It is not something that can be transferred from one person to another. Yet a strong faith in action can be contagious. The work will be finished by the courageous, believing people who dare to step out in faith when the Lord calls. These people have been the very backbone of the church throughout the ages.

The gifts of healing. Contrary to the common thought, healing does not necessarily deal with supernatural phenomena. All the gifts are supernatural in origin, since they come from the Holy Spirit. Yet the working out of these gifts is not usually miraculous or sensational. Doctors and nurses who are truly dedicated to their profession and who seek to honor God in their work practice the gift of healing.

The gift of miracles. A miracle is the supernatural intervention of God in the natural course of events. There are miracles around us every day. One of the greatest miracles is the conversion of sinners to God. Such workers of miracles are found right among us. They are people who walk by faith in God, and God honors their strong faith in making extraordinary things come to pass.

The gift of prophecy. Prophecy in its strictest sense is history foretold. Only God can do this. But the prophets of the Old Testament times did more than just foretell the future. A very important function of the prophet was to guide and counsel the church, instructing the believers through the Holy Spirit. Seventh-day Adventists believe that Sister

Ellen G. White carried out this responsibility. The remnant of God's people will conscientiously regard the writings that came from her pen.

Discernment of spirits. The gift of discernment is of great importance. The lack of this gift has often been a great detriment to the church. When exercised, however, it has often saved the people of God from great harm. Those who possess this gift act as the guardians and sentinels of the good of the church.

The gift of tongues. This gift is today perhaps the most often talked about—and the least understood. Glossolalia (the speaking in a strange tongue) is an unintelligent gibberish, which we do not believe matches the description of the Biblical tongues. At Pentecost there was a necessity, due to the many nationalities in Jerusalem for the feasts, for the disciples to speak existing foreign languages. Through the Holy Spirit they were able to do this without having learned these languages. The ability to learn languages easily and to speak them fluently and the ability to translate from one language to another may be properly regarded as the gift of tongues.

2. What difference is there between the word of wisdom and that of knowledge?
3. What difference is there between the gifts of healing as practiced by popular charismatic faith healers and those of the Bible? Acts 8:9, 18-20.
4. Which of these gifts is mentioned as a characteristic of the remnant church? Revelation 12:17; 19:10.
5. Think of one or more examples in the Bible in which the gift of discernment played an important role.
6. The Spirit of God reveals Himself in the following manner (circle the number of the correct answer):
 - a. in a spectacular fashion.
 - b. in an emotional display.
 - c. quietly and calmly.
 - d. on command.

