

Welcome To...

Next Steps



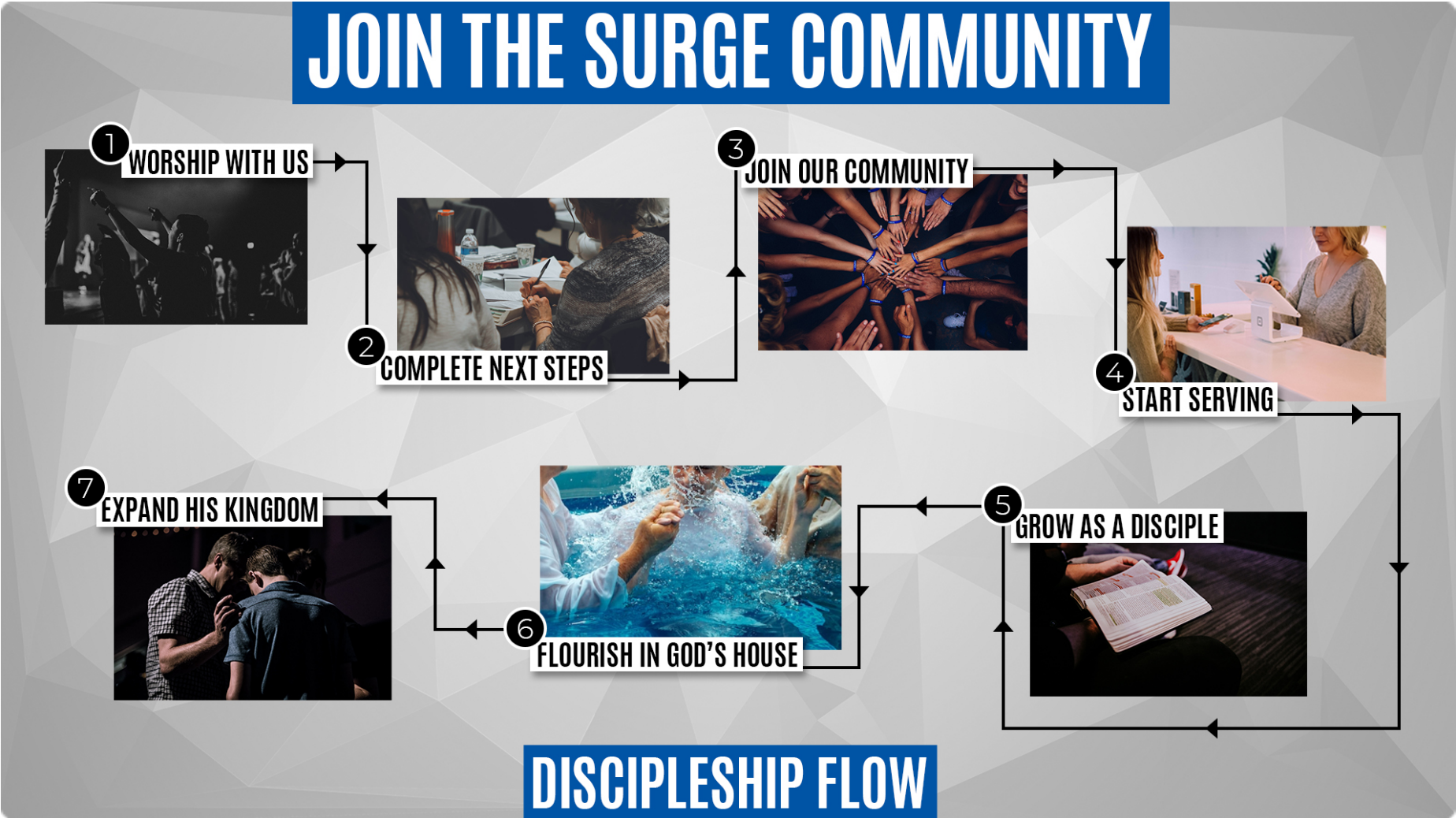
SURGE CHURCH
LIVE BEYOND LIMITS

Surge Forward in

NEXT *STEPS*

OWNERS MANUAL

The Process...





Introduction

We are so excited to have you join us for Next Steps. It is a joy to be a part of your spiritual growth and to have you join our Surge Community.

Next Steps will guide you to learn who God has called you to be and the life He has empowered you to live. Next Steps consists of 3 steps...

- 1) **Discover** - Discover who we are and what it means for you,
- 2) **Serve** - Learn how to use your gifts to serve and make a difference in the lives of others,
- 3) **Partner** - become a covenant partner with our community of believers.

We serve a supernatural God who enables us to live beyond our natural limitations. It is our prayer for you to experience a Surge of God's power and grace that will empower you to **Live Beyond Limits!**

-Pastors Brad & Mary Sullivan

Let's Get Started...

Step One:

Discover

The Surge Story

Our Church began as **Living Word Church** in the home of **Pastors Jerry and Janice Sullivan** in November of 1979 in Grand Bay, Alabama. The Church was born out of the desire to worship God freely and to preach the Gospel in an atmosphere of spiritual liberty. The theme of the Church was taken from 2 Corinthians 3:18, which teaches Christians to be – *“transformed into the image of Christ.”*

As the Church began to grow, it purchased property on Old Pascagoula Road in Grand Bay. Family ministry has always been at the heart of our Church. This led to the founding of Living Word Academy in 1983 and World of Friends Daycare in 2000. In August of 1995, the Church purchased 8-acres and an existing building and relocated to our current location on Dawes Road in West Mobile.

Since then, God has blessed our Church with the adjoining 12-acres and with an additional 20,000 square foot facility. Our 20-acre campus has become the hub of the Dawes Community. We are the voting center for our local precinct, host various community events and organizations, host little league baseball teams in our practice facility and stage the annual Dawes Christmas Parade on our grounds. We thank God for His faithful guidance at every step along the way. Our Church is proof that small beginnings lead to big endings.

After 35 years as Senior Pastors, Jerry and Janice Sullivan, passed the mantle of ministry to their son and daughter-in-law, **Brad & Mary Sullivan**. In March of 2015, Pastors Brad & Mary became the Lead Pastors of Living Word Church.

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, Pastors Brad & Mary relaunched our Church as **Surge Church** in April of 2019. God has blessed our Church throughout the various seasons of our ministry, which has resulted in countless lives being impacted by the Gospel both at home and around the world. We are excited about this new season and what God has in store for our future. It is an honor to have you on this journey with us!



Our Prayer For You

We want you to know we are committed to praying for you. Our prayer for you is the same as the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:17-18...

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.”

The more you know God personally and the more you understand His calling on your life, then the more you will experience the blessing of serving Him and enjoy the Christian life with fellow believers. This leads to a life of impact that causes you to become an active participant in the life of the Church!

Our Church



The word **Surge** means “a sudden and rapid increase forward.” Our desire at Surge Church is to empower people to live beyond their limits. This is why Church is so important. What we can do together is exponentially greater than what we can achieve alone. We recognize the spiritual truth that our life together creates a life beyond limits.

We see this in the culture of the first church in the Book of Acts.

Acts 2:42-47 MSG

*They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, **the life together**, the common meal, and the prayers. Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.*

This verse contains a key to the first Church’s growth and impact. It was filled with committed believers. They were committed to God and to each other. It was their **life together** in God’s word, in prayer, in His presence and in community with one another that created a culture of spiritual synergy. They created a life beyond limits by understanding the simple reality they were better together. They understood that they could grow more in God and be more for God together as a body of believers than they could as individual believers. This is exactly what led to the Surge of God’s grace and power upon the Church.

This principle still holds true today. Your life doesn’t have to stay the same. You can Surge forward and breakthrough to new levels. This will occur when you are a part of something greater than yourself working in unity with fellow believers for a common goal. This is what it truly means to be a devoted disciple of Jesus. A true disciple is devoted to both God and to his or her fellow disciples. They serve God together in the spirit of unity and in accountability that fosters growth. This creates a Surge of God’s power and grace which results in rapid growth and expansion. This shared partnership in serving God creates a life and ministry beyond limits.

This is the essence of **Surge Church**. Our prayer is for people to grow in God by experiencing the joy of growing together. We know that each individual and family will surge beyond their limits as we all surge forward together as a community of believers.

**Surge is a multi-cultural, multi-generational Church.
We welcome people of all backgrounds and ages to worship with us!**

Our Vision



Vision is the ability to see farther than your eyes can look and we are excited to share our vision with you.

Our Vision Statement...

We envision a Church that is changing lives through the message and power of Jesus Christ and mobilizing believers to impact our community and the world by living life beyond their limits.

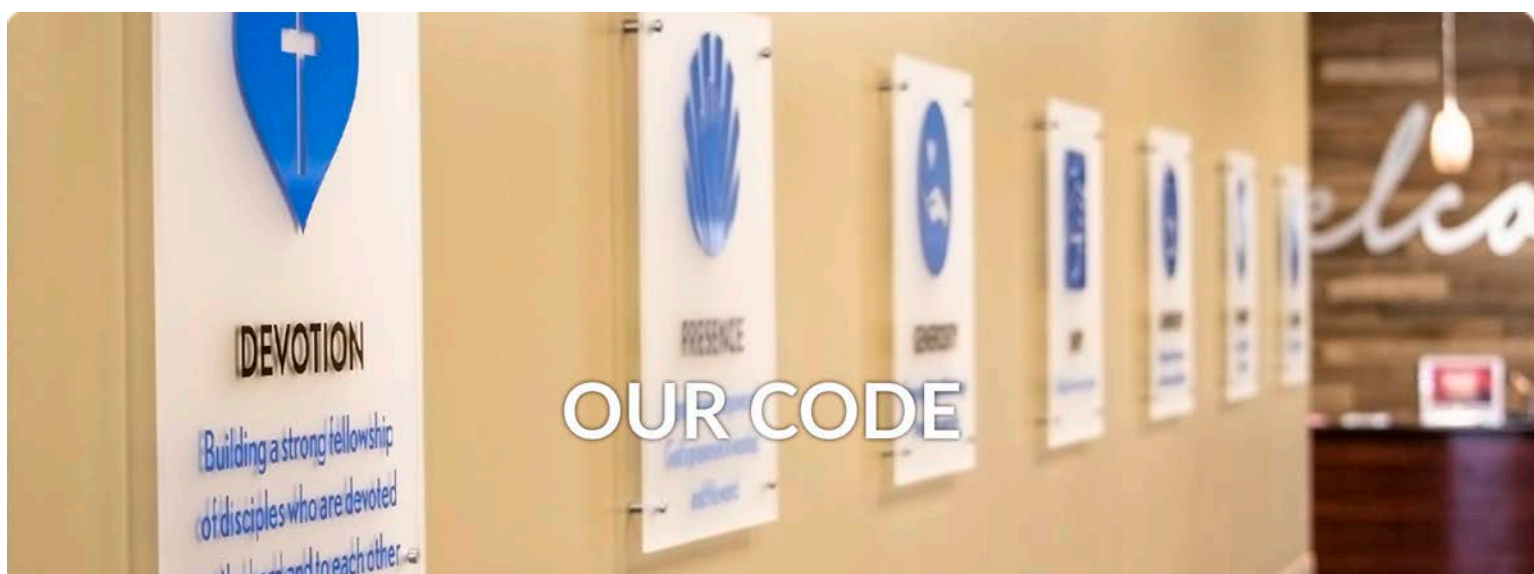
We do not want you to only be a Church attender, a sitter or merely a sermon consumer. We want you to be a faithful member of the Church whose life is being changed by God and His Word. This will empower you to be a person who carries the message and spirit into the world to impact the lives of those around you.

Vision is what we see on the Horizon, but the **Mission** is the path that leads to the Horizon. God called us all to be Missionaries. Missionaries are those who are willing to carry the Vision into the future by doing the work of the Mission.

Our Mission Statement...

Our purpose is to help people experience life-giving change in a loving community that builds their faith in Jesus Christ and empowers them to engage others.

Our Code



Our core values are the principles that guide and direct our Church. We call these values **Our Code**. This Code creates a healthy culture for our Vision and our Church Family to flourish...

DEVOTION

Building a strong fellowship of disciples who are devoted to the Lord and to each other

PRESENCE

Experiencing the power of God's presence in worship and His word

GENEROSITY

Enjoying a blessed life through the spirit of generosity

UNITY

Uniting for a common purpose

AUTHENTICITY

Being true to who we are and what we are called to do

COMMUNITY

Impacting the lives of those around us

EXCELLENCE

Offering to God our best

Our Tribe



Our Tribe are the associations and affiliations Surge Church has with other ministries. We are proud to be in partnership with these organizations...

International Convention of Faith Ministries

Champions Network - Joel Osteen Ministries

Christians United for Israel

*Pastor Brad serves as a Trustee on the Board of ICFM (International Convention of Faith Ministries).

Church Government



Our goal in sharing Surge Church's government is that you will understand that our Church is structured to support the values of integrity, accountability and spiritual authority.

Surge Church Government consists of three groups of leaders:

1) Guided by **Pastors**

Pastors Brad & Mary oversee the ministry of our Church, its Staff and lead the Church according to the vision God has placed in their hearts.

2) Protected by **Trustees**

Our Board of Trustees is comprised of 4-leaders...

President - **Pastor Brad Sullivan**

Vice-President - **Pastor Jerry Sullivan**

Secretary/Treasurer - **Shelton Townsend**

Trustee - **Bill Robinson**

The Trustees assist the Pastor with oversight of the Church finances, with direction of the provision for various areas of ministry as well as provide counsel to the Pastor. The Trustees are the only 4 voting members of the organization.

3) Strengthened by **Advisors**

The Pastor's Advisory Council consists of elders who help provide additional counsel, guidance and prayer for the Pastors and the Church...

Mark Crenshaw

Jimmy Wade

Lawrence Roberts

Richard McKeown

Matthew Barclift

Pastor Mary Sullivan

Church Finances

BLESSED BEYOND LIMITS

Proverbs 11:24 MSG

"The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller!"

At Surge Church, we believe in the Power of Generosity. We are blessed to be a blessing. As we practice generosity through our giving we expect to increase and to grow larger and larger. This is what it means to be **Blessed Beyond Limits!**

We give in obedience to God's Word concerning **His Tithe** and **Our Offerings**. We recognize that presenting our Tithes and Offerings to the Lord is the biblical standard for supporting the work of the ministry. It is not a debt we owe, it is a seed we sow. As covenant partners with God, we expect to receive His abundant blessings in return for our obedience to give.

God is faithful to His word. He declared that whatever a man sows that will He also reap. We encourage our Surge Partners by reminding them —

At the end of a donation is a receipt, at the end of a gift is a thank you card, but at the end of a seed is a harvest.

The fact is Giving is one of the central themes in the Bible. Jesus talked more about this subject than Heaven, Hell or Prayer. The reason is because money is the ultimate heart issue. If God does not have access to our money, then He doesn't have access to our heart. Jesus said, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be."*

To understand what it means to be a Christ-follower requires that we understand what it means to be a giver.

1. Tithe

The Tithe or *"First Fruits"* of our income belongs to God. This principle is throughout the Word of God. Giving the first 10% of our income to the local Church is the primary and practical way we acknowledge God is first in our lives.

Proverbs 3:9-10...

"Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

Malachi 3:10...

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Hebrews 7:7-8...

Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

2. Offerings

Offerings are the financial seed gifts we give over and above the tithe. The Bible says that by giving generously, we are able to *"take hold of the life that is truly life."* The fact is you are not really living unless you are freely giving.

1 Timothy 1:18-19...

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up

treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life."

3. Vows

Vows are promised gifts to God that demonstrate our commitment and sincerity to Him and to His work. We practice the principle of vows by the faith promises we make. Vows are made by those who have a desire to partner with the Church in specific areas through their monthly pledges. Partners can make vows/pledges in the following areas:

A) Heart for the House

Heart for the House helps support the upkeep of our facilities and grounds and the continued development of our Church campus.

B) World Missions

Money given to World Missions is designated for the multiple ministries we support at home, around the nation and in various nations of the world for the purpose of spreading the Gospel.

C) Special Projects

Special Projects are presented to the Church from time to time in which people are given the opportunity to support.

Psalm 116:12-14...

"What will I render to the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people."

2 Corinthians 9:5...

"So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given."

4. Gift of Giving

The Gift of Giving is a spiritual gift God gives to those who desire it. This Spirit-given gift creates a capacity and desire to give generously to further the work of God.

2 Corinthians 8:7...

"But since you excel in every gift—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this gift of giving."

Many people love to give to God and as they do, they want to feel confident in the organization through which they give. At Surge Church, we want people to understand **they are giving to God through the Church, not to the Church**. We want them to also know that money given to God is handled with integrity, accountability, oversight and wise stewardship.

Disclaimer:

No one from our Church or Staff is given charge over book keeping. We have a third party accountant. Both the Board of Trustees and Pastor's Advisory Council are provided with quarterly and annual financial reports.

Every financial gift given is tax-exempt and helps forward the mission of Surge Church.

Our Beliefs



We believe...

- ✦ In the Bible as the inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God.
- ✦ In one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- ✦ In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His substitutionary death, in His resurrection from the dead, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father and in His personal return to the earth.
- ✦ In the new birth by faith in Christ, through His death and resurrection, is absolutely essential for personal salvation.
- ✦ In water baptism as a public profession of faith in the Lord Jesus.
- ✦ In the power of Christ that provides healing for the human body in response to faith.
- ✦ In the life changing power of the Holy Spirit by who's indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.
- ✦ In the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:1-4, is given to believers who ask for it.
- ✦ In the Hope of Glory, the presence of Christ-life indwelling the Christian, enabling him to reach spiritual maturity.
- ✦ In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.
- ✦ In the rapture of the Church at Christ's coming!

Church Life



The Kingdom Life of a believer starts at his or her local Church. The Church is the place where the work of the ministry begins. The more a Christian is plugged into the ministry of the Church, the greater Kingdom impact he or she will enjoy. This is why **Church Life** is vitally important to the life of a Christian.

Being an active participant in the life of the Church enhances the growth of both the individual believer and the ministry of the Church.

Sunday Worship Experience

We refer to our Sunday Worship Service as the “**Surge Experience**.” We want people to have an Experience with God and His Word at all stages of their spiritual journey. Reaching people who do not know God personally is one of our greatest responsibilities. We desire to create an experience that will bring the lost into a relationship with Jesus and the unchurched into the spiritual life of the Church.

Our Sunday “Surge” Experience focuses on 4-values:

1. Celebration

Church should be a celebration and a fun experience for people of all ages and walks of life.

Psalm 122:1 NKJV

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go into the house of the Lord’.”

2. Inspiration

We believe Church should be a place where people experience God’s presence.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 GNT

But...when some unbelievers or ordinary people come in, they will be convinced of their sin by what they hear. They will be judged by all they hear, their secret thoughts will be brought into the open, and they will bow down and worship God, confessing, “Truly God is here among you!”

3. Preparation

We believe Church should be a place where people learn God’s Word and learn how to apply the message of the Bible to their daily lives.

Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

4. Salvation

We believe Church should be a place where people can accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Romans 10:13-14 NLT

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?”

Midweek Services

We refer to our Midweek Services as “**Surge Midweek**.” Our Midweek Services are held each Wednesday evening. Surge Midweek provides members of our Church with the opportunity to connect on a more personal level through Bible Studies, Men’s and Women’s meetings, Youth Services and Kids Classes. We encourage all of our members to take advantage of the ministry and the personal relationships that can be forged in our Midweek Services.

Acts 2:42 NLT

“All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.”

Activities and Events

We plan various activities, events, conferences and outreaches throughout the year. These provide our Church Family with the opportunity for additional ministry, fellowship and impact.

Sharing Christ With Others

Church Life is about empowering people to grow as disciples of Jesus. Disciples are called by God to go and make disciples by sharing their faith in Jesus with others.

Luke 14:23 TLB

“Go out into the country lanes and out behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.”

As we strive to reach people who are away from God, everyone of us can do our part by following these four principles:

1. **Accept the personal Responsibility**
2. **Build a Personal Relationship**
3. **Share Your Personal Story**
4. **Give a Personal Invitation**

God has called us to share the Gospel in **our City**, in **our Nation** and in **our World**.

Acts 1:8 NIV

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- **Jerusalem** represents **Our City**.
We reach our City primarily through our Sunday Experiences and by our members going out to share their faith with others.
- **Judea & Samaria** represent **Our Nation**.
Surge Church partners with various ministries and organizations around the nation to impact people's lives for Jesus.
- **Ends of the Earth** represents **Our World**.
We reach our World through World Missions. At Surge Church, we actively participate in and provide monthly support for various missionary organizations in various nations of the world.

Becoming a Member



The decision to join a Church Family is an important one. We encourage people to ask themselves **2-questions** about a perspective Church:

1) **Does it Feel Like Home?**

By making a Church your “*Home*,” you are becoming a part of a spiritual family. Therefore, it needs to feel like Home.

2) **What is the Word Level?**

This is one of the most critical aspects of your decision. We are changed and transformed by the Word of God. The level of God’s Word that is proclaimed over your life will have a direct impact on your future.

At Surge Church, we ask you not to become a Member, but to **become an Owner**. Ownership is our version of membership.

Members have rights, but Owners have responsibilities!

Surge Church Membership/Ownership Covenant:

Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values presented, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Surge Church family. In doing so, I make the following commitment to God and to my fellow Church members/owners:

1. **I Will Protect the Unity of My Church** by:

Acting in love toward other members
Refusing to gossip
Following the leaders

Romans 14:19 NLT...

"So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up."

Romans 15:5 NLT...

"May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus."

1 Peter 1:22 GNT

"Have a sincere love for other believers, love one another earnestly with all your heart."

Hebrews 13:17 NIV

"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."

2. **I Will Share The Responsibility of My Church** by:

Praying for its growth and health
Inviting the unchurched to attend
Warmly welcoming those who visit

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2 NIV

"To the church...in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers."

Luke 14:23 NIV

"Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full."

Romans 15:7 TLB

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

3. **I Will Serve In The Ministry Of My Church** by:

Discovering my gifts and talents
Using my God-given gifts to make a difference in the lives of others
Developing a servant’s heart

1 Peter 4:10 NIV

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Ephesians 4:11-12 NIV

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

Philippians 2:4-5 NKJV

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

4. I Will Support The Testimony Of My Church by:

Attending Church faithfully

Living a godly life

Giving regularly

Acts 2:42 NIV

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Hebrews 10:24-25 NKJV

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Philippians 1:27 NLT

"Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News."

Final Thoughts on Membership/Ownership:

- **The Community** talks about *"That Church."*
- **The Crowd** talks about *"This Church."*
- **The Congregation** talks about *"Our Church."*
- **The Core** talks about *"My Church."*

Questions/Clarity:

What are the benefits of being a member/owner?

- Family to belong to
- Spiritual guidance
- Help in time of need
- Pastoral leadership
- It's the biblical standard for the Christian life

Is this class a requirement for membership/ownership? **YES**

What does Family mean to Surge Church?

- Wedding
- Bereavement
- Friends
- Prayer
- Guidance
- Growth

Note: It is important for our members to understand that **Pastors Brad & Mary** will not always be available for each visitation, time of prayer or counseling session. There may be times when designated people from our staff or ministry teams will fulfill these duties.

Step Two:

Serve

Called To Serve



God has a plan for your life and has uniquely gifted you for it. We want to help you discover your gifting and provide you with the opportunity to use your gifts to serve God and to bless others.

Jesus said in Matthew 20:28 — *“the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Jesus modeled servant leadership to His disciples. The Bible records numerous occasions when Jesus found the disciples arguing over who was the greatest in the Kingdom of God. In this passage, Jesus taught the disciples a lesson in serving. He explained that when people in the world gain a position of power they often abuse it by lording their authority over others. However, He informed them that it is different in His Kingdom. He further explained in order to be great in the Kingdom of God, one must first humble himself to serve others. Jesus told them that **the greatest in the Kingdom are those who serve**. He concluded this lesson by using Himself as the example when He said - *“I did not come to be served, but to serve.”*

Jesus exemplified what it means to be a servant to others. His ultimate act of service was when He laid down His life on the cross to redeem mankind from our sin. Because Jesus was willing to humble himself, the Bible tells us that *God has greatly exalted Him and given Him a name that is above every name* (Philippians 2:9).

The fact is if Jesus came to serve and not be served, then we have no excuses. Jesus also taught that a servant is not greater than his master. As disciples of Jesus, we must humble ourselves to serve God by serving others. We are all **Called to Serve!**

The **Law of Gravity** states that *“what goes up must come down.”* The **Law of Serving in the Kingdom** is the opposite. It states — *“whoever humbles himself to serve will be exalted.”* The scripture is clear when it emphatically declares that *“God resists the proud, but gives grace and honor to the humble”* (1 Peter 5:5-6).

The last lesson Jesus taught His disciples before going to the cross was not one He verbalized, but one He demonstrated. While Jesus and His disciples gathered in the upper room in preparation for the Passover meal, Jesus took a bowl of water, bowed to the ground and proceeded to wash their feet. They were astonished at this act of humility. Peter said to Jesus, *“You will never wash my feet.”* To which Jesus replied - *“Unless I wash your feet, you have no part with Me in the Kingdom”* (John 13:8).

Peter made this statement with sincerity of heart. Normally a servant would wash the feet of the Master of the house before a meal. There was no servant in the Upper Room that evening. Jesus took on the role of the servant by washing the feet of the disciples. Peter was astounded that Jesus would lower Himself to this position. However, by washing his feet, Jesus taught Peter what it truly means to be a servant in the Kingdom of God.

These are lessons we must continue to learn today. We are called to serve in the Kingdom of God. We cannot serve God properly if we are unwilling to humble ourselves to serve God’s people, His house and His ministry. This is why serving in the local Church is so critical in the life of a believer.

The Church provides us with the opportunity to serve something bigger than ourselves and acts as the “on ramp” to using our gifts to serve in the Kingdom of God!

Qualities of a Servant:

1. Demonstrates humility
2. Willing to serve others
3. Does not serve “for” a position; serves “from” a position
4. Is not motivated by gaining recognition, but has a genuine desire to help make a difference
5. Sees a need and fills it by dedicating time, talent and treasure
6. Understands that Serving is a Calling not Volunteering.

Serving In Church



Acts 6:1-7 NIV

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3** Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4** and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.” **5** This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. **6** They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. **7** So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

This passage demonstrates the power of serving in Church. After the early Church in Jerusalem began to grow, a problem arose that created a division among the members. The Church had grown beyond the 12 Apostles’ ability to meet all of the demands of the ministry. One of those ministries was a daily distribution of food to widows in the Church. Food was being distributed to the Jewish widows, but had not been given to the Greek widows. This oversight created a rift in the Church between the Jewish and Greek members. It appeared as if the Greek widows were intentionally being overlooked. When the Apostles heard of the confusion, they took the matter to the leaders. Their solution was to appoint **7-men** who were **full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom** over this ministry. These 7-men would be responsible for collecting the food and ensuring that all of the widows in the Church were being served.

The most fascinating part of the story is the 7-men they chose. These were all anointed, talented and proven men. Yet, they were being asked to collect and serve food. This was the first “*Hospitality Team*” in Church history. These men demonstrated the true meaning of serving by being willing to humble themselves to serve food. They were not too proud or so full of themselves that they could not do whatever was asked of them to help the

Church. Their service was a blessing to the widows, to the ministry of the Church and was an act of worship to God. The Church enjoyed a new season of growth and momentum as a result of their willingness to serve to meet this need.

There are **3-Key Points** to Note about these “**Serving Seven**”:

1. **Their act of service bridged the divide** and created unity that led to a new season of growth within the Church.
2. This was the first of **5-Progress Reports** given of the Church throughout the **Book of Acts**. Their service met a need and increased the productivity and impact of the Church.
3. Their service provided the New Testament model for a Church “**Deacon**.” The word “Deacon” comes from the Greek word “**Diakonos**,” which means - “*to wait on tables or to run an errand.*” A true New Testament Deacon is not one who simply sits on a deacon board, but one who answers the call to serve in whatever capacity is needed to aid the ministry of the Church.

The heart of these 7-men to serve stands as a great example for believers today. **Being a Servant is a calling from God not a grudging obligation.** Our willingness to serve or not serve is directly linked to the Church’s growth and progress or the Church’s struggle and division. The truth is when we serve to advance the progress of the Church, it leads to the progress and advancement for everyone in the Church.

True servants fill a void by serving with the spirit of excellence. Excellence is not perfection, but it is offering to God our best. People are blessed, the Church is advanced and God is glorified when we serve with a willing heart and in the spirit of excellence.

King Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 9:10**...

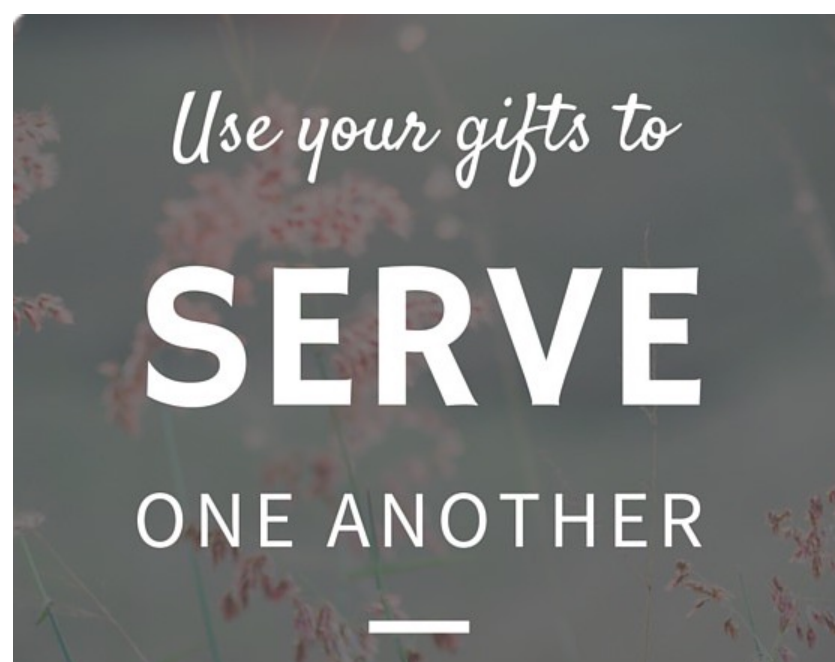
“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all of your might.”

The **Apostle Paul** reminds Christians in **Colossians 3:23-24**...

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

- ♦ Whether one is cleaning the Church, serving food, working with children, ministering to youth, serving on the Worship Team or keeping the nursery, it is all an act of service to the Lord. The Lord never forgets our service to His Church and Kingdom. He will richly reward those who serve with a willing heart.

Using Your Gifts



Our Vision:

We envision a Church that is changing lives through the message and power of Jesus Christ and mobilizing believers to impact our community and the world by living life beyond their limits.

Our desire is to see people's lives changed and believers mobilized to make a Kingdom Impact. As we stated in **Week 1**, God has not called us to merely be Church attenders, sitters or sermon consumers. He has called us to make an impact by using our gifts to serve in Kingdom Ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT

Now these are the gifts Christ gave 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.

The responsibility of the Church and its ministers is to equip and empower believers to do the work of the ministry. It's one thing to tell people they are called to serve, it's something else to help them discover their God-given gifts and equip them to serve.

At Surge Church, we want you to find the joy in serving God by using your unique gifts and talents.

Design Reveals Destiny

Psalms 139:1-4 NLT

"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it."

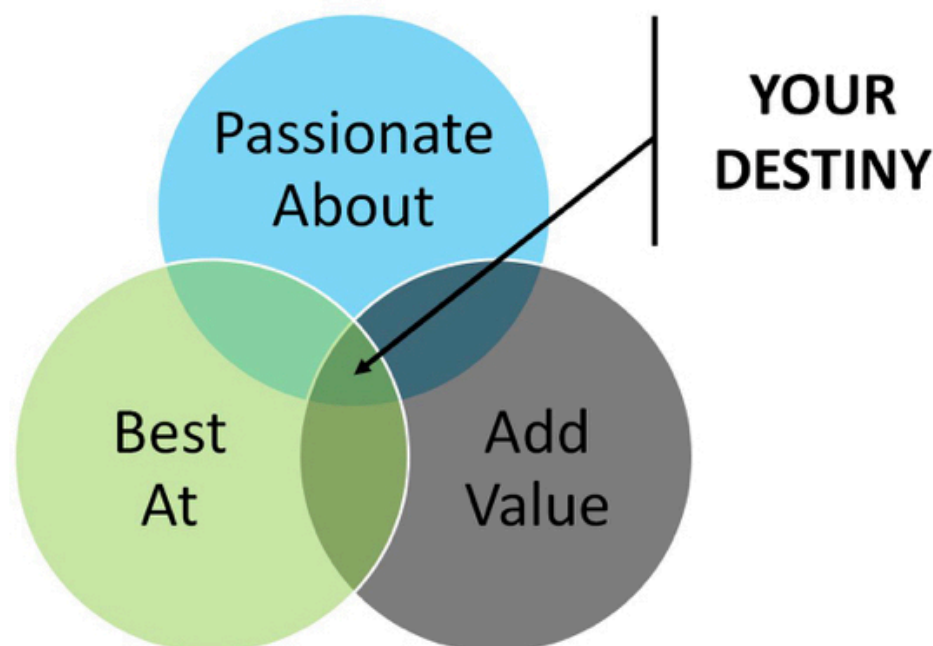
You were designed by God to fulfill His destiny for your life.

3-Keys to Your Destiny:

1. **DISCOVER** my gifts
2. **DEVELOP** my gifts
3. **USE** my gifts

My purpose is to **SERVE GOD** by **SERVING OTHERS**.

People are often taught that an individual can discover his or her destiny by following one's passion. However, there are more elements to consider. For example — a person can be passionate about something for which he or she is not gifted. Consider the graph below...



Your destiny is found where your **Passion**, **Gifts** and the place where you can add **Value** converge. As you discover your gifts and find your place to serve, you can begin to unleash your passion and move forward in fulfilling your destiny.

Church Crew

Our **Church Crew** is a group of incredible people who have a passion to serve God and His people. Our Crew helps us make a great first impression on guests and fulfill the ministry of our Church.

Join Our Crew



We are looking for a group of high energy, passionate volunteers. These super-friendly and dedicated ambassadors of our Church are responsible for making a lasting impact that reflects the love of Jesus and is forever memorable. Our goal with our volunteers is to take the words, “**Welcome to our Church**” and “**Jesus Loves You,**” to new heights.

The following are areas of ministry in which you can be involved:

- 1) **Surge Kids** - Subject to Background Check
- 2) **Surge Youth** - Subject to Background Check
- 3) **Surge Worship** - Subject to Audition
- 4) **First Impressions Team**
- 5) **AV Team**
- 6) **Follow Up / Care Team**
- 7) **Events Team**
- 8) **Prayer Team**
- 9) **Security Team** - Subject to Background Check
- 10) **Coffee Corner**
- 11) **Cleaning Team**
- 12) **Building & Grounds Maintenance**

To Begin Serving

1. Complete Week 3 of Next Steps
2. Indicate The Area of Ministry You Desire to Serve
3. Meet with Team Leader for Orientation

Week 3 - Partner

Church Membership is more than deciding to join an organization or a social club. Church Membership is a spiritual covenant you are making with a Church Family. A covenant is a relationship of commitment and mutual blessing. As you commit to be an active and functioning member of our Church Family, we commit to partner with you in your spiritual life and development.

The Membership process is complete in **Week 3** as you take the final step of **Covenant Partnership**. We present all New Members to the congregation in service on the first Sunday of the Month. We call them by name, present

them with the signed copy of their Church Membership Certificate and pray over them. This allows new members to make a public commitment to our Church Family and gives our congregation the opportunity to officially welcome them as members.

Partner:

- 1) Sign the Church Membership Certificate
- 2) Wear the New Member's T-Shirt to Service
- 3) Come Forward to be Presented to the Congregation
- 4) Start Serving

At this time, we ask that you take the **Gift and Passion Tests** located in the back of your handout. Please be completely honest on the tests.

Note:

For example, if you do not enjoy working with Children or you do not read your Bible everyday, then please indicate a lower number. Do not feel embarrassed or less spiritual because you may not like something or do not have an interest in a particular area. A test that is scored on the margins will be more accurate in identifying your gifts, than a test that is scored down the middle. After completing these tests, we ask that you **indicate an area of ministry** you have an interest in serving, include **your t-shirt size** and **return these to the class moderator.** We will follow up with you on the results of your gift tests and discuss getting you activated in the ministry of our Church.

Again, we want to express how excited we are for you to join the Surge Community. Our best days are ahead of us as we **Surge Forward Together!**



Please Mark the Area of Ministry You Have an Interest in Serving: (No more than 3)

- 1) Surge Kids _____
- 2) Surge Youth _____
- 3) Surge Worship _____
- 4) First Impressions Team _____
- 5) AV Team _____
- 6) Follow Up / Care Team _____
- 7) Events Team _____
- 8) Prayer Team _____
- 9) Security Team _____
- 10) Coffee Corner _____
- 11) Cleaning Team _____
- 12) Building & Grounds Maintenance _____

Please Provide Your T-Shirt Size:

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ 4XL _____

Print Name

(Return to Class Moderator with Gift & Passion Tests)

