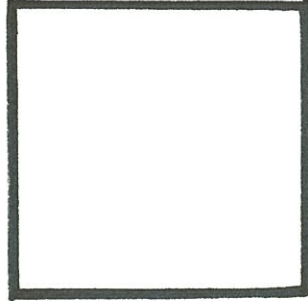


# BREATH TEST FOR TIRED SERVANTS

Instructions: Breathe on the following square...and check the results with the information directly below the square.



If the square turned **GREEN**, you need to change your tooth-paste.

If the square turned **ORANGE**, you need to change your brand of mouthwash.

If the square turned **PINK**, you need to see a psychiatrist.

If the square turned **YELLOW**, you need to see a mortician.

If the square did not change color, then you do not have any excuse not to get up and begin serving the Lord!

## EQUIPPING TO SERVE

“Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45, HCSB)

“Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts to be used in service of others. So use your gift well. (1 Peter 4:10, CEV)

The story is told of a minister who dreamed he was hitched to a covered wagon, and was laboriously, but slowly, pulling it along until he reached a place in the road when the mud seemed to get deeper and it was with much difficulty that he moved the wagon a few inches at a time.

He thought it rather peculiar, as the last time he looked back he thought he saw the entire congregation pushing. But the longer and harder he pulled, the more difficult it became to move the wagon.

Finally, almost exhausted, he went to the rear to examine the source of the trouble. All the church members had quit pushing. Not only had they quit pushing but they were sitting in the wagon and were criticizing the pastor for not pulling the church along faster.

Some years ago there was an article in *Christianity Today* that closed with this statement: “While we concern ourselves with making sure that the pulpits are filled with clergymen, let us also endeavor to see that the pews are filled with ministers.”

“Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.”

A question to ask, “Are we Standing On the Promises or Sitting on the Promises?”

### What Are Some Hindrances To Service?

1. Materialism
2. Privileged
3. Prideful
4. Prejudiced
5. Unconfessed Sin

The Six Primary Characteristics of Servant Leadership (Robert Dale in his book *Pastoral Leadership*)

1. Servants lead out of relationships, not by coercion
2. Servants lead by support, not by control
3. Servants lead by developing others, not by doing all the ministry themselves
4. Servants guide people, not drive them
5. Servants lead from love, not domination
6. Servants seek growth, not position

Steps to Serve

S \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_

V \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

Help people to discover what the spiritual gifts are (cf. Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4)

What Does It Mean to Serve?

- (1) To Serve Is A Result Of Salvation - "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14)
- (2) To Serve God Is To Serve Others - "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24-25; cf. I Peter 4:10)
- (3) To Serve Is To Love - "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love." "The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13-14)
- (4) To Serve Is To Be Great - "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:26-28)

SHAPE (from Rick Warren)

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

John Maxwell (in his book, *Developing the Leader Within You*)

1. Look above you - What does God want? Seek His guidance.
2. Look within you - What are your gifts, talents, and personality?
3. Look behind you - What are your past experiences?
4. Look around you - What are the needs?
5. Look ahead of you - What fires you up and inspires you?

Four Ways to be Faithful in Serving:

- Serve whenever you can.
- Serve wherever you can.
- Serve whoever is in need.
- Be willing to do whatever it takes.

Steps to Servanthood

- A. Choose to be a servant by surrendering to the Master.
- B. When asked to serve, practice saying this, "Sure thing. When do you need me and what should I bring?"
- C. Determine to serve in at least three different spheres (within your family and as a family, within the church, missionally in your community).

Get In The Game

#1 GET ON THE TEAM - We're in this TOGETHER

#2 GET ON THE FIELD - Warriors belong on the BATTLEFIELD

#3 GET IN THE ZONE - We're in this to WIN

#4 GET IN THE SPIRIT - We are UNASHAMED!