

Word of Life Fellowship

School of Ministry



SPIRIT

Serving People ~ Inspiring Righteousness ~ Imparting Truth

Minister Training Handbook

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Index

Page 3 Welcome

Page 3.....Mission Statement

Page 4.....Advantages

Page 5.....Introduction

Page 6.....What is **SPiRiT** Training?

Page 7.....Areas of **SPiRiT** Training

Page 8.....Lifestyle Principles

Page 9..... Progressing Through the Training

Page 10..... Steps to Joining the **SPiRiT** Training

Page 11..... Areas of Study in **SPiRiT** Training

Page 12.....Leaving **SPiRiT** Training

Page 13.....**SPiRiT** Training Application for Enrollment

Welcome

Word of Life School of Ministry would like to welcome you to **SPIRIT** – **S**erving **P**eople, **I**nspiring **R**ighteousness, and **I**mparting **T**ruth. It is our honor to partner with you in your service to the Lord. It's exciting to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and get the chance to serve as He served and to care as He cares and to love in word and deed as He loves.

I Peter 4: 10 NLT . . . God has given gifts to each of you from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

Mission Statement

SPIRIT training is designed to prepare the people of God to steward with excellence the Lord's purposes and each individual's specific ministries.

Advantages

1. *Our program will provide hands-on training in spiritual gifts, team ministry and a focused opportunity for you to excel in spiritual growth.*
2. *You will be equipped scripturally and activated in the practice of your faith.*
3. *This training will instill a confidence in you so you are able to give a ready answer to anyone concerning the hope that lies within you.*
4. *As a new member, you will be offered a colleague to help you progress through your training.*
5. *Members of the training will receive in-depth preparation for future ministry assignments.*
6. *Certificates of Completion will be awarded those who successfully complete the various stages of the training.*
7. *This training will guide you to a clear understanding of your position in the Body of Christ and a confidence to minister in a variety of essential ministries.*
8. *You will be eligible to participate in ministries such as Prayer Team, Porters, Worship Team, as well as many others.*

Zechariah 4:6

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit says the LORD of hosts.

Introduction

Word of Life Fellowship embraces the scriptural definition of a servant that embodies a steward or minister.

SPIRIT Training is designed to develop and equip candidates who desire to serve the Lord in the true Biblical sense of a minister. A servant is a person of Christ-like character and life conduct that walks as a **true disciple** of Christ before God and man.

Although specific ministries require particular skills and gifting to function properly, all Ministers should exhibit character traits that are based on a **true relationship** with the Lord Jesus Christ. Thereby, the lives of Word of Life stewards are not built on their skills but rather on their relationship with Christ, their character, their faithfulness and their desire to please the Lord with their whole life.

Matthew 20:25-28 NKJ But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

What is SPIRIT Training?

Word of Life's **SPIRIT** Training will endeavor to equip each individual with the tools and training that he or she will need to be a fruitful servant for the Lord. Our intent is to encourage all participants to fully develop a comprehensive lifestyle that is modeled after the ultimate servant, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The best way to approach stewardship training is with the attitude “what can I bring to the training?” This will ensure that you emulate Jesus during your training by always having a mind-set of giving. You will learn to give mentally, spiritually and physically to the world at large and specifically to those that you are joined to in fellowship.

The basic training offered is focused on developing character traits, and learning the foundational doctrines of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also designed to develop the specific callings and talents of each individual.

Another aspect of our training is that participants engage in **self-accountability**, thereby becoming men and women who are able to declare, “I am willing to give all for Christ, by living the Word of God in my life.”

Areas of **SPIRIT** Training

SPIRIT Training includes three areas of focus: **Academics**, **Application** and **Accountability**. These three areas of training will help develop your Godly character as a minister. Individuals and groups will be given opportunities to serve and gain experience in a variety of ministries. Ministry assignments will be used to equip and evaluate you for potential future ministries.

Academics: The training includes extensive Bible study in a wide variety of subjects, with the intent to give you a good working foundation in the Scriptures. You will be challenged to establish and confirm the teachings of Jesus in your own life.

Application: The training focuses on the application of God's principles to your lifestyle and will help you excel as a minister of God. You will be provided with tools that are instrumental in making sound decisions in life. The emphasis is on life experiences, including faithfulness, morality, ethics, participation, authority, and responsibility.

Accountability: The training's focal point is personal accountability before the Lord. You are encouraged to seek, establish and maintain mentor relationships and to have lives that are open and transparent to your spiritual leaders and fellow ministers. All of this is to benefit you in the advancing of your personal and spiritual growth.

Lifestyle Principles

As representatives of Word of Life's **SPIRIT** Training you should endeavor to demonstrate the Biblical principles of Christian love, character, responsibility, moderation and nonconformance to the world. We would like participants to be mindful of the following principles.

1. Show respect and regard for all believers, including fellow ministers and leadership, by demonstrating God's love in practice. **1 Pet. 2:17**
2. Keep yourself from sexual immorality and appearance of evil. **1 Thess. 5:22**
3. Practice consistent tithing. **Malachi 3:8-10**
4. Be prompt and engaged at all services, fellowship, special events and prayer meetings. **Hebrews 10:25** (If you have physical limitations we are happy to accommodate you.)
5. Have a good reputation in the community. **1 Tim. 3:7; Rom. 13:1**
6. Do your best to complete required classes and training. **2 Timothy 2:15**
7. Maintain consistent communication with church leadership. **Hebrews 13:17**
8. Volunteer and participate in the upkeep of the House of God. **Hebrews 10:24** (If you have physical limitations we are happy to accommodate you.)
9. Refrain from alcohol consumption, tobacco use, drug abuse, gambling or foul language. **Prov. 20:1; 2 Tim. 2:16**
10. Maintain proper outward appearance – cleanliness, grooming and good hygiene at ALL times. **1 Sam. 16:7**

a. Men

- i. Clean and neat attire to all church events and when representing Word of Life Fellowship.
 1. Please wear slacks, shirts, ties, dress shoes to all church services.
- ii. Neatly groomed hair **1 Cor. 11:14**
- iii. No piercings
- iv. No tattoos (or refrain from additional tattoos.) **Lev. 19:28**

b. Women - modest dress apparel at all times **1 Tim. 2:9**

- i. Clean and neat attire to all church events and when representing Word of Life Fellowship.
 1. Please wear modest dresses or skirts to all church services and prayer meetings.
- ii. Refrain from excessive piercings
 1. Ears only
- iii. No tattoos (or refrain from additional tattoos.) **Lev. 19:28**

Progressing Through the Training

SPIRIT Training is not a credentialed course, but it is an effective way to learn how to minister to people according to God's plan and purpose.

Progressing through Word of Life's **SPIRIT** Training consists of several aspects including (1) How well you apply yourself to training (2) The calling of the Lord on your life (3) The need for a particular type of ministry in the Body of Christ.

After being accepted into **SPIRIT** Training you will be involved in the work of the ministry under the supervision of the Leadership. We will provide periodic reviews in areas of faithfulness, availability, and comprehension of the Bible and how these truths are being manifested in your life.

You can complete the academic portion of **SPIRIT** Training within three years. This is dependent on your commitment to the training, and your comprehension and application of the Word to your life. In some cases, where there has been previous training or an exceptional commitment to the study and application of the Word, this phase could be shortened.

Following the completion of **SPIRIT** Training you become eligible for the title of **Minister**. This will signify that you have proven yourself to an acceptable level of Bible academics, including the comprehension of the Doctrines of Christ. You exemplify a life that demonstrates the application of the Word in your lifestyle. You are a trusted servant of the Lord who has embraced self accountability and demonstrates maturity in your walk with God. You meticulously embrace the principles of stewardship without hesitation or conflict, and are known for your faithfulness to duty, family and the Lord.

Before being considered for promotion to a Minister's status you will be asked to write a short paper on a subject that will be assigned by the Administrator.

Steps to Joining SPIRIT Training

The first step to joining **SPIRIT** Training is to communicate with the Administrators about your desire to be considered for entry.

Secondly, complete the **SPIRIT Training Application for Enrollment** form and submit it to the Administrators.

Thirdly, participate in an entrance interview.

Areas of Study in SPIRIT Training

Basic Training

Christian Ministers' Goals
How We Got the Bible
How to Study the Bible

The Local Church

Five-Fold Ministry
Women in the Ministry
Word of Life Resources
Chain of Command/Authority
The Role of the Church in a Christian's Life

The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ

Hebrews 6 Study
Completion of Hebrews 6 Workbook

Bible Training

Old Testament Review
New Testament Review
Correlation of Old and New Testament

How to Work for Christ

Evangelizing
Establishing New Christians
Review of Non-Christian Religions

Walking in the Spirit

Prayer and Intercession
Worship
Spiritual Warfare
How to Operate in the Gifts of the Spirit

Study of the Tabernacle

The Revelation of Christ and His Church
The Truths of God Revealed and Established

Lifestyle Principles

The Fruits of the Spirit vs. the Works of the Flesh
Godly Character
The Servant's Heart
Outward Appearance
Stewardship

Ministerial Conduct

Ethics
Confidentiality
Team Ministry
Ministering in Churches
Ministering in the Secular Arena
Marketplace Ministry
Ministering to the Nations
Communications

Miscellaneous Subjects

The History of Christianity
Men's and Women's Curriculum

Leaving *SPIRIT* Training

As in every area of life there are times when an individual moves on to another phase of their life, so at ***SPIRIT*** Training this will occur now and then. Under normal conditions an individual should be released from the training by the Pastors' initiative, with their blessing, counsel and direction.

If you to take it upon yourself to remove yourself from the training, it is requested that you first seek the counsel of the Pastors or Administrator prior to making your decision final. In the event that you do decide to leave without counsel it would be appreciated if you could write a simple letter of resignation explaining your decision.