

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH – FINAL WORKSHOP  
WORKSHEET #3: BUILDING YOUR PERSONAL RULE OF LIFE

In worksheets one and two, we concentrated on the beliefs and the holy habits that will guide our Rule of Life. We are going to start off worksheet three by looking at how God has uniquely gifted us and called us in this season of life.

All of us have spiritual gifts and natural talents. Spiritual gifts are used for the glory of God and the building up of his church, and they are powered by the Holy Spirit. Natural talents are what we love to do-- we use them to carry out and apply our spiritual gifts.

For instance, one of my (Chris) talents is writing and creatively producing teaching materials. My main spiritual gift is teaching. Naturally, I pursue opportunities to serve God that use those two. When I am functioning in the way God made me, I am energized. I have served in many other capacities over the course of my lifetime such as leading worship, producing video, teaching in public schools and universities, running an intern program in a church, helping authors market their books, and many more. God has a way of leading us into opportunities where He can best use us and where we can feel blessed and make a difference in the lives of others.

1. **Spiritual Gifts.** The apostle Paul, who authored most of the New Testament passages on spiritual gifts obediently used the gifts entrusted to him by God throughout his ministry. Read the following Bible passages and write a reflection in your journal about which of the spiritual gifts sounds like something you are drawn to. Why is that gift (or gifts) a good fit for you?
  - a. 1 Corinthians 12: Paul discusses how the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts as He wills, and how these gifts are meant to help the church. Make a list of the gifts from verses 1-11. What does this passage say about how to use your spiritual gifts?
  - b. 1 Corinthians 13: Paul says that gifts are only valuable if used with love, and that without love they are useless. Why is love important in the discussion of spiritual gifts?
  - c. Romans 12: 5-8 describes the gift of giving, and 12:6-8 lists the production of money as a spiritual gift. But money isn't the only way to give. Do you feel drawn to share your resources with others?
  - d. Ephesians 4: 11-16 discusses the importance of using God-given talents appropriately, such as gifts of teaching and preaching.
  - e. 1 Peter 4:11-19 also touches on spiritual gifts and includes encouragement on the subject of suffering in our service to God. How does this apply to a study on spiritual gifts?

**2. How do your gifts and talents play into your Rule of Life?**

- a. What are the top three to five activities in your life that are most life-giving for you? In contrast, what activities are most life-draining? In what ways do these fit your idea of who you are as God’s child?
- b. What do you consider to be your primary spiritual gift? Reflect on the Biblical passages already noted. How can you seek out opportunities to use those gifts in your present season of life?
- c. What are the primary natural talents God has created you with? Examples could be cooking, writing, athletics and fitness, speaking, working with your hands (building, landscaping), technical skills (computer, organizing, clerking, building schedules, etc), woodwork, singing, photography, leading projects, creating projects, care giving). This is just a partial list to get you thinking. Which talents do you have that you feel may benefit from further training?
- d. Write a prayer asking God to deepen your understanding of how you are gifted and talented.

**3. The Holy Habits.** Using the information you put together in the first worksheet, put together a similar table in your journal (see the table below). Which holy habits do you want to include? Think about times of day and how often you would like to fit them in your schedule. How are you going to practice each habit? Use the table below as a starting point. Remember, this is not made in cement. You will have to work with it for a while and change it to fit your ever-changing schedule.

When it comes to which tools you are going to use, look over the suggestions from the book. Go back and look at your journal in the First Things First sections of each chapter. Make sure your Holy Habit schedule fits in your daily routine without disruption. Also keep track of any changes or adjustments you may have to make in your day to get the holy habit established (less game playing on my tablet, get up 15 minutes earlier, etc.).

Holy Habit	How often? (Daily/weekly/ Monthly)	Adjustments I need to make to get the Holy Habit established	What tools are you going to use for your Holy Habit? (SOAP, prayer lists, Breath prayers, journaling, worship videos, etc.)

- 4. Putting together your final Rule of Life.** This is the last step in building your personal Rule of Life. Using your journal, start with your personal truths (what you believe) using the information from worksheet number two. Make sure you write this section in the first person (I believe, etc.). Keep it like a conversation with God so you can declare it regularly. Remember, this is just a starting point. It will change and evolve over time.
- a. I believe...(who God says He is, who God says I am)**
  
  - b. The gifts, talents, and roles God has given me**
  
  - c. My plan to add the Holy Habits to my life. (re-create your table here)**
  
  - d. Adjustments I want to make to get started**

After you have put together the first draft of your Rule of Life, I'd love to see it. Email me at [chris@cksyme.com](mailto:chris@cksyme.com). After you're done, look at it prayerfully every day. Get familiar with it until you know it be heart! Also, email me if you would like some help!

May God bless you as you seek His wisdom to put together your Rule of Life. And may that Rule of Life bless you all the days of your life!