

A Life of Personal Ministry

Your life of personal ministry has a specific sequence that is common to all believers. Someone once said there are three stages to the life of a Christian- beginning, growing, sharing. Our *beginning stage* as a Christian is not of our doing. Scripture clearly tells us, God is the giver of faith. So our beginning a Christian life happens to us, not by us. For many it began at infant baptism. Parents bring children to be baptized and the Holy Spirit gives faith. For others, the Gospel message was heard as an adult and faith came by hearing the Word.

The *growing stage* begins almost immediately after the beginning. This growth in faith is ongoing until the end of life. Encouragement for growing in faith is prevalent in Scripture. Growth implies change in a positive direction. A greater understanding of God's will for our lives, and a deeper appreciation for the love and sacrifice displayed in the life of Christ, causes growth.

The *sharing stage* is to be an ongoing feature in a life of personal ministry. It is concurrent with the *growing stage*. As growth occurs, the proper application of better knowledge and understanding of God's will leads to seeing opportunities for sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus.

† ***Philippians 1:23-24*** *I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*

The Apostle Paul understood his life ministry to Jesus. His encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus gave him God's perspective and purpose for his life. Paul was eager to be in heaven with God, but knew that his ministry on earth was not completed. He needed to do more sharing of the Gospel. So it is for us, our ministry is not over. God has some sharing for us to do. It's why we are still here.

Join us for ***Time Of Discovery*** starting March 14 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.