

**The Stewardship of Talents**  
**“Discovering your S.H.A.P.E.”**

*Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”*

The Almighty God is the **Great Master Artist**, who has created everything in the universe. His great creation includes: the beauty of nature, the splendor of the heavenly bodies, the animals that walk on the earth, the colorful fish that swim in the seas, and the magnificent birds that fly in the sky. But His greatest masterpiece of his creations is the special person that you are. You are God’s special creation. You are so unique and special that the scripture says, *“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous-and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed”* (Psalm 139:14-16, NLT). The God of the entire universe began making a masterpiece of you, even as you were taking shape in your mother’s womb. God himself is the one who breathed life into you. God doesn’t create anything without value. He is the **ultimate craftsman**. And He designed you specifically to fulfill a unique role in His ultimate plan to establish his kingdom on earth. The bible says, *“For we are God’s masterpiece. He created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.”* This verse helps us understand that if we want to discover our mission in life, we first need to look at the masterpiece God has made us to be in Christ Jesus.

Another translation of Ephesians 2:10, use the word **workmanship** to describe our uniqueness. It’s from the Greek word “poiema”, which literally means **“work of art.”** It is the root of our English word **poem**. You are a work of God and nothing, but the highest and best comes from his hand. Like the artist who takes scrap metal and turns it into an amazing sculpture, God takes our lives and fashions them into a masterpiece.

You are not only a masterpiece shaped by God's own loving hands, but you are a unique work of divine art. Like an original painting or sculpture, you are one of a kind. There is no one else like you, God designed each of us so there would be no duplication in the world. No one has the exact same mix of factors that make you unique. Da Vinci painted one Mona Lisa, Beethoven created one Fifth Symphony and God made one version of you. You're it! You're the only you there is. You can do something that no one else can do, in a fashion that no one else can do it. You are more than a coincidence of chromosomes and heredity, more than just an assemblage of somebody else's lineage. You are uniquely made.

God created you as a unique masterpiece because He has a specific purpose for your life, a special and unique "contribution" that only you can make. What does that mean? Your contribution is the unique service of which God created you to make, a ministry only you can perform. When God created animals, He gave each of them a specific area of expertise. Some animals run, some lop, some swim, some burrow, and some fly. Each animal has a particular role to play based on the way God shaped them. The same is true with human beings. Each of us were uniquely shaped and designed by God to do certain things.

Wise stewardship of your life begins by understanding your shape. What God made you to be determines what he intends for you to do. Your ministry is determined by your makeup. The acronym meaning for **S.H.A.P.E.** is:

Spiritual Gifts.... unwrapping your God-given treasures

Heart..... discovering your true passion

Abilities ..... discovering what you naturally good at

Personality ..... discovering what God made you to be

Experience ..... discovering where you have been

From **Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10; I Corinthians 12:28; I Peter 4:9-10**, we can pull together, a list of twenty spiritual gifts.

**Administration**  
**Apostleship**  
**Discernment**  
**Encouragement**  
**Evangelism**  
**Faith**  
**Giving**  
**Healing**  
**Helping**  
**Hospitality**

**Interpretation**  
**Knowledge**  
**Leadership**  
**Mercy**  
**Miracles**  
**Pastor**  
**Prophecy**  
**Teaching**  
**Tongues**  
**Wisdom**

### **Spiritual Gifts: What Am I Gifted to Do?**

- The spiritual gifts I believe God has given me are:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- I feel I could use these gifts in the following ways to serve others:

### **Heart: What do I Have a Passion For?**

- What drives my life:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Who do I care about most:

- The needs I love to meet in another person’s life:
  
- The cause I feel God wants me to help conquer for Him is:
  
- My ultimate dream for God’s kingdom:

**Abilities: What do I naturally excel at?**

- My top natural abilities are:

**Personality: How Has God Wired Me?**

- I tend to relate to others by being:
 

Outgoing -----	Reserved
Self- expressive -----	Self-controlled
Cooperative-----	Competitive
- I tend to respond to opportunities that are:
 

High risk -----	Low-risk
People -----	Process/Projects
Follow -----	Lead
Teamwork -----	Solo
Routine -----	Variety

## **Experiences: Where I Have Been?**

- My positive experiences include:
  
- Areas in which I feel I could help another person include:
  
- My painful experiences include:
  
- These are areas God has helped me through that I feel I could help another person through:

## Questions and Answers on the Stewardship of Talents

1. Do you receive the truth that you are a masterpiece? (Explain.)
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-10 and elaborate on what these scriptures are saying about your position in Jesus Christ.
3. Read **I Corinthians 12: 1-31; I Peter 4:9-10 and Romans 12:6-8** and share how you fit in with the church where you are and what gifts are you presently using in that body.
4. How have your experiences both positive and painful in life helped you in your ministry?

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

### DIRECTIONS

This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers. The *Spiritual Gifts Survey* consists of 80 statements. Some items reflect concrete actions; other items are descriptive traits; and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Your response choices are:

- 5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me
  - 4—Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me
  - 3—Frequently characteristic of me/true for me—about 50 percent of the time
  - 2—Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25 percent of the time
  - 1—Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me
- 

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when necessary.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I enjoy studying.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.
-

- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. I have an ability and desire to teach.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. I am willing to take the Initiative In helping other Christians grow In their faith.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. I am a cheerful giver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. I spend time digging Into facts.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God). I am able to communicate vision In such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. I would like to be more active In getting the gospel to people In other lands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people In need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 38. I am a generous giver.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 39. I am able to discover new truths.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me to speak out.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people In my church and community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of a group.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult decisions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the Lord and His salvation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all things.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation, encouragement, and counseling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seem impossible.

## SCORING YOUR SURVEY

Follow these directions to figure your score for each spiritual gift.

1. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the Item number which is indicated below the box.
2. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____	
	Item 6	Item 16	Item 27	Item 43	Item 65	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 1	Item 17	Item 31	Item 47	Item 59	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>TEACHING</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 2	Item 18	Item 33	Item 61	Item 73	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 9	Item 24	Item 39	Item 68	Item 79	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>WISDOM</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 3	Item 19	Item 48	Item 62	Item 74	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>PROPHECY</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 10	Item 25	Item 40	Item 54	Item 69	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>DISCERNMENT</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 11	Item 26	Item 41	Item 55	Item 70	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>EXHORTATION</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 20	Item 34	Item 49	Item 63	Item 75	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SHEPHERDING</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 4	Item 21	Item 35	Item 50	Item 76	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>FAITH</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 12	Item 28	Item 42	Item 56	Item 80	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>EVANGELISM</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 5	Item 36	Item 51	Item 64	Item 77	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>APOSTLESHIP</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 13	Item 29	Item 44	Item 57	Item 71	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>SERVICE/HELPS</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 14	Item 30	Item 46	Item 58	Item 72	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>MERCY</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 7	Item 22	Item 37	Item 52	Item 66	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>GIVING</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 8	Item 23	Item 38	Item 53	Item 67	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>HOSPITALITY</b>	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	+ _____	= _____
	Item 15	Item 32	Item 45	Item 60	Item 78	<b>TOTAL</b>