

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 a new 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
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- _____ 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.
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- _____ 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.

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