

# “You Were Shaped for Serving God”

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 <sup>1</sup>

Although he is the best-selling solo artist in the history of recorded music, those who knew him best say that Elvis Presley died an unfulfilled and unhappy man.<sup>2</sup> His ex-and-only-wife, Priscilla, said that “Elvis never came to terms with who he was meant to be or what his purpose in life was. He thought he was here for a reason, maybe to preach, maybe to serve, maybe to save, maybe to care for people. That agonizing desire was always with him and he knew he wasn’t fulfilling it. So he’d go on stage and he wouldn’t have to think about it.”

If Priscilla is right, and his world-changing success notwithstanding, Elvis felt like he was here to do something with his life, but he just couldn’t quite figure out what that was. You and I are taking this forty-day Journey of Spiritual Transformation so we won’t make that same mistake.

The “WiLTS” that you see on the screen is an acronym I made up some years ago as a way to express how I feel about what I do. “WiLTS” stands for “We Love This Stuff!” (the “i” is just for pronunciation). I really do “love this stuff,” and I get out of bed every day grateful to be your Pastor.

Even on the long days, on the hard days, on the crummy days, on the way to the hospital or the emergency room at odd hours, *I love what I do*. I’m grateful to God for the privilege of walking with you in the glad moments, the painful moments, the transforming moments, and the ordinary moments of your lives. And I’m grateful that you allow me to be able to devote my life to the advancement of God’s Kingdom through the Church.

While God may not have called you to be a Pastor (although God may be working on some of you about that), God has called you to a life that is energizing, fun, and filled with Christian service to others. While you and I are not likely to be as wealthy and famous as Elvis was, we still have the very real opportunity to make our lives count, both in time and in eternity.

As we come to the fourth area of our study, our subject this morning is “serving God by serving others.” We recently noted that in one of the *Peanuts* cartoons, Lucy commented that “I love the whole wide world. It’s just *people* that I can’t stand.” And while there may be days when you and I stand with Lucy, the fact of the matter is that **the way we serve God is by serving others**. There really isn’t another way to serve God.

The Bible’s word for “serving others” is “ministry.” “Ministry” doesn’t have to do with being a pastor or a missionary any more than it has to do with being a parent or a professor or a project manager or a fast-food worker. “Ministry” simply means using your abilities to help someone else in your role as one of God’s people on mission in the world.

In the New Testament, “service” and “ministry” translate the same Greek word, and “servant” and “minister” translate the same word. If you are called to salvation, you are called to ministry. Turn to the person next to you and tell them, “You’re a minister!”

The truth of the matter is that every single one of us is called to “full-time Christian service,” though we pay our bills by doing different things. Look again at 1 Corinthians 12:4-7:

---

<sup>1</sup> A sermon by Dr. David C. Stancil, delivered at the Columbia Baptist Fellowship in Columbia, MD on March 6, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis\\_Presley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elvis_Presley)

*“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same **Spirit** distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same **Lord**. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same **God** at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

Or how about this verse in 1 Peter: *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms”* (1 Peter 4:10). Do you remember the very first sentence on the very first day of our 40-day study? That very first sentence was “It’s not about you.”<sup>3</sup>

Here’s what “it’s all about.” It is God’s purpose to so transform your life by the power of the Spirit that you become more and more like Jesus, and are ready, willing, and able to spend eternity with Him. And it is God’s purpose that you choose to join your life with other born-again persons to create a redeemed community that only God can build—the firstfruits of the New Creation.

We call this amazing, God-built community “the Church,” a faith community composed of persons who experience the reality of the Kingdom of God, who embody the life of the Kingdom in daily experience, and who continually seek to enlarge the compass of the Kingdom in the world. And the good news is that God not only created us for service, but God has also given us models for what that looks like in real life.

First of all, God came lived among us and told us, “This is how you do it. I want you to watch Me.” And when we watch Jesus, we realize that *“even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”* (Mark 10:45). And then Paul told us to *“keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing”* (Philippians 4:9).

So you and I follow the examples God has given us, but we follow those examples in the particular ways we have been specifically prepared to do. My friends, the Bible tells us that God has particular things for each of us to do to advance the Kingdom of God in our time, and that God has shaped each of us uniquely so that we’ll be able to accomplish those things. The Bible reminds us that *“we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”* (Ephesians 2:10).

In this week’s readings, Rick will write about how God intends to use you to build the Church through an acronym called “SHAPE.” SHAPE is a metaphor for God’s unique organization of your **S**piritual Gifts, your **H**eart, your **A**bilities, your **P**ersonality, and your life **E**xperience to prepare you for the particular “WiLTS-work” God has prepared for. Let me give you a very quick overview of SHAPE. You’ll read a lot more about it in our study guide this week, and I’ll attach some additional resources with the online version of this sermon.

**Spiritual gifts** are particular abilities that God empowers in such a way that their “output”—their effect—is much greater than your “input.” Effectively-deployed spiritual gifts have an added “Wow!” factor that can only be explained by God’s work through you. Spiritual gifts may be similar to talents, but they don’t have to be. You may not even be aware of what your spiritual gifts are, but if you’re a Christian, they’re there. You can read more in what I’ll post online.

**“Heart”** has to do with what you love to do best and with what you care about most. Where is your passion? Where is your joy? What are you able to do effectively? What activities

---

<sup>3</sup> Rick Warren, *What On Earth Am I Here For? The Purpose Driven Life*, expanded edition (Zondervan, 2012), p. 21.

cause you to become so involved that you lose track of time? The Bible encourages us to “*do the will of God with all your heart*” (Ephesians 6:6). Sometimes we get the idea that doing God’s will means doing things we hate to do, but the truth of the matter is exactly the opposite. God’s purpose in your life has to do with finding that service in which you, too, can say “WiLTS” and “WooHoo!!!!”

Third, your **abilities** or talents are related to your “heart.” Whatever you’re able to do well, God has enabled you to do, not only to make a living but also to build the Church. As you assess your abilities, try to be honest with yourself about what you really do well and what you don’t do so well. Ask people who know you for their feedback. They probably see things that you don’t see.

Don’t get hung up on what you *think* you should be good at doing. Don’t get sidetracked by someone else’s purposes for your life. Let yourself “know what you know” about your abilities, and then follow your “heart.” If you’re doing what God intends for you to be doing, you’ll have *energy*, you’ll be *effective*, and you’ll experience *joy*. As Olympic champion Eric Liddell put it, “God made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure!”<sup>4</sup>

Fourth, people with similar abilities often have rather different **personalities**, don’t they? Some of us are “night people,” and some of us are “morning people.” Some of us like to work alone, and others much prefer to be around others. Some folks have to reason things out, while others “just know” what they believe. Some people are most comfortable with a specific plan, while working within a plan is a bother to others. We tend to think that other people ought to see things as we see them, but “different” is okay, because God made us that way on purpose. God intends for us to approach life within the structures of our own personalities, and God intends to transform every one of us into the character of Christ.

The final aspect of your “SHAPE” has to do with your life **experiences**. What have you learned from your family experiences? Your educational experiences? Your vocational experiences? Your spiritual experiences? Your experiences in ministry? And how about your painful experiences?

While we seldom see it at the time, God is hard at work in our lives even in our most painful experiences. God doesn’t cause everything that happens to us, but God intends to use everything that happens to us to shape our character. And it’s often those painful experiences—once they have achieved some measure of healing—that God is able to use most effectively in caring for the needs of others (2 Corinthians 1:4).

In chapter 33, Rick points out that “While knowing your SHAPE is important for serving God, having the heart of a servant is even more important. . . . Without a servant’s heart, you will be tempted to misuse your shape for personal gain. You will also be tempted to use it as an excuse to exempt yourself from meeting some needs. God often tests our hearts by asking us to serve in ways we’re not shaped.”<sup>5</sup>

“Your *primary* ministry should be in the area of your shape,” Rick counsels, “but your *secondary* service is wherever you’re needed at the moment. Your shape reveals your ministry, but your servant’s heart will reveal your maturity. No special talent or gift is required to stay after a meeting to pick up trash or stack chairs. Anyone can be a servant. All it requires is character.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See the attached self-evaluation form, “What I Do Well.”

<sup>5</sup> Warren, p. 255.

<sup>6</sup> Warren, p. 255.

Well, there's much more to be considered, so don't miss the readings this week, and don't miss your small group! I want to close by considering this golf ball. Have you ever looked closely at a golf ball? One would think that a perfectly smooth ball would be the way to go. It would be so elegant!

But golf balls aren't smooth. They've got little pock-marks all over them. The little dimples aren't even uniform. They're different sizes, and while there may be some pattern to them, it's not easy to see. But these apparent imperfections actually minimize wind resistance and allow the ball to travel as much as four times as far as a smooth ball can go.

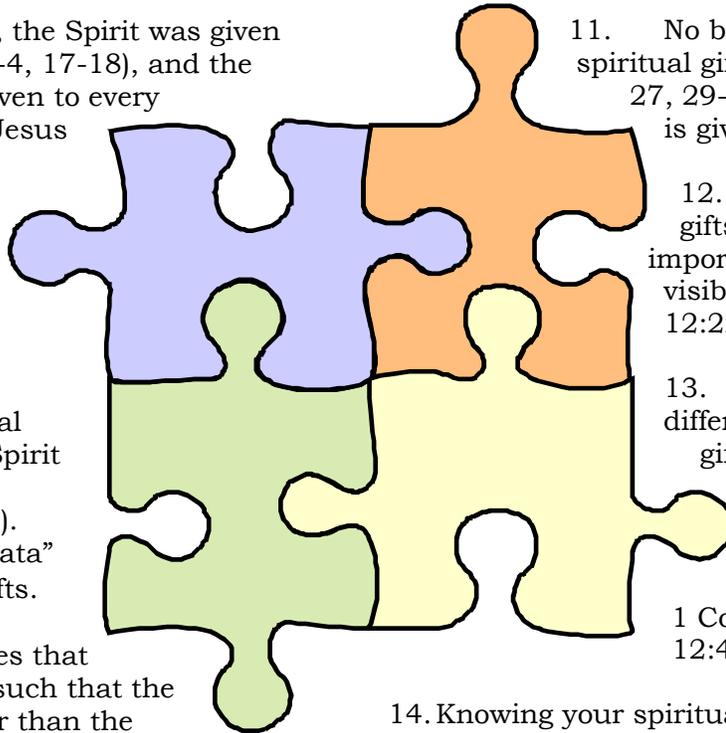
This golf ball is also kind of bunged up. It's not good for much except for its intended use, but it's very good at being a golf ball. This one is even marked with the words, "high trajectory."

You and I are a lot like this ball. We've got pock-marks all over us. We're kind of bunged up. We're not good for much except that for which God made us. But God has made you, and God has made me, with a particular SHAPE, and that shape is intended for a "high trajectory" . . . actually, a heavenly trajectory!

The way to joy, my friend, the way to purpose, the way to a life that matters, is to lean into the SHAPE God has given you and to use it in serving others. Let me know when you're ready for your very own "WILTS" sign!

# On the Subject of Spiritual Gifts

1. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of the Lord was given to selected leaders rather than to all of God's people (Exodus 31:2-3; Judges 3:9-10, 6:34, 14:6, 14:19; 1 Samuel 10:6; Micah 3:8).
2. Jesus was the unique bearer of the Spirit (Mark 1:10; Luke 4:14-18), and he promised his disciples that they, too, would receive the Spirit (Mark 13:11; Luke 11:13).
3. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit was given to all believers (Acts 2:3-4, 17-18), and the Spirit continues to be given to every person who believes in Jesus (Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9).
4. The Spirit gives at least one spiritual gift to every believer (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; Ephesians 4:7).
5. Spiritual gifts are "special abilities" that the Holy Spirit gives to each of us (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7). These gifts are "charismata" (*χαρισματα*), or grace-gifts.
6. Spiritual gifts are abilities that are empowered by God such that the "output" is much greater than the "input." As Paul Ford put it, "There are many things you do well, but only two or three you do supernaturally on a consistent basis" (Exodus 31:6).
7. Spiritual gifts and natural talents have similarities, but they are not the same. Talents are abilities that are a part of our "first creation" or our birth & upbringing. Gifts may be related to our talents, but they don't have to be. For example, "God may give the gift of evangelism to a natural-born salesman or He may not. God may give the gift of teaching to a professional school-teacher, but He is not so bound. He may give the gift of faith to someone who is optimistic by nature, but He does not have to do so" (Basden-Johnson, p. 5).
8. Spiritual gifts are sometimes, but not necessarily, related to formal roles in the church.
9. Spiritual gifts are not the same as the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-23).
10. We do not choose, control, earn, or work for our spiritual gifts. The Spirit decides what gifts we get (1 Corinthians 12:11).
11. No believer has every spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27, 29-30), and no single gift is given to everyone.
12. The more visible gifts are not more important than the less visible gifts (1 Corinthians 12:22-26).
13. Believers have different sets of spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-6), and these gifts complement each other in the church (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 3:7-9, 12:4-7).
14. Knowing your spiritual gifts is not as important as making sure that your life is a blessing to others. The work of the Spirit in our lives turns persons-as-a-whole into gifts.
15. Love is the most important factor in spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:1; Romans 13:10; Matthew 22:39-40), and using your gifts without love is worthless (1 Corinthians 13).
16. Discovering your spiritual gifts will probably require some experimentation. How will you know whether or not you have a certain gift if you have never tried it?



17. If you are interested in discovering your spiritual gifts, you must also be open to applying them for their intended purpose—building up the church. How many hours a week are you prepared to invest in the development and use of the spiritual gifts God reveals to you? (Schwarz, p. 57).

18. Using your spiritual gifts glorifies God and helps you to grow. If you are using a true spiritual gift, you will experience joy. You will be effective. And others will confirm both this joy and this effect.

19. As you discover the gifts you have been given, you get a better idea about what it is that God calls you to do.

20. Spiritual gifts do not come fully developed, and it requires maturity to use them correctly.

21. We are accountable for our management of the gifts that God gives us (1 Peter 4:10). We will be evaluated not on the number of gifts we have, but on how we have used what we have been given (Matthew 25:14-30). It is a sin to waste the gifts God gives us.

22. Although God's gifts and God's call can never be withdrawn (Romans 11:29), we can neglect, "smother," and "stifle" the Spirit's gifts so that they become ineffective (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

23. Another danger is that we tend to "project" our gifts onto others; that is, because the things in the areas of our giftedness are so easy and joyful for us, we have a hard time understanding why those things are not easy for everyone else, too.

24. There are universal Christian responsibilities that correspond to the gifts of the Spirit. We do not all have the gift of evangelism, for example, but we all do have the responsibility of sharing our faith (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Peter 3:15).

25. The Spirit's gifts are given to the entire church, not to us simply as individuals (Romans 12:3-11; 1 Corinthians 12:7), and spiritual gifts are an important part of God's plan for the growth, maturity, and renewal of the church.

26. Every believer, and every congregation, has every spiritual gift that we need to do that work to which God calls us (1 Corinthians 1:7).

27. There are many systems for categorizing spiritual gifts, but none of them are found in the Bible.

28. The New Testament does not mention every possible spiritual gift. Our endlessly creative God brings new gifts into being to meet the changing needs of the work of redemption.

Here is a partial list of Spiritual Gifts:

1. Apostleship
2. Artistic Creativity
3. Counseling/Encouragement/Exhortation
4. Craftsmanship/Handiwork
5. Deliverance/Exorcism
6. Discernment of Spirits
7. Evangelism
8. Faith
9. Giving
10. Healing
11. Helps/Helping
12. Hospitality
13. Interpretation
14. Knowledge
15. Leadership
16. Mercy/Kindness
17. Miracles
18. Missionary
19. Music
20. Organization/Administration
21. Prayer/Intercession
22. Prophecy/Preaching
23. Service/Serving
24. Shepherding/Pastor/Teacher
25. Singleness/Celibacy
26. Suffering/Martyrdom
27. Teaching/Writing
28. Tongues/Unknown Languages
29. Voluntary Poverty
30. Wisdom

DCS, Bristol, 2002

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Apostleship</b>	This gift enables Christians to be recognized as spiritual leaders by a variety of churches.
<b>Artistic Creativity</b>	This gift enables Christians to use artistic expression for the edification of others.
<b>Counseling</b>	This gift enables Christians to serve others through comfort, admonition, and encouragement, so that they experience help and healing.
<b>Craftsmanship</b>	This gift enables Christians to use a trade or craft for the good of the Body of Christ.
<b>Deliverance</b>	This gift enables Christians to help people suffering from demonic oppression experience deliverance.
<b>Discernment</b>	This gift enables Christians to know for sure whether a given behavior originates from a divine, human, or satanic source.
<b>Evangelism</b>	This gift enables Christians to communicate the gospel to non-Christians in a manner conducive to leading them to faith.
<b>Faith</b>	This gift enables Christians to discern, with an unusual degree of confidence, the will of God for the future development of ministry.
<b>Giving</b>	This gift enables Christians to give material things cheerfully and generously to others.
<b>Healing</b>	This gift enables Christians to serve as God's instruments for restoring the health of others without the aid of medical tools.
<b>Helps</b>	This gift enables Christians to place their own gifts at the disposal of other Christians, thus releasing them to concentrate more on their ministry.
<b>Hospitality</b>	This gift enables Christians to maintain an open home, offering food and lodging to guests.
<b>Interpretation</b>	This gift enables Christians to make known in a commonly understood language a message originally communicated in tongues.
<b>Knowledge</b>	This gift enables Christians to generate, collect, and analyze ideas that are important for the health of the church.
<b>Leadership</b>	This gift enables Christians to set goals for the church and to communicate them in such a way that others volunteer to achieve them.
<b>Mercy</b>	This gift enables Christians to demonstrate empathy through practical deeds toward those who are troubled in mind, body, or spirit.

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Miracles</b>	This gift enables Christians to serve as human instruments through whom God performs powerful acts that surpass natural laws in order to communicate a specific message to God's people.
<b>Missionary</b>	This gift enables Christians to utilize their other gifts in a second culture.
<b>Music</b>	This gift enables Christians to play a musical instrument or to use their voice in singing for the glory of God and the edification of others.
<b>Organization</b>	This gift enables Christians to understand goals for specific areas of ministry and to draft effective plans toward reaching these goals.
<b>Prayer</b>	This gift enables Christians to pray for concrete requests over long periods of time, and to receive visible answers far more frequently than most Christians.
<b>Prophecy</b>	This gift enables Christians to receive a message from God by the Holy Spirit and to communicate it to other people.
<b>Service</b>	This gift enables Christians to recognize where their participation is needed and to make sure that the most urgent jobs get done.
<b>Shepherding</b>	This gift enables Christians to assume long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of believers.
<b>Singleness</b>	This gift enables Christians to live happily as singles while contributing more effectively to the kingdom of God.
<b>Suffering</b>	This gift enables Christians to suffer for their faith while at the same time maintaining a joyful, victorious spirit.
<b>Teaching</b>	This gift enables Christians to communicate truth in a manner that enables others to learn and contributes to the health of the church.
<b>Tongues</b>	This gift enables Christians to use a language they have never learned, either in their personal prayer times or for a public message.
<b>Voluntary Poverty</b>	This gift enables Christians to deny themselves material well being so that they can maintain a standard of living that parallels the poor.
<b>Wisdom</b>	This gift enables Christians to help others apply existing knowledge to specific situations.

# SPIRITUAL GIFT LISTS

<b>Romans 12:3-8</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:11-16</b>	<b>Christian Schwarz</b>	<b>Leslie Hollon</b>	<b>Basden-Johnson</b>	<b>Heights-Wagner</b>
	Apostleship	Apostleship	Apostleship	Apostleship	Apostleship	
			Artistic Creativity	Art		
Encouragement			Counseling	Encouragement	Exhortation	Exhortation
			Craftsmanship	Handiwork		
			Deliverance			Exorcism
	Discernment of Spirits		Discernment	Discernment	Discernment	Discernment
		Evangelism	Evangelism	Evangelism	Evangelism	Evangelism
	Faith		Faith	Faith	Faith	Faith
Giving			Giving	Giving	Giving	Giving
	Healing		Healing			Healing
	Helping		Helps	Helps		Helps
			Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality
	Interpretation		Interpretation			Interpretation
	Knowledge		Knowledge	Knowledge	Knowledge	Knowledge
Leadership			Leadership	Leadership	Leadership	Leadership
Mercy/Kindness			Mercy	Mercy	Mercy	Mercy
	Miracles		Miracles			Miracles
			Missionary	Missionary		Missionary
			Music	Music	Music	
	Administration		Organization	Administration	Administration	Administration
			Prayer	Intercession	Intercession	Intercession
Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy	Prophecy/Preaching	Prophecy	Prophecy
Service			Service	Service	Serving	Service
		Pastor/Teacher	Shepherding	Shepherding	Shepherding	Pastoring
			Singleness	Celibacy		Celibacy
			Suffering	Martyrdom		
Teaching	Teaching		Teaching	Teaching/Writing	Teaching	Teaching
	Unknown Language		Tongues			Tongues
			Voluntary Poverty	Voluntary Poverty		Voluntary Poverty
	Wisdom		Wisdom	Wisdom	Wisdom	Wisdom

# AN OVERVIEW OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Abstracted from Christian Schwarz, *The 3 Colors of Ministry: A Trinitarian Approach to Identifying and Developing Your Spiritual Gifts* (Chicago: ChurchSmart Resources, 2001)

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Biblical References</b>	<b>Possible Tasks</b>
<b>Apostleship</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to be recognized as spiritual leaders by a variety of churches.	Matthew 10:2-15; Acts 8:14-25, 14:14-15, 15:1-6; <b>1 Cor. 12:28-29</b>	Church planting, church consulting, long-term planning, regional/denominational roles, foreign missions . . . .
<b>Artistic Creativity</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to use artistic expression for the edification of others.	<b>Exodus 31:1-5</b> ; 1 Kings 7:14	Layout of church publications, pantomime, development of public relations materials, arts and crafts group, dance, drama, interior decoration, lyrics, musical composition, poetry . . . .
<b>Counseling</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to serve others through comfort, admonition, and encouragement, so that they experience help and healing.	Acts 14:21-22; Romans 12:6-8; <b>2 Cor. 1:3-7</b>	Mentoring new Christians, hospital ministry, counseling team, small group ministry, gift consulting, prayer team, marriage and family counseling, senior adult ministry, prison ministry, hospice ministry . . . .
<b>Craftsmanship</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to use a trade or craft for the good of the Body of Christ.	<b>Exodus 35:30-35</b> ; 2 Kings 12:11-14; 2 Chronicles 34:9-13; Acts 18:3	Building, gardening, helping neighbors with odd jobs, maintenance, car repair, mission projects, sewing . . . .
<b>Deliverance</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to help people suffering from demonic oppression experience deliverance.	Matthew 10:1, Mark 9:28-29, 16:17; <b>Luke 10:17-20</b> ; Acts 8:5-8, 16:16-18, 19:13-16	Exorcism, ministry to the underprivileged, prayer team ministry, counseling, evangelistic events, foreign missions . . . .
<b>Discernment</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to know for sure whether a given behavior originates from a divine, human, or satanic source.	Matthew 16:22-23; Acts 13:6-12; 1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22; <b>1 John 4:1-6</b>	Public relations, counseling, deliverance ministry, ministry to the underprivileged, church board member, evangelistic campaigns, preaching, prayer team ministry, long-term planning . . . .

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Biblical References</b>	<b>Possible Tasks</b>
<b>Evangelism</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to communicate the gospel to non-Christians in a manner conducive to leading them to faith.	Acts 8:5-6, <b>8:26-40</b> , 14:13-21; Romans 10:14-15; Ephesians 4:11	Preaching, open houses, visitation ministry, counseling, radio ministry, foreign missions, church planting team, ministry to the underprivileged, evangelistic home groups, music or band ministry, children's evangelism, ministry to internationals . . . .
<b>Faith</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to discern, with an unusual degree of confidence, the will of God for the future development of ministry.	Matthew 8:5-13; <b>Romans 4:18-21</b> ; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 1:5-8	Prayer group leader, church board member, long-term planning, church planting, creative ideas team, denominational leadership, church leadership for missions & evangelism . . . .
<b>Giving</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to give material things cheerfully and generously to others.	Luke 21:1-4; John 12:3-8; Acts 4:32-37, 20:33-35; <b>2 Corinthians 8:1-5</b>	Finance and budget committees, supporting missionaries and missionary causes, stewardship committee, crisis ministry, treasurer, benevolent ministries, community social ministries . . . .
<b>Healing</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to serve as God's instruments for restoring the health of others without the aid of medical tools.	Mark 2:1-12, Mark 8:22-26, John 14:12-14; Acts 3:1-8, 14:8-15, 28:8-9; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28-30; <b>James 5:14-15</b>	Counseling, prayer team, visiting the sick . . . .
<b>Helps</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to place their own gifts at the disposal of other Christians, thus releasing them to concentrate more on their ministry.	Numbers 11:16-17; <b>Luke 10:38-42</b> ; 1 Corinthians 12:28	Telephone ministry, supporting leaders, secretarial help, helping families move into new homes, custodial service . . . .
<b>Hospitality</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to maintain an open home, offering food and lodging to guests.	Matthew 10:40, 25:35; Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10; <b>Hebrews 13:1-2</b> ;	Small group host, caring for the homeless, worship greeter, social ministry, retreat leadership, hosting guests to the church, preparing for touring and ministry groups, youth ministry . . . .
<b>Interpretation</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to make known in a commonly understood language a message originally communicated in tongues.	<b>1 Corinthians 12:10</b> , 27-31, <b>14:1-5</b> , 12-19, <b>26-32</b>	Prayer groups, worship service team, spiritual warfare . . . .

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Biblical References</b>	<b>Possible Tasks</b>
<b>Knowledge</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to generate, collect, and analyze ideas that are important for the health of the church.	1 Corinthians 8:1-2; Ephesians 1:16-19, <b>3:16-19</b>	Bible study, writing, church growth research, seminar preparation, long-range planning, journalism, creative outreach . . . .
<b>Leadership</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to set goals for the church and to communicate them in such a way that others volunteer to achieve them.	Exodus 18:13-27; Romans 12:8; <b>1 Timothy 3:1-7</b>	Pastor, elder, deacon, worship service leader, department leader, long-term planning . . . .
<b>Mercy</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to demonstrate empathy through practical deeds toward those who are troubled in mind, body, or spirit.	Matthew 25:37-40; Mark 9:41; <b>Luke 10:33-37</b> ; Acts 9:36; James 2:14-17	Counseling, intercession, social ministry, prison ministry, home & foreign missions, ministry with single parents, special needs ministry, hospital visitation, ministry with addictions . . . .
<b>Miracles</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to serve as human instruments through whom God performs powerful acts that surpass natural laws in order to communicate a specific message to God's people.	Matthew 24:23-24; Luke 10:17-20; John 14:2-14; Acts 9:36-42; <b>20:9-12</b> ; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28; 2 Corinthians 12:12.	Foreign missions, spiritual warfare, prayer ministry . . . .
<b>Missionary</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to utilize their other gifts in a second culture.	Acts 9:13-17, Acts 14:21-28; <b>1 Corinthians 9:19-23</b> ; Galatians 2:7-14; Ephesians 3:6-11	Ministry to the underprivileged, ministry to internationals, foreign missions, church planting . . . .
<b>Music</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to play a musical instrument or to use their voice in singing for the glory of God and the edification of others.	<b>1 Samuel 16:18-23</b> ; 1 Chronicles 15:28, 16:42; 2 Chronicles 5:12-14, 29:27-29; Nehemiah 12:46-47; Psalm 150	Worship leadership, instrumentalist, praise teams, choir director or member, worship planning, vocal solos and ensembles . . . .

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Biblical References</b>	<b>Possible Tasks</b>
<b>Organization</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to understand goals for specific areas of ministry and to draft effective plans toward reaching these goals.	<b>Exodus 18:13-27</b>	Age-group coordinator, organization of events (workshops, conferences, concerts, celebrations, evangelistic campaigns), coordination of small groups, librarian, cassette ministry computer work, leadership of ministry teams/efforts . . . .
<b>Prayer</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to pray for concrete requests over long periods of time, and to receive visible answers far more frequently than most Christians.	Daniel 9:1-4; <b>Luke 11:1-13</b> ; Acts 16:19-34; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; James 5:16-18	Prayer groups , leading prayer vigils, spiritual warfare, prayer chains, intercession for specific requests, prayer ministry at specific events . . . .
<b>Prophecy</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to receive a message from God by the Holy Spirit and to communicate it to other people.	Deuteronomy 18:18-22; 1 Samuel 3:1-21; Matthew 7:15-20, 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; 2 Peter 1:19-21; <b>1 John 4:1-6</b>	Foreign missions, evangelistic events, long-term planning, outreach to the underprivileged, worship team, prayer team, small groups, counseling, prayer chains . . . .
<b>Service</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to recognize where their participation is needed and to make sure that the most urgent jobs get done.	<b>Luke 22:24-27</b> ; Acts 6:1-7; Romans 12:6-7	Odd jobs, gardening, caring for guests, cooking and baking, maintenance, typing/computer work, tape ministry, baby sitting . . . .
<b>Shepherding</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to assume long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of believers.	<b>John 10:1-15</b> ; Acts 20:28-31; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 1 Peter 5:1-5	Gift consultant, pastor, children's church, small group leader, youth ministry, assimilating new Christians, training programs . . . .
<b>Singleness</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to live happily as singles while contributing more effectively to the kingdom of God.	Matthew 19:10-12; <b>1 Corinthians 7:7-8, 32-35</b>	Since the gift of singleness is intended to make other gifts more effective, it is theoretically possible to combine any task with it. However, those involved in foreign missions and church planting may particularly profit from this gift since a great degree of flexibility is required in these ministries. This kind of flexibility is often difficult to harmonize with family concerns.

<b>Gift</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Biblical References</b>	<b>Possible Tasks</b>
<b>Suffering</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to suffer for their faith while at the same time maintaining a joyful, victorious spirit.	Matthew 5:10-12; Acts 8:1-4, 20:22-24; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, <b>2 Corinthians</b> 1:8-11, <b>6:3-10</b> , 11:21b-33, 12:9-10; Philip- pians 1:12-14; 1 Peter 2:20-25, 4:12-16	Intercession, foreign missions, pioneer ministry . . . .
<b>Teaching</b> Red: Redemption	This gift enables Christians to communicate truth in a manner that enables others to learn and contributes to the health of the church.	Acts 18:24-28; Romans 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-14; <b>James 3:1</b>	Small group ministry, seminars, training courses, Bible studies, new members/baptism class, church growth training . . . .
<b>Tongues</b> Blue: Transformation	This gift enables Christians to use a language they have never learned, either in their personal prayer times or for a public message.	Mark 16:17; Acts 2:1-13, Acts 10:44-48, <b>Acts 19:1-7</b> ; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:10 and 28-30, 1 Corinthians 14:4-6 and 26-28	Prayer ministry, spiritual warfare . . . .
<b>Voluntary Poverty</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to deny themselves material well being so that they can maintain a standard of living that parallels the poor.	<b>Acts</b> 2:44-45; <b>4:36-37</b> ; 1 Corinthians 13:3; 2 Corinthians 6:10; Philippians 4:11-13	Home & foreign missions, social ministry, ministry with refugees and the homeless, monastic orders . . . .
<b>Wisdom</b> Green: Creation	This gift enables Christians to help others apply existing knowledge to specific situations.	<b>1 Kings 3:5-28</b> ; James 3:13-18	Spiritual counseling, conflict resolution, prayer ministry, vocational counseling, gift counseling, seminars, teaching . . . .

# What S.H.A.P.E are you?

A Personal Profile of  
Members and Participants of Columbia Baptist Fellowship

S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts – Hearth – Abilities – Prayer – Experience  
Original Concept from Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, California. Used by Permission.

God has created you and shaped your life in unique and wonderful ways so that you can experience the joy of helping the Kingdom of God “*to come on earth as it is in heaven*” (Matthew 6:10). We do different things to make a living, but we all have the same calling to use our talents, abilities, interests, personality and experience to follow Jesus, to strengthen His Body, the Church, and to enlarge God’s Kingdom on earth. When we use our abilities for God’s glory, we come to know God more fully as we obey Him and He accomplishes His work through our lives.

The CBF Ministry Team is asking every member and regular attendee to complete this Personal Profile.

Please fill out your information, then fill in the **BEST** way to contact you:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEST WAY TO CONTACT YOU:** \_\_\_\_\_

# S.H.A.P.E. – **Spiritual Gifts** – Heart – Abilities – Prayer – Experience

## What is a Spiritual Gift? What is YOUR Spiritual Gift?

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given to all believers (Acts 2:3-4), and the Spirit continues to be given to every person who believes in Jesus (Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9). **God gives at least one spiritual gift to every believer** (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; Ephesians 4:4-7). Three good tests for the presence of a spiritual gift are:

1. You will enjoy using this ability
2. You will be effective in using this ability
3. Other people will confirm that God is using you in this way

No believer has every spiritual gift and no single gift is given to everyone (1 Corinthians 12: 27-31). Our different spiritual gifts complement each other to accomplish God's purposes through the church (Romans 12: 4-6, 1 Corinthians 3: 6-9, 12: 4-7).

While knowing your spiritual gift(s) is helpful, this is not as important as **making sure that your life is a blessing to others. Love is the most important factor in spiritual gifts** (1 Corinthians 12: 31-13:13, Matthew 22: 39-40) and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives turns our-lives-as-a-whole into gifts!

On the next page are descriptions of many spiritual gifts. Please mark those gifts you believe are active in your life. If this is a new concept to you or if you need help with this idea, the following internet links provide on-line gift assessments:

[www.spiritualgiftstest.com](http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com) (click on Tests tab then choose your test)

<http://mintools.com/spiritual-gifts-test.htm> (on the left side under Spiritual Gifts, click on Spiritual Gifts Test Online)

[www.elmertowns.com](http://www.elmertowns.com) (click on Resources and then Spiritual Gifts Test)

<b>Spiritual Gifts</b>	<b>Description</b>
Artistic Creativity	Christians with this gift use their creative ability to help others deepen their relationship with God – can include art, poetry, prose, drama, etc.
Counseling	Christian Counseling can serve others through advice, comfort and encouragement so that they experience help and healing.
Craftsmanship	This gift enables Christians to use a trade or craft for the good of the body of Christ.
Discernment	Christians with this gift are especially good at distinguishing truth from error.
Encouragement	This Christian sees the positive and the potential in others and encourages them to use their gifts to the glory of God and the spread of the Gospel.
Evangelism	This gift enables Christians to communicate the gospel to non-Christians in a manner conducive to leading them to faith.
Giving	These Christians give materials things cheerfully and generously.
Healing	This gift enables Christians to serve as God’s instrument for restoring the health of others.
Helping	The ability to joyfully work with others to complete the task God has given them.
Hospitality	Christians with the gift of Hospitality enjoy having guests in their homes, and they enjoy making others welcome and comfortable in other settings as well.
Knowledge	This studious Christian shares, investigates, collects and/or analyzes information that is needed for the health and administration of the church.
Leadership	The ability to inspire and motivate other Christians to work toward a common cause or goal to achieve the work of the church.
Mercy	This Christian demonstrates empathy through practical deeds toward those who need help with issues concerning mind, body and/or spirit.
Missionary	Christian missionaries utilize their gifts to expand God’s kingdom beyond their own culture.
Music	Through singing, playing an instrument or directing, musical Christians worship and help others to worship and to know the Risen Savior.
Organization	This gift enables Christians to understand goals for specific areas of ministry and to draft effective plans toward reaching these goals.
Prayer Intercessor	This diligent Christian will pray continually over extended periods of time, pleading to God on behalf of another, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Prophecy	Some Christians are able to perceive a message from God, recognize that it is by the Holy Spirit and to then communicate it to others.
Service	This gift enables Christians to recognize where their participation is needed and to act on it.
Shepherding	This gift enables Christians to assume the personal responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of believers.
Teaching	Teachers in the Christian faith are able to communicate Truth in a manner that enables others to learn and grow in their faith journey.
Wisdom	This gift enables Christians, with the intercession of the Holy Spirit, to understand a deeper meaning, apply that knowledge and insight and to share that with others.

# S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts – **Heart** – Abilities – Prayer – Experience

When we speak of someone’s passion, of what he or she is really motivated to do, we sometimes say that “she/he has a **heart** for that ministry”. Even as we have differing gifts, so we have differing interests and passions as well. Some of us “have a heart” for athletics, some for aesthetics, some for outreach, some for youth, etc. How would you complete the following sentence?

- I love to \_\_\_\_\_
- I love to \_\_\_\_\_
- I love to \_\_\_\_\_

What groups do you like to work with? (Check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infants-Kindergarten | <input type="checkbox"/> “Gen X” – born early 1960s to early |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary School    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1980s                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School        | <input type="checkbox"/> “Gen Y”/Millennial                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School          | <input type="checkbox"/> Generation – born                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College              | <input type="checkbox"/> early 1980s to early 2000s          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles              | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Couples              |  |

What group do you enjoy working with THE MOST? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What church ministries, issues or needs inspire you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What concerns you the most? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is there a ministry or mission that keeps coming to your mind again and again?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts – **Heart** – Abilities – Prayer – Experience

A number of possible ministries are listed below. If you have a heart for any of these, please put an “X” in the box beside that ministry.

- Abuse/Family Violence
- At-Risk Children/Youth
- Benevolence/Mercy Ministries
- Bereavement
- Church History
- Community Issues
- Disaster Relief
- Drama
- English as a Second Language
- Environment
- Financial Management
- Food Pantry
- Greeters/Ushers
- Health/Fitness
- Homeless
- Hospice
- Hospitality
- Library/Media Center
- Men’s Ministry
- Missions: International
- Missions: Local
- Missions: Stateside
- Music
- Organization
- Outreach
- Prison Ministry
- Publicity
- Serving/Helping
- Social Events/Picnics
- Teaching
- Tutoring
- Visitation
- Women’s Ministry

S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts – Heart – **Abilities** – Prayer – Experience

Jobs or skills in which I have experience: \_\_\_\_\_

---

If you have abilities for any of the following, please put an “X” in the box beside that item.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration       | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design        | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/Crafts          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospice               | <input type="checkbox"/> Puppets              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletics/Sports     | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance             | <input type="checkbox"/> Repairs              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual         | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Science       | <input type="checkbox"/> Scenery Production   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cake Decorating      | <input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Access      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catering             | <input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Office      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound System         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers/Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Composition    | <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Planning   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/Baking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Directing      | <input type="checkbox"/> Teller               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Entry           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Instrumental   | <input type="checkbox"/> Van/Bus Driver       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating           | <input type="checkbox"/> Music: Vocal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Maintenance  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing Arts/Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Videography          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics          | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Management  | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance              | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography           | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Design           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Arranging     | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Trips/Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Preparation     | <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint            | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing              |

Languages, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

---

S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts – Heart – Abilities – **Prayer** – Experience

What would be your prayer for CBF for the future? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

How would you pray to be involved in CBF in the future? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

# S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual Gifts – Heart – Abilities – Prayer – **Experience**

Please complete: Because of some of my own experiences, I believe I could relate to and encourage someone who is going through:

---

Please provide your specific qualification for the following, i.e. Nurse, Lawyer, date of certification, etc:

Certified Teacher

Law Enforcement Professional

Commercial Driver’s License

Legal Professional

Construction Professional

Medical Professional

Counseling Professional

Ministry Professional

Disaster Relief Certification

Passed Background Check for Working with Children

Formal Education, Seminars, Special Training: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**THANKS FOR YOUR HELP !**

If you are providing this information in paper form, please turn in to a member of the staff or of the MINISTRY Team.

**Name:**

**Date:**

<b>things I really like to do</b>	<b>things I'm really good at</b>
<b>things I moderately like to do</b>	<b>things I'm moderately good at</b>
<b>things I don't much like to do</b>	<b>things I'm okay at</b>
<b>things I really don't like to do</b>	<b>things I'm no good at</b>