

Discovering My SHAPE

Inspired by the work of Pastor Rick Warren

I. UNPACKING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The Bible does not lock us into tight restrictions as to the number of spiritual gifts, or even their definitions. The four major lists of gifts are found in Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31, and Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 4:9-11 but there are other passages that mention or illustrate gifts not included in these lists.

As you read through this list, check off your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have many gifts.

GIFTS THAT COMMUNICATE GOD'S WORD

PREACHING ("Prophecy") ~ 1 Corinthians 14:3

The ability to publicly communicate God's word in an inspired way that convinces unbeliever and both challenges and comforts believers. The ability to persuasively declare God's will

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

EVANGELISM ~ Acts 8:26-40

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a positive, non-threatening way. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ and lead people to respond with faith.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

MISSIONS ~ 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Acts 13:2-3

The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to reach unbelievers and help believers from that culture.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

APOSTLE ~ Romans 15:20

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

GIFTS THAT EDUCATE GOD'S PEOPLE

TEACHING ~ Ephesians 4:12-13

The ability to educate God's people by clearly explaining and applying the Bible in a way that causes them to learn. The ability to equip and train other believers for ministry.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

ENCOURAGEMENT ("Exhortation") ~ Acts 14:22

The ability to motivate God's people to apply and **act on** Biblical principles, especially when they are discouraged or wavering in their faith. The ability to bring out the best in others and challenge them to develop their potential.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

WISDOM ~ 1 Corinthians 2:1, 6-16

The ability to understand God's perspective on life situations and share those insights in a simple, understandable way. The ability to explain what to do and how to do it.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

DISCERNMENT ~ 1 John 4:1-6

The ability to distinguish right from wrong, truth from error, and to give an immediate evaluation based on God's Word. The ability to discern whether the source of an experience is Satan, self, or God's Spirit.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

KNOWLEDGE ~ Daniel 1:17

The ability to discover, collect, analyze, and organize information that is vital to individual believers or the entire church family. The ability to comprehend a large amount of information and provide it when needed for effective decision-making.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

GIFTS THAT DEMONSTRATE GOD'S LOVE

SERVICE ~ Acts 6:1-7

The ability to recognize unmet needs in the church family, and take the initiative to provide practical assistance quickly, cheerfully, and without a need for recognition.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

MERCY ~ Luke 10:30-37

The ability to detect hurt and empathize with those who are suffering in the church family. The ability to provide compassionate and cheerful support to those experiencing distress, crisis, or pain.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

HOSPITALITY ~ 1 Peter 4:9-10

The ability to make others, especially strangers, feel warmly welcomed, accepted, and comfortable in the church family. The ability to coordinate factors that promote fellowship.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

PASTORING ("Shepherding") ~ 1 Peter 5:2-4

The ability to care for the spiritual needs of a group of believers and equip them for ministry. The ability to nurture a small group in spiritual growth and assume responsibility for their welfare.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

GIVING ~ 2 Corinthians 8:1-7

The ability to generously contribute material resources and/or money beyond the 10% tithe so that the Body may grow and be strengthened. The ability to earn and manage money so it may be given to support the ministry of others.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE (Worship or prayer-related gifts)

MUSIC ~ Psalm 150

The ability to celebrate God's presence through music, either vocal or instrumental, and to lead the church family in worship.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

ARTS & CRAFTS ~ Exodus 31:3-11

The ability to build, maintain, or beautify the place of worship for God's glory. The ability to express worship through a variety of art forms.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

INTERCESSION ~ Colossians 1:9-12

The ability to pray for the needs of others in the church family over extended periods of time on a regular basis. The ability to persist in prayer and not be discouraged until the answer arrives.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

HEALING ~ James 5:14-16

The ability to pray in faith specifically for people who need physical, emotional, or spiritual healing and see God answer. The ability to sense when God is prompting you to pray this kind of prayer.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

MIRACLES ~ Mark 11:23-24

The ability to pray in faith specifically for God's supernatural intervention into an impossible situation and see God answer.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

PRAYING WITH MY SPIRIT (“Tongues/Interpretation”) ~ 1 Corinthians 14:13-15

The ability to pray in a language understood only by God or one who is given the gift of interpretation at that time.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

GIFTS THAT SUPPORT ALL FOUR OF THESE PURPOSES

LEADERSHIP ~ Hebrews 13:7

The ability to clarify and communicate the purpose and direction, the vision, of a ministry in a way that attracts others to get involved. The ability to motivate others by example to work together in accomplish a ministry goal.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

ADMINISTRATION ~ Acts 6:1-4

The ability to recognize the gifts of others and recruit them to ministry. The ability to organize and manage people, resources, and time for effective ministry. The ability to coordinate many details and execute the plans of leadership.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

FAITH ~ Genesis 15:4-6

The ability to trust God for what cannot be seen and to act on God's promise, regardless of what the circumstances indicate. The willingness to risk failure in pursuit of a God-given vision, expecting God to handle the obstacles.

I'm pretty sure I have this gift. ◇ I may have this gift. ◇ I don't think I have this gift. ◇

WHICH SPIRITUAL GIFTS DO I THINK I HAVE? (See if you can list 3 or 4).

KEY TO REMEMBER:

**IT'S EASIER TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS THROUGH MINISTRY THAN TO DISCOVER YOUR
MINISTRY THROUGH YOUR GIFTS. IN OTHER WORDS...GET INVOLVED!**

II. MONITORING YOUR HEARTBEAT

MY HEART IS THE REAL ME!

Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. Each person has a slightly different pattern. Likewise, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and not about others.

“I LOVE TO...” – CIRCLE ANY THAT MAY APPLY TO YOU

- **DESIGN AND DEVELOP**—I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.
- **PIONEER**—I love to test out and try new concepts. I am not afraid to risk failure.
- **ORGANIZE**—I love to bring order out of chaos. I enjoy organizing something that is already started.
- **OPERATE / MAINTAIN**—I love to efficiently maintain some things that is already organized.
- **SERVE OR HELP**—I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.
- **ACQUIRE AND POSSESS**—I love to shop, collect, or obtain things. I enjoy getting the highest quality for the best price.
- **EXCEL**—I love to be the best and make my team the best. I enjoy setting and attaining the highest standard.
- **INFLUENCE**—I love to convert people to my way of thinking. I enjoy shaping the attitudes and behaviors of others.
- **PERFORM**—I love to be on stage and receive the attention of others. I enjoy being in the limelight.
- **IMPROVE**—I love to make things better. I enjoy taking something that someone else has designed or started and improve it.
- **REPAIR**—I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.
- **LEAD AND BE IN CHARGE**—I love to lead the way, oversee and supervise. I enjoy determining how things will be done.
- **PERSEVERE**—I love to see things to completion. I enjoy persisting at something until it is finished.
- **FOLLOW THE RULES**—I love to operate by policies and procedures. I enjoy meeting the expectations of an organization or boss.
- **PREVAIL**—I love to fight for what is right and oppose what is wrong. I enjoy overcoming injustice.

III. APPLYING MY ABILITIES

26 Specialized Abilities – Circle any that might apply to you

- **Entertaining ability:** to perform, act, dance, speak, magic
- **Recruiting ability:** to enlist and motive people to get involved
- **Interview ability:** to discover what others are really like
- **Researching ability:** to read, gather information, collect data
- **Artistic ability:** to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings
- **Graphics ability:** to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners
- **Evaluating ability:** to analyze data and draw conclusions
- **Planning ability:** to strategize, design and organize programs and events
- **Managing ability:** to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved
- **Counseling ability:** to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity
- **Teaching ability:** to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor
- **Writing ability:** to write articles, letters, books
- **Editing ability:** to proofread or rewrite
- **Promoting ability:** to advertise or promote events and activities
- **Repairing ability:** to fix, restore, maintain
- **Feeding ability:** to create meals for large or small groups
- **Recall ability:** to remember or recall names and faces
- **Mechanical operating ability:** to operate equipment, tools or machinery
- **Resourceful ability:** to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed
- **Counting ability:** to work with numbers, data or money
- **Classifying ability:** to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily
- **Public Relations ability:** to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy
- **Welcoming ability:** to convey warmth, develop rapport, making others feel comfortable
- **Composing ability:** to write music or lyrics
- **Landscaping ability:** to do gardening and work with plants
- **Decorating ability:** to beautify a setting for a special event

IV. PLUGGING IN YOUR PERSONALITY

It's obvious that God has not used a cookie cutter to stamp out people in a process of uniformity. He loves variety—just look around! And there is no “right” or “wrong” temperament. We need opposites to balance the church.

How Do I See Myself?

| Strong | Mild | Strong |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Extroverted | ----- | Introverted |
| Thinker | ----- | Feeler |
| Self-Controlled | ----- | Self-Expressive |
| Routine | ----- | Variety |
| Cooperative | ----- | Competitive |
| Leader | ----- | Follower |
| Speaks the truth | ----- | in love |
| Somber | ----- | Giddy |
| Sensory | ----- | Intuitive |

V. EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experience, particularly my hurts and problems I've overcome with God's help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the "school of hard knocks".

WRITE OUT 1-3 SENTENCE RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Your Spiritual Experiences ~ What meaningful decisions/times have I had with God?
2. Your Painful Experiences ~ What problems, hurts, and trials have impacted my life?
3. Your Educational Experiences ~ What were my favorite subjects in school?
4. Your Vocational Experiences ~ What jobs have I enjoyed and achieved results in?
5. Your Ministry Experiences ~ How have I have served God in the past?