

WHY GOD SHAPED YOU THE WAY HE DID
Shaped to Make a Difference
Parts 1-3

“God shaped man from the soil of the ground and blew the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7 (NJB)

“You made my whole being; You formed me in my mother's body. I praise You because You made me in an amazing and wonderful way. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, You saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in Your book before I was one day old.” Psalm 139:13-16 (NCV)

“Your hands formed and shaped me.” Job 10:8 (GN)

I. WHAT IS MY “SHAPE”?

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

HEART

ABILITIES

PERSONALITY

EXPERIENCES

My shape is . . . unique . . . inter-related . . . fixed . . . irrepressible

II. WHY SHOULD I CARE?

1. BECAUSE _____

“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you: A spokesman to the nations—that’s what I had in mind for you.” Jeremiah 1:5 (The Message)

2. BECAUSE _____

“[God] formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, and [he] commissioned me.” Isaiah 49:5 (NLT)

3. BECAUSE _____

“From where he sits God overlooks all of us on earth. He has shaped each person in turn; now he watches everything we do.” Psalm 33:14-15 (The Message)

4. BECAUSE _____

“Bring me all the people who are mine, whom I made for my glory, those I formed and created.” Isaiah 43:7 (NCV)

“The people I have shaped for myself will broadcast my praises.” Isaiah 43:21 (NJB)

III. HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

1. ACCEPTANCE: _____

“My friend, I ask, ‘Who do you think you are to question God? Does the clay have the right to ask the potter why he shaped it the way he did?’” Romans 9:20 (CEV)

“You guided my conception and formed me in the womb.” Job 10:10 (NLT)

2. SALVATION: _____

“Let your love, God, shape my life with salvation, exactly as you promise.” Psalm 119:41 (The Message)

3. REFOCUS: _____

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

“By the grace of God I am what I am.” 1 Corinthians 15:10 (NLT)



UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS
Shaped to Make a Difference
Parts 1-3

Spiritual Gifts — Heart — Abilities — Personality — Experiences

FOUR GIFTS YOU GET WHEN YOU ACCEPT CHRIST

- THE GIFT OF _____
“Jesus Christ brought forgiveness to many through God's bountiful gift.”
Romans 5:15 (NLT)
- THE GIFT OF _____
“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NIV)
- THE GIFT OF _____
“God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.” Romans 5:5 (LB)
- THE GIFT OF SOME _____
“Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in serving of others. So use your gift well.” 1 Peter 4:10 (CEV)

FOUR REASONS YOU NEED TO KNOW YOUR GIFTS

- THEY SHAPE YOUR _____
“There are different spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, and yet the same Lord is served. There are different types of work to do, but the same God produces every gift in every person.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (GW)
- THEY SHOW YOUR _____

“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 to do long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

- THEY SHARE YOUR _____

“When you produce much fruit, my Father is honored and glorified.” John 15:8 (AMP)

- THEY SHINE YOUR _____

“Let your light shine in front of people. Then they’ll see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16 (GW)

FOUR STEPS TO USING YOUR GIFTS

1. _____

“Do not neglect the spiritual gift that is in you.” 1 Timothy 4:14 (GNT)

2. _____

“Give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God.” Romans 6:13 (NLT)

3. _____

“Fan into flame the gift God gave you . . .” 2 Timothy 1:6 (JB)

4. _____

“We are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have.” Romans 12:6 (GNT)



FOLLOWING YOUR HEART
Shaped to Make a Difference
Parts 1-3

Spiritual Gifts — Heart — Abilities — Personality — Experiences

“As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.” Proverbs 27:19 (NLT)

HEART = your interests, passions, desires

“It is God who produces in you the desires and actions that please him.”
Philippians 2:13 (GW)

When I do what God shaped me to do,

_____ and _____

I. WHAT KEEPS ME FROM FOLLOWING MY HEART?

• _____

“Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” Proverbs 13:12 (NIV)

• _____

“Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down . . .” Proverbs 12:25 (AMP)

• _____

“My sins have caught up with me so that I can no longer see . . . I have lost heart.”
Psalm 40:12 (GW)

• _____

“When my heart was bitter and I was angry, I was senseless.” Psalm 73:21-22 (NCV)

• _____

“They cut me down with sharpened tinges; they aim their bitter words like arrows straight at my heart.” Psalm 64:3 (LB)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”
Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

II. HOW DO I FOLLOW MY HEART?

1. _____

Jesus: “I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together.” Revelation 3:20 (CEV)

2. _____

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

“I run in the path of Your commands, for You have set my heart free.” Psalm 119:32 (NIV)

3. _____

“Be honest in your estimate of yourselves.” Romans 12:3 (NLT)

- What do I love to do?
- What do I dream of doing?
- What fascinates me? (I don't get bored)
- Where have I been most effective?

4. _____

“Desire without knowledge is not good, and to be overhasty is to sin and miss the mark.”
Proverbs 19:2 (AMP)

“You should meet together and encourage each other.” Hebrews 10:25 (NCV)

5. _____

“Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”
Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

“You Lord, have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests of grain and wine.” Psalm 4:7 (NLT)



USING YOUR ABILITIES
Shaped to Make a Difference
Parts 1-2

“God’s hands shaped me and made me.” Job 10:8 (NIV)

Spiritual Gifts — Heart — Abilities — Personality — Experiences

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING YOUR ABILITIES

“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.” Romans 12:6 (NLT)

“God . . . will equip you with all you need for doing his will.” Hebrews 13:21 (TLB)

MY ABILITIES ARE TO BE USED . . .

1. _____

“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

2. _____

“God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings.” 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

3. _____

“Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.” Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)

4. _____

“Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so everyone may notice your improvement and progress.” 1 Timothy 4:15 (TLB)

5. _____

“Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need.” Ephesians 4:28 (NLT)

6.

“Why is it that God gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God’s people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity.” Ephesians 4:12 (LB)

“Take the talent from him (who didn’t use it) and give to the one who has ten talents.” Matthew 25:28 (NIV)

If I don’t use them, _____

PART 2: USING YOUR ABILITIES

1.

“Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you.” Romans 12:3 (PHILLIPS)

2.

“Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him.” Romans 12:1 (GNT)

“If you stay away from sin...Christ Himself can use you for His highest purposes.” 2 Timothy 2:21 (LB)

3.

THEM!

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

“Jesus said, ‘When the Master comes back and finds his servant doing his work, that servant will be blessed!’” Luke 12:43 (NCV)

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PERSONALITY
Shaped to Make a Difference
Parts 1-3

Spiritual Gifts — Heart — Abilities — Personality — Experiences

“You must love the Lord your God with all your HEART, all your SOUL, all your MIND, and all your STRENGTH.” Mark 12:30 (NLT)

“Love from the center of who you are; don’t fake it.” Romans 12:9 (The Message)

1. _____ LOVE GOD WITH THEIR HEARTS.

“I have not kept this good news hidden in my heart; instead I have talked about Your faithfulness and saving power. I have told everyone ...of Your unfailing love and faithfulness.” Psalm 40:10 (NLT)

• **PURPOSE:** _____

“The words of the wise bring healing.” Proverbs 12:18 (NLT)

“The words of the wise keep people out of trouble.” Proverbs 14:3 (NLT)

• **WEAKNESS:** _____

“The more you talk, the more likely you are to sin.” Proverbs 10:19 (GNT)

“Those who are sure of themselves do not talk all the time.” Proverbs 17:27 (GNT)

• **WARNING:** _____

“Get to work and you’ll earn a living; if you just sit around talking you’ll be poor.” Proverbs 14:23 (GNT)

“Sometimes mere words are not enough—discipline is needed.” Proverbs 29:19 (TLB)

2. _____ LOVE GOD WITH THEIR SOULS.

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God.” Psalm 42:1 (NIV)

• **PURPOSE:** _____

“Be kind and compassionate to each other, tender-hearted, for-giving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)

• **WEAKNESS:** _____

“Since your real home is in heaven, keep away from the evil pleasures of this world; they are not for you, for they fight against your very souls.” 1 Peter 2:11 (TLB)

- **WARNING:** _____

“Let the Spirit direct your lives, and you will not satisfy the desires of the human nature.”
Galatians 5:16 (GNT)

3. _____ **LOVE GOD WITH THEIR MINDS.**

“How I love Your law! I think about it all day long.” Psalm 119:97 (GNT)

- **PURPOSE:** _____

“We should think about the way we are living, and turn back to the Lord.”
Lamentations 3:40 (CEV)

- **WEAKNESS:** _____

“Knowledge makes people arrogant, but love builds them up.” 1 Corinthians 8:1 (GW)

“Always studying but are never able to recognize the truth.” 2 Timothy 3:7 (GW)

- **WARNING:** _____

“Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.” Proverbs 3:7 (NLT)

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”
James 1:22 (NIV)

4. _____ **LOVE GOD WITH THEIR STRENGTH.**

“Oh, God, here I am, your servant, your faithful servant: set me free for your service!”
Psalm 116:16 (The Message)

- **PURPOSE:** _____

“Offer your bodies to Him as a living sacrifice, pure and pleasing. That's the most sensible way to serve God.” Romans 12:1 (CEV)

- **WEAKNESS:** _____

“It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death; for God wants His loved ones to get their proper rest.”
Psalm 127:2 (TLB)

- **WARNING:** _____

“Don't wear yourself out trying to get rich. Be wise enough to show restraint.”
Proverbs 23:4 (ICB)



EMPLOYING YOUR EXPERIENCES
Shaped to Make a Difference
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Spiritual Gifts — Heart — Abilities — Personality — Experiences

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 (NIV)

DON'T WASTE YOUR EXPERIENCES

1. _____

“You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted? I hope not!”
Galatians 3:4 (ICB)

Relational — Educational — Spiritual — Vocational — Painful

“Remember what you have learned about the Lord through your experiences with him.”
Deuteronomy 11:2 (GNT)

“Jesus replied, ‘You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.’”
John 13:7 (NIV)

“You intended to harm me but God intended it for good.” Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

2. _____

“Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith . . . Do you not realize by an ever increasing experience that Jesus Christ is in you?”
2 Corinthians 13:5 (AMP)

“The longer you live, the wiser you become.” Job 32:7 (The Message)

3. _____

“I want you to know, my friends, that the things that have happened to me have really helped the progress of the gospel.” Philippians 1:12 (GNT)

4 WAYS TO USE THEM

1. USE THEM _____

“In our trouble God has comforted us – and this, too, to help you: to show you from our personal experience how God will tenderly comfort you when you undergo these same sufferings. He will give you the strength to endure.” 2 Corinthians 1:6-7 (TLB)

2. USE THEM _____

“Encourage one another and help one another.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GNT)

“For your sake, my friends, I have applied all this to Apollos and myself, using the two of us as an example, so that you may learn . . .” 1 Corinthians 4:6 (GNT)

3. USE THEM _____

“Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example.” Philippians 3:17 (NLT)

*“I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”
John 13:15 (NABRE)*

“Always set a good example for others.” Titus 2:7 (CEV)

“Our people should also learn how to set an example by doing good things when urgent needs arise so that they can live productive lives.” Titus 3:14 (GW)

4. USE THEM _____

“We saw it, we heard it, and now we're telling you so you can experience it along with us . . .” 1 John 1:3 (The Message)

“A warning given by an experienced person to someone willing to listen is more valuable than gold rings or jewelry.” Proverbs 25:12 (GNT)

“Age should speak, and experience should teach wisdom.” Job 32:7 (GW)

“Ask the former generation. Pay attention to the experience of our ancestors.” Job 8:8 (NLT)

*“Do not let anyone treat you as unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life.”
1 Timothy 4:12 (NCV)*