

WHY GOD SHAPED YOU THE WAY HE DID

Shaped to Make a Difference
Rick Warren

“God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man’s nostrils, and the man became a living being.” Genesis 2:7 (NLT)

“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 (GNT)

WHAT IS MY “SHAPE”?

S _____
H _____
A _____
P _____
E _____

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 prophet to the nations—that’s what I had in mind for you.” Jeremiah 1:5 (MSG)

2. BECAUSE _____
“(God) formed me in my mother’s womb to be his servant, who commissioned me.” Isaiah 49:5 (NLT)

3. BECAUSE _____
“From where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.”
Psalm 33:14-15 (ESV)

4. BECAUSE _____
“Bring to me all the people who are mine, whom I made for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7 (NCV)
“The people I formed for myself.” Isaiah 43:21 (NIV)

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 (MSG)

3. REFOCUS: _____
“The Lord does not look at the things people looks at. People look 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 (NIV)

Next Steps

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UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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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 mercy."
Romans 5:15 (TLB)
- **THE GIFT OF _____**
"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus 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 (TLB)
- **THE GIFT OF SOME _____**
"Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in service 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 we can do the good things he planned for us long ago." Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)
- **THEY SHARE YOUR _____**
"My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit."
John 15:8 (AMP)
- **THEY SHINE YOUR _____**
"Let your light shine in front of people. Then they will 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, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God." Romans 6:13 (NLT)
3. _____
"Fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you." 2 Timothy 1:6 (NLT)
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)

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FOLLOWING YOUR HEART

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Spiritual gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

"As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the real 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

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."
Psalm 40:12 (GW)
- _____
"When my heart was sad and I was angry, I was senseless."
Psalm 73:21-22 (NCV)
- _____
"They cut me down with sharpened tongues; they aim their bitter words like arrows straight at my heart." Psalm 64:3 (TLB)

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

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 broadened my understanding."
Psalm 119:32 (NIV)
3. _____
"Be honest in your evaluation 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 (AMPC)
"You should meet together and encourage each other." Hebrews 10:25 (NCV)
5. _____
"Delight in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."
Psalm 37:4 (NIV)
"You have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests of grain and wine." Psalm 4:7 (NLT)

USING YOUR ABILITIES

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"Your hands shaped me and made me." Job 10:8 (NIV)

Spiritual gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experiences

UNDERSTANDING YOUR ABILITIES

"God has given us the different gifts for doing certain things well."
Romans 12:6 (NLT)

"God . . . 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 that everyone may notice your improvement and progress." 1 Timothy 4:15 (TLB)
5. _____
"Use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need." Ephesians 4:28 (NLT)

6. _____
"Why is it that he 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 (TLB)
"Take the talent from him and give to the one with the ten talents."
Matthew 25:28 (NIV)

IF I DON'T USE THEM, _____

USING YOUR ABILITIES

1. _____
"Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith that 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 (TLB)
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: *"When the Master comes and finds the servant doing his work, that servant will be blessed."* Luke 12:43 (NCV)

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EMPLOYING YOUR EXPERIENCES

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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 today 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 yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" 2 Corinthians 13:5 (AMP)

"The longer you live, the wiser you become." Job 32:7 (MSG)

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 deep trouble for bringing you God's comfort and salvation. But 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 me, 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 gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you."
John 13:15 (NASB)*

"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 (MSG)

"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 previous 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)