

Ephesians 4:11-16 ... God's goals for the Church and plans for achieving them

¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

God's Goals: Unity, Maturity, Transformation into Christ-likeness

God's Plans: Gifted leaders and teachers speak the truth of God's Word in love and are used of God to grow and equip believers to carry out God's work.

Spiritual gifts are divine abilities distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God's design and grace for the common good of the body of Christ.

Spiritual gifts are divine abilities... They are endowments or special gifts given by God that enable us to make our unique contribution. They are not natural talents, but divine abilities that enable us to do ministry.

distributed by the Holy Spirit... These divine abilities created by God are given to believers through the Holy Spirit when we become members of the body of Christ. Not only does the Holy Spirit distribute the gifts, He also empowers us in our use of them.

according to God's design and grace... There is no Christian without a spiritual gift. Every believer has at least one. Gifts equip believers to fulfill the Lord's purpose by reflecting His design for their lives.

for the common good of the body of Christ... Your spiritual gift(s) are not for you, but given to you for others. The divine abilities you have been given enable you to meet the needs of others and the church as a whole. Each of us can make a kingdom impact. Our gifts allow us to serve one another better. They enable us to glorify God and edify others.

Your S.H.A.P.E Profile

S List your top 3 SPIRITUAL GIFTS from your personal **Spiritual Gift Assessment**.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

H List your passion for your top 3 ROLES from your **Heart/Passion Assessment**.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

List your passion for your top 3 PEOPLE from your **Heart/Passion Assessment**.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

List your passion for your top 3 CAUSES from your **Heart/Passion Assessment**.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

A List your top 3 NATURAL ABILITIES from your **Abilities Assessment**.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

P List your results for PERSONALITY STYLE from your **Personality Assessment**.

I am energized through _____ and
organized through _____.

E List key **EDUCATION/WORK EXPERIENCES** that might be useful in ministry.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

List key **LIFE EXPERIENCES** that might be useful in ministry.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

List key **MINISTRY EXPERIENCES** that might help you serve in the future.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Where are you **currently serving**?

Based on your **S.H.A.P.E.** results, where might you
serve in the future?



- Spiritual gifts are for the common good of the church.
- Spiritual gifts are for the building up of the church.
- Spiritual gifts are for serving one another.
- Every believer has been uniquely gifted by God for ministry.
- Spiritual gifts can be abused and neglected, but if they are received at salvation, it would appear that they cannot be lost.
- Spiritual gifts are not the same as the fruit of the Spirit and natural talents and abilities.
- Every member of the body of Christ is commanded to minister in many of the gifted areas, whether we possess that particular gift or not. For example, all believers are to demonstrate faith, be wise, encourage, show mercy, give generously, serve faithfully, witness boldly, etc.
- Spiritual gifts are useless if not exercised in love.
- Beware when any gift is made a universal evidence of spirituality, salvation or spiritual blessing.
- Beware when the focus of a church service, ministry or event is on spiritual gifts and their manifestation rather than the Giver of the gifts and His agenda.
- Beware of comparing spiritual gifts with others.
- Beware of using spiritual gifts in the flesh to fulfill personal needs or to impress others.
- Beware of confusing spiritual gifts with spiritual fruit and evidence of spiritual growth and maturity.

The Bible says that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. You are a combination of many different factors. By identifying these factors you may discover God's will for your life through serving.

To help remember these five factors, a simple acrostic was created: **S.H.A.P.E.**

Spiritual Gifts: "What am I gifted to do?"

Heart (Passions): "What passions do I have?"

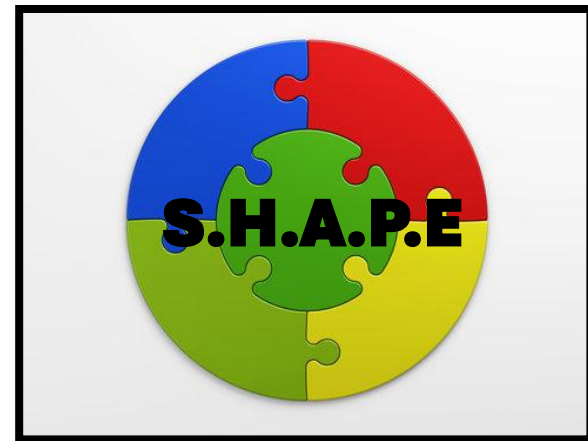
Abilities: "What comes naturally to me?"

Personality : "How has God wired me to navigate life?"

Experience: "Where have I been?" and "What have I learned?"



SPIRITUAL GIFTS: *UNDERSTANDING HOW GOD HAS SHAPED YOU FOR MINISTRY*



"Whenever God gives us an assignment, He always equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This combination capabilities is called your S.H.A.P.E."

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*



GLOBAL TRAINING
NETWORK