

How God Shape You for Service

“We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph. 2:10 (NIV)

SHAPE

Spiritual gifts—A certain capacity given to us by God’s grace which empowers us for a special service which benefits others.

An ability God gives after you ask Jesus to be in your life. You use this gift to help other people.

Prophecy (Ephesians 4:11) is the God-given capacity and desire to serve God by proclaiming God’s truth.

Teaching (Ephesians 4:11) is the God-given capacity to serve God by making clear the truth of the Bible with accuracy and simplicity.

Exhortation (Romans 12:8) is the God-given capacity to serve God by motivating others to action by urging them to pursue a course of conduct that would honor God.

Shepherding/pastoring (Ephesians 4:11) is the God-given capacity to serve God by overseeing, training, and caring for the needs of a group of Christians. This is **not** to be confused with the office of Pastor in the church.

Mercy Showing (Romans 12:8) is the God-given capacity and desire to serve God by identifying with and comforting those who are in distress.

Serving/helps (Romans 12:7) is the God-given capacity to serve God by rendering practical help in both physical and spiritual matters. New Christians should start out in this area. As they help in a variety of ministries, God will begin to confirm their spiritual gift and how they can use it.

Giving (Romans 12:8) is the God-given capacity and desire to serve God by giving of his/her material resources, far beyond the tithe, to further the work of God.

Leading (Romans 12;8) is the God-given capacity and desire to serve God by organizing, administrating, promoting and leading the various affairs of the church.

Heart—If you could do anything in God’s kingdom, what would it be? Your passion? What is it that most excites you? Is it a week of VBS, a mission trip, visiting someone in the hospital, hanging out with teenagers?

Abilities—What are you good at? There are people who might like to do something, but they can't; they don't have the ability. But God does give us some type of ability. God doesn't give people talents that He doesn't want people to use.

Personality—God gives us our personality, but Satan and self can skew our personalities. Every personality has a strength when expressed the way God wants it to be expressed and every personality has a weakness when expressed in an unguarded and unrefined way.

Experiences—Something you did or that happened to you in the past which you can use to help other people. God never waists an experience.

TRANS: These five things: Spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences make you who you are, and God uniquely shapes you, different from anybody else in the world. So let's look at how our shape is unique.

I. Your shape is unique—1 Corinthians 12:4-7,11

- A. Your shape is unique because it is _____ by God—Vv.11,18
- B. Your shape is unique because it is _____ by your attitude—V. 7

II. Your shape is purposeful

- A. The purpose of _____ God—Vv. 4-6, 11
- B. The purpose of _____ others—V. 7b

III. Your shape is rewarded

- A. Rewarded with _____—1 Cor. 12:25-26
- B. Rewarded with _____—Matt. 25:21 (NIV)
- C. Rewarded with _____—Matt. 25:21c