

**Building on My Strengths**  
**My Life Mission - Part 3**

**Step 2: Understand and identify how God uniquely made me for a mission.**

**1. God planned me before I was \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Psalm 139:13-16** “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful. I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

**2. I was made for a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**3. My shape reveals my \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Job 10:8** “Your hands shaped me and made me.”

**How has God shaped you?**

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**I Corinthians 12:4-6,11** “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of workings, but the same God works all of them in all men. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”

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**Proverbs 4:23** “Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.”

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

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

### **What Does God Want You To Do With Your Shape?**

1. He wants you to \_\_\_\_\_,
- by \_\_\_\_\_ your past.

**Romans 12:6-8** “We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying (preaching), let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

- by \_\_\_\_\_ in the present.
2. He wants you to \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Two Traps to Avoid That Cause Us to Reject Our Shape**

- \_\_\_\_\_
-

• \_\_\_\_\_  
**I Corinthians 7:17** “Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life the Lord assigned him and to which God has called him.”

**Romans 9:20** “But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? ‘Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?’”

**3. He wants you to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (NLT)** “To enjoy your work and accept your lot in life - that is indeed a gift from God.”

**4. He wants you to \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I Timothy 4:14-15** “Do not neglect your gift...Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress.”

**I Peter 4:10** “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

### **The Purpose of Your Shape**

**A. To benefit the lives of \_\_\_\_\_, not just yourself.**

**I Corinthians 12:7 (NLT)** “A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.”

**B. To produce \_\_\_\_\_ here at C.B.C.**

**Ephesians 3:15-16** “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 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.”

**There are two types of ministries:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry**

**Ephesians 2:10** “For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**Job 10:8a** “Your hands shaped me and made me...”

- **What \_\_\_\_\_ experiences have I had?**

**Acts 16:9-10** “During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to him.”

- **What \_\_\_\_\_ experiences have I had?**

**II Corinthians 1:3-4** “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort others with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

- **What \_\_\_\_\_ experiences have I had?**

**Philippians 4:9** “Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put into practice and the God of peace will be with you.”

- **What \_\_\_\_\_ experiences have I had?**

**I Thessalonians 2:13** “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the words of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.”

# Spiritual Gift Inventory

As you read through these lists check off your initial impression concerning yourself. Remember you can have many gifts. We will focus on the ministry and motivational gifts and their characteristics.

## I. Ministry Gifts

### PASTOR / TEACHER

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 spiritual welfare.

#### Characteristics:

- Has a burden to lead and feed the flock.
- Enjoys caring for people.
- Able to inspire people to reach new heights.
- Able to develop, explain, and fulfill a purpose and vision.

I'm sure Christ has called me to this ministry.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't think I have this calling.

### EVANGELIST

The ability to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to unbelievers in a way that draws them to faith in Christ. The ability to sense opportunities to share Christ.

#### Characteristics:

- Love for those that do not know Christ.
- Knack for making conversations spiritual.
- Sensitive about how the unchurched feel.
- Rarely misses opportunities to share Christ.

I'm sure Christ has called me to this ministry.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't think I have this calling.

### MISSIONARY

The ability to adapt to a different culture in order to draw unbelievers to faith in Christ and to help believers from that culture grow spiritually.

### **Characteristics:**

- Feels comfortable around unfamiliar people.
- Has a burden for the **world** to come to know Christ.
- Seeks to understand the perspective of others.
- Able to find ways to connect with others.

I'm sure Christ has called me to this ministry.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't think I have this calling.

### **PASTOR / CHURCH STARTER**

The ability to start new churches and oversee their development.

### **Characteristics:**

- Able to recognize the needs of people and build a program to meet them.
- Able to develop, explain, and fulfill purpose and vision.
- Unafraid of change and willing to take calculated risks.
- Has a heart for people.

I'm sure Christ has called me to this ministry.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't think I have this calling.

## **II. Motivational Gifts**

### **PREACHING ("Prophecy")**

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

### **Characteristics:**

- Willing to stand-alone for what is right.
- Practices what they preach.
- Able to speak in front of crowds.
- Able to help people recognize what God is doing.

I'm motivated to serve in this way.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't feel motivated to do this.

## TEACHING

The motivation 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.

### Characteristics:

- Captivates others while sharing information.
- Focuses on concept of text (why?).
- Thinks in organized ways - lists.
- Systematic in their thinking and teaching.

I'm motivated to serve in this way.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't feel motivated to do this.

## ENCOURAGEMENT ("Exhortation")

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.

### Characteristics:

- Skilled at making suggestions.
- People feel comfortable sharing problems to them.
- Positive and practical.
- Focuses on principal of text (how to).

I'm motivated to serve in this way.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't feel motivated to do this.

## SERVICE

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

### Characteristics:

- Takes charge when they see a need.
- Don't want to be seen and/or recognized for their aid.
- Typically unselfish.
- Main motivator: "I just want to be helpful."

- I'm motivated to serve in this way.
- I *may* have this gift.
- I don't feel motivated to do this.

## MERCY

The motivation 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.

### **Characteristics:**

- Great ability to empathize with others.
- Sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of others.
- Great listeners.
- Tend to provide their shoulder to cry on.

- I'm motivated to serve in this way.
- I *may* have this gift.
- I don't feel motivated to do this.

## GIVING

The motivation to generously contribute or raise 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.

### **Characteristics:**

- Love to give.
- Good business sense.
- Manages money well.
- Able to recognize financial need.

- I'm motivated to serve in this way.
- I *may* have this gift.
- I don't feel motivated to do this.

## LEADERSHIP

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

**Characteristics:**

- Goal oriented.
- Tends to think long term.
- Are people of influence.
- Has a stick to it attitude.

I'm motivated to serve in this way.

I may have this gift.

I don't feel motivated to do this.

*This next one is not listed as one of the spiritual gifts, but it is definitely spiritual and is a must for any ministry or church.*

**INTERCESSION**

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.

**Characteristics:**

- Loves to pray.
- Deep desire to see the movement of God in the lives of others.

I'm sure I have this gift.

I *may* have this gift.

I don't think I have this one.

## **Heart's Passion Inventory**

Definition: **“Heart”**

- a. “The organ that pumps your blood.”
- b. “Your emotional constitution or disposition.”
- c. “The vital force or driving impulse.”

The Bible uses the term “heart” to represent the center of your motivation, desires, and inclinations.

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

## MY HEART DETERMINES....

- **Why I say the things I do**

“The mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” (Matthew 12:34, GN)

- **Why I feel the way I do**

“The word of God...examines the thoughts and motives of the heart.”  
(Hebrew 4:12, Ph)

- **Why I act the way I do**

“Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

## 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.

This God-given motivation serves as an internal guidance system for our lives. It determines what our interests are, and what will bring us the most satisfaction and fulfillment. It also motivates us to pursue certain activities, subjects, and environments.

## WHY HAS GOD GIVEN EACH PERSON A UNIQUE “HEARTBEAT?”

“God has put it into their hearts **to accomplish his purpose...**”  
(Revelation 17:17)

God had a purpose in giving you your inborn interests. In fact, your emotional heartbeat reveals a very important key to understanding God’s design and intention for your life.

The Bible makes it very clear that God designed your heart, but you make the choice to use it for good or evil, for selfish purposes or for service.

You may have...

“...selfish ambition in your hearts...” (James 3:14)

Or you may...

“...serve the Lord with all you heart” (1 Samuel 12:20)

“...Do the will of God from your heart.” (Ephesians 6:6)

How can I do God’s will and serve God’s purpose? By letting my heartbeat motivate me for ministry!

“It is quite true to say that a man who sets his heart on becoming a church leader has a laudable (praiseworthy) ambition.” (1 Timothy 3:1, LB)

### **TAKING A SPIRITUAL EKG**

If you are like most people, you have never taken time to sort out and identify the things you are good at and motivated to accomplish. As a result, it is unlikely that you use these talents as completely or effectively as you could. The key to understanding your heartbeat is to look at your past accomplishments.

This exercise is adapted from the book “Finding A Job You Can Love” by Ralph Mattson & Arthur Miller (Nelson, 1982).

#### **STEP 1: LIST AND DESCRIBE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE CHILDHOOD**

##### **Examples:**

- “I put on plays for the neighborhood kids with costumes, props, etc. We transformed the shed in back of our house into a fairyland with lighting effects, decorations, and princesses.”
- “I started a Kool-Aid stand in the 4th grade and expanded it into three different stands. It was fun and I made money.”
- “I had a job as a printer’s assistant and developed a method of cutting stereotypes which was faster and more accurate.”
- “I ran for president of everything (and won sometimes) when I was in school.”
- “I have always liked to build things. Before I got married, I completely rebuilt the apartment I was living in.”

- “I successfully led protest marches against toxic wastes in my hometown and got local TV coverage.”
- “I set a goal to read fifteen books over the summer and I did.”

**What to include:**

- Accomplishments at home, school, work, etc.
- Things you **enjoyed** doing.
- Things that you believe you **did well**.
- Give specific details about what you did.
- Forget what other people think about it.

Remember, you’re recalling things you enjoyed doing and did well (accomplishments) not simply pleasant experiences.

BAD EXAMPLE: Had a great vacation in Canada.

GOOD EXAMPLE: Took some stunning photos during my vacation.

**MY HIGHLIGHTS OF THINGS I DID WELL AND ENJOYED DOING  
DURING MY:**

**GRADE SCHOOL YEARS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**AS A TEENAGER**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**IN COLLEGE OR MY EARLY 20’S**

- 1.
- 2.

3.

### **IN MY “THIRTYSOMETHING” YEARS**

1.

2.

3.

4.

### **COMPLETE UP TO YOUR PRESENT**

1.

2.

3.

4.

The more you can list the better. Get another sheet of paper if you need!

### **STEP 2: DISCOVER THE MOTIVATED DIRECTION OF YOUR HEART**

Examine your achievements for a common motivational thread. You might find a key phrase repeated. See if you can match one of the “heartbeats” listed below as samples:

Remember these are ALL God given motivations. They are only sinful when used selfishly. Every one of these can be used in effective ministry. Don’t be embarrassed to identify a basic heartbeat that doesn’t *seem* spiritual! Almost every one of these can be identified in the ministry of the twelve Apostles.

#### **I LOVE TO.....**

**DESIGN/DEVELOP** - I love to make something out of nothing. I enjoy getting something started from scratch.

**PIONEER** - I love to test and try out 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 something that is already organized.

**SERVE/HELP** - I love to assist others in their responsibility. I enjoy helping others succeed.

**ACQUIRE/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 attitudes and behavior 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 improving it.

**REPAIR** - I love to fix what is broken or change what is out of date.

**LEAD/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.

You should be able to support your choice with examples from your achievements. EXAMPLE: I feel the basic motivation God put in my heart is to “ACQUIRE/POSSESS”: My history demonstrates this:

- I purchased my first car at age 16.
- I’ve collected a collection of rare stamps.
- I’ve built up a large cash reserve.
- I’ve acquired options on three properties.

**DID YOU FIND THE BASIC MOTIVATIONAL DIRECTION OF YOUR HEART IN THIS LIST? WRITE IT ON YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE.**

## Abilities Inventory

“There are different abilities to perform service” (1 Corinthians 12:6)

“I (God)... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...”  
(Exodus 31:3)

One of the most common excuses people give for not getting involved in ministry is “I just don’t have any abilities to offer.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

### FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES (Skills and Talents)

- 1. MYTH: People aren’t born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.** This simply is not true. There are a number of skills that seem to be inborn, or are developed very early in infancy. When people say, “He just seems to have a natural talent for it,” it’s probably true!
- 2. MYTH: Those skills that must be learned are learned primarily in the classroom.** Actually, some of your most basic skills were learned at home, “in the street,” or somewhere else outside the classroom.
- 3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.** Again, this is not true. You are probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of ! You need some process of skill identification.

- 4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry.** Hopefully, by the end of this inventory, you'll see the fallacy of this idea. Be creative!
- 5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities.** The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from five hundred to seven hundred skills!

## **HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR MOTIVATED ABILITIES**

Look over your list of accomplishments again. Circle all the verbs that denote actions performed while you were doing each achievement. Now compare those verbs to the list below and check those abilities you feel you have.

### **26 SPECIALIZED ABILITIES**

Entertaining ability: to perform, act, dance, speak, magic

Recruiting ability: to enlist and motivate people to get involved

Interviewing ability: to discover what others are really like

Researching ability: to read, gather information, and collect data

Artistic ability: to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, crafts, or to make renderings

Graphic 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, and 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, and 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 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 or at home

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

Musical ability: to sing or play a musical instrument

## **Personality Inventory**

In the area below, write your name:

Now write your name with your opposite hand:

## WHAT HAPPENED?

When you tried to do something that was not *natural* to you....

1. You felt uncomfortable.
2. It took extra time and effort.
3. You still did a lousy job at it!

The same things are true when we try to minister in areas that are not suited to our personalities. God has wired your temperament in a unique way. This factor is very important in matching you to the right ministry.

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.

Although there are many fine (and extremely detailed!) personality assessments available, for the purpose of your **MINISTRY PROFILE**, we want you to consider just five aspects:

## HOW DO I SEE MYSELF?

**Extroverted**  
**Being around people excites me**

or

**Introverted**  
**Being alone excites me**

**Routine**  
**Prefers predictable tasks**

or

**Variety**  
**Prefers varying tasks**

**Self Controlled**  
**Reserved, laid back**

or

**Self Expressive**  
**Says what's on their mind**

**Cooperative**  
**Prefers to work on team**

or

**Competitive**  
**Prefers to work alone**

**Thinker**  
**Decisions based on objective facts**

or

**Feeler**  
**Decisions based on emotion**

# Experiences Inventory

“And we know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” **(Roman 8:28)**

“Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me *has* really served to advance the gospel.” **(Philippians 1:12)**

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.”

## **GOD NEVER WASTES A HURT!**

**HE WANTS YOU TO BE OPEN TO MINISTERING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH WHAT YOU’VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH!**

“(God)...wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them the same help and comfort God has given us!” **(II Corinthians 1:3-4)**

- **Your spiritual Experiences**  
Meaningful decisions/times with God.
- **Your Painful Experiences**  
Problems, hurts, trials - that have taught you.
- **Your Educational Experiences**  
What were your favorite subjects in school?
- **Your Ministry Experiences**  
How have you served in the past?

**Discovering Your S.H.A.P.E.  
Personal Profile**

*S-Spiritual Gifts*

**Top three gifts that I believe I have from the Spiritual Gift inventory:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Why I feel I may have these gifts:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*H-Heart's Passion*

**Top three things I have a heart for or what motivates me most from the Heart's Passion list:**

- I love to
- I love to
- I love to

**What age group and type of people do I like working with the most:**

**Ministries or possible needs that excite or concern me most:**

**If I knew that success was guaranteed, what would I attempt for God:**





**My Painful Experiences:**

These are the kind of trials or problems I could relate to and encourage people on when they are dealing with them:

**My Educational Experiences:**

Where I attended school and my favorite subjects:

Seminars or training that has been meaningful to me:

**My Ministry Experience:**

Where have I served in the past (if applicable):

Name of church position, if any	Where	Years involved	Type of ministry and
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1.

2.

3.

**Based on your Spiritual Gifts, Heart Passions, Abilities, Personality Type, and Experiences how do you feel you can best use your gifts to serve God? (Do not be afraid to think creatively).**

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