**Serving Like Jesus (2) – Shaped by God**

**Loving Others series Part 5**

Psalm 139:14-16

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 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, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

**3 truths on my SHAPE**

1. I was \_\_\_\_\_\_SHAPED\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a purpose.

2. I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_UNIQUE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

3. I am \_\_\_\_\_WONDERFULLY COMPLEX\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**In Ministry... Function follows Form!**

"There are different kinds of SPIRITUAL GIFTS but the same Spirit gives them. There are different WAYS OF SERVING, but the same Lord is served. There are different ABILITIES to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit's presence is shown IN SOME WAY in each one, for the good of all." 1 Cor. 12:4-7

**MY S.H.A.P.E. WILL DETERMINE MY MINISTRY**

**S \_\_\_SPIRITUAL GIFTS\_\_\_\_**

*"... Each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that."* 1 Cor. 7:7b

WHAT AM I GIFTED TO DO?

**H\_\_\_HEART\_\_\_\_\_**

*"For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose!"* Phil. 2:13 (NEB)

WHAT DO I LOVE TO DO?

**A \_\_\_ABILITIES\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*"There are different abilities to perform service..."* 1 Cor. 12:6

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

WHAT NATURAL TALENTS AND SKILLS DO I HAVE?

**P \_\_\_PERSONALITY\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*"No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself."* 1 Cor. 2:11 (LB)

WHERE DOES MY PERSONALITY BEST SUIT ME TO SERVE?

**E \_\_EXPERIENCES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_\_Spiritual\_\_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"There has been enough time for you to be teachers -- BUT you still need to be taught... (you are) without any* ***experience*** *in the matter of right and wrong."* Heb. 5:12-13

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_Painful\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways."* Prov 20:30 (GN)

*"God helps us in our troubles,* ***so we are able to help others*** *who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God."* 2 Cor. 1:4 (GN)

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_Educational\_\_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Always remember what you have learned. Your* ***education*** *is your life -- guard it well!"* Prov. 4:13 (GN)

**\* WHAT \_\_\_\_\_\_Ministry\_\_\_\_\_\_ EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*"Because of* ***the service by which you have proved yourselves****, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel..."* 2 Cor. 9:13

Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area of HEART'S DESIRE in a way that best expresses your PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCE!

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

*"Now about spiritual gifts I do not want you to be ignorant."* 1 Cor. 12:1

**A SPIRITUAL GIFT:** Is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ

**10 TRUTHS about spiritual gifts**

1. Only \_\_\_\_\_BELIEVERS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have spiritual gifts. 1 Cor. 2:14
2. Every Christian has at least \_\_\_\_ONE\_\_\_\_\_ gift. 1 Cor. 7:7
3. No one receives \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ALL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gifts. 1 Cor. 12:27-30
4. No single gift is given to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_EVERYONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor. 12:29-30
5. You can't \_\_\_\_\_\_EARN OR WORK FOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a spiritual gift. Eph. 4:7
6. The \_\_\_\_\_\_HOLY SPIRIT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ decides what gifts I get. 1 Cor. 12:11
7. The gifts I'm given are \_\_\_PERMANENT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Rom. 11:29
8. I am to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_DEVELOP\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gives me. 1 Tim. 4:14
9. It's a sin to \_\_\_\_\_\_WASTE\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gifts God gave me. 1 Cor. 4;1-2 Mt. 25:14-30
10. Using my gifts \_\_\_\_\_GLORIFIES\_\_\_\_\_ God and \_\_\_\_GROWS\_\_\_\_\_\_ me. John 15:8

**THE PURPOSE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**1. NOT FOR MY BENEFIT, BUT \_\_\_\_FOR OTHERS\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Each one of you, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the* ***good of others****, the spiritual gift he has received from God."* 1 Peter 4:10 (GN)

*"The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church."* 1 Cor. 12:7 (LB)

**2. TO PRODUCE \_\_\_\_\_\_MATURITY\_\_\_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_\_\_STABILITY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY.**

*"It was He who gave gifts to men... to build up the Body of Christ so we shall all come together to that oneness in our faith... and become mature... Then we shall no longer be children, carried by the waves and blown about by every shifting wind..."* Eph. 4:11, 13-14 (GN)

**CAUTIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

1. Don't confuse gifts with natural talents.

2. Don't confuse gifts with the Fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23

3. Don't confuse gifts with Christian roles.

4. Be aware of the *"gift projection"* tendency. (Expecting others to serve the way you do and have similar results)

5. Don't feel my gift makes me superior to others. 1 Cor. 12:21

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"

6. Realize that using my gifts without love is worthless!

*"I may be able to speak the languages of men and even of angels... I may have the gift of inspired preaching... I may have all knowledge... and all the faith to move mountains -- but if I have not love, I am nothing... it does no good."* 1 Cor. 13:1-3 (GN)

7. Recognize that I have both a *Primary* and a *Secondary* ministry in my church:

\* My *PRIMARY MINISTRY* commitment should be in the area where I am \_\_\_\_GIFTED\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* My *SECONDARY MINISTRY* includes serving in any other area of the Body where I am \_\_\_NEEDED\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**HOW TO DISCOVER YOUR GIFT**

Get Started!

1. S \_\_STUDY\_\_\_\_\_

2. T \_\_\_\_\_\_TRIAL AND ERROR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. A \_\_\_\_\_\_ANALYZE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. R \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_REQUEST RESPONSES FROM OTHERS\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. T \_\_\_\_TAKE TRAINING\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Three Ways God Wants You to Use Your Gifts**

1. Through an Ongoing Ministry

2. Through Short-Term Projects

3. Through Spontaneous Situations

**\*WHY WE DO NOT ALLOW THIS GIFT (Gift of Tongue) IN OUR SERVICES**

**1. It is for personal edification, not for the whole church.**

*"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who preaches edifies the church."* 1 Cor. 14:4

**2. We are to focus on building up others, not ourselves.**

*"Unless you speak intelligible words... you will just be speaking into the air... try to excel in the gifts that build up the church."* 1 Cor. 14:9 & 12

**3. It confuses unbelievers in the service.**

*"... if some unbelievers come in, will they not say you are out of your mind?"* 1 Cor. 14:23

**4. Ideally, it is not meant to be used in the worship service.**

*"In the church, I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousands words in a tongue. Brothers, stop thinking like children!"* 1 Cor. 14:19-20

*"The gift of speaking God's message should be under the speaker's control, because God does not want us to be in disorder, but in harmony and peace."* 1 Cor. 14:32-33