



Presents

# SHAPE



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## Spiritual Gifts, **Heart**, Abilities, Personality, Experiences

A Spiritual gift, as we learned last week, is “God’s Spirit empowering God’s people to accomplish God’s goals” (Pastor Troy Nichols). This week we will look at the next letter in SHAPE, which is “H” for Heart.

**Key Verse:** *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for me, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”*

Colossians 3:23-24 NIV

**Definition: Heart, n.** Heart involves your emotional heartbeat driving you towards a cause or people group in order to bring about necessary change. Simply put, *Heart is God’s people fulfilling the needs of others with God’s love.*

We can tell the Lord, “God, I love you.” The only way, however, to truly show God your love is by lovingly serving others. Also, the Holy Spirit is the only one who can unlock the heart to serve where God deems most necessary. The most significant contribution you can make to the kingdom of God will involve and ignite your deepest passions, desires, and drive: your *heart*.

Answer the following questions, writing down the short answer, and then giving an explanation within your group.

**Question 1:** Whom do you love serving? \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 2:** What needs do you love meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Keep in mind these categories:

- **Spiritual** needs - you love helping people discover Christ and reach their full potential in Him.

- **Physical** needs - You use your resources to help people with physical needs through practical expressions of love-- food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities.
- **Relational** needs - You help others develop authentic, Christ-honoring relationships, connecting people, and building meaningful and nurturing relationships.
- **Emotional** needs - You are fulfilled by helping people in pain go through the vicissitudes of life, relating to their experiences, and providing counseling, or encouragement, or just being a listening ear for them.
- **Educational** needs - The teaching gift rises to the top here as you help and lead others towards learning, and learning to live life to its fullest.
- **Vocational** needs - This involves training and coaching, and perhaps consulting in order to help others identify and overcome barriers so they might reach their goals in their work.

**Question 3:** What cause do you love conquering? \_\_\_\_\_

If you could champion this cause, how would you achieve this?

What spiritual gifts could you employ to accomplish this?

### **My Needs Met/Their Needs Met**

*He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

2 Corinthians 1:4 NLT

Think of how God has worked in your life. He was present during times of weakness and failure, not only in the good times. The suffering and pain endured, and the triumphs and good times have all been worked together for good--His good and the good of others--because now you are able to lead others with your heart, and not only your head.

### **Consider the following scripture:**

*Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

Psalms 37:4 NIV

Of course we all desire the niceties in life: loving family, good friends, comfortable home, reliable transportation, good job, education, etc. These are the desires anyone would have. The desires the psalmist is referring to can only come from the Holy Spirit as you "delight yourself in the Lord."

In order to truly delight yourself in Him, you want to know Him more and more. You will find in knowing Him, you gain a better understanding of how you're shaped: how He has made you to be His masterpiece.

Be encouraged. Know that your life is worth all God has invested into you. The bottom line comes down to these two factors:

- Knowing God for yourself
- Others knowing Him because of you

**Prayer:** *God, love through me those whom You've given me a heart for.*  
*Amen*

Reference:

Rees, E. (2006). *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding & fulfilling your unique purpose for life: Small group study guide*. Lake Forest, CA. Purpose Driven