

A PLACE TO SERVE

ADULT BIBLE COMMUNITIES

Tools for Presenting the Living Word of God

GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO US Student Version

Overview of Ministry

We intend to impress upon the members of this church that it is our _____ to _____. We all learn this in our _____ and the overview is one of many ways we can help to equip you to accomplish your purpose on a larger scale than you ever imagined.

We are very happy that you have chosen to investigate the available ministries at Monmouth Christian Church. All of us are aware that the _____ of the church is more effectively carried out by the _____ and that God never intended the work of the church to be in the hands of a small paid staff. That is why He has given each member such wonderful _____ and abilities to accomplish His purpose for this church. God has a special purpose for each one of us and has led us to this church so we can share in accomplishing His ministries to the Body and the surrounding community.

You are going to discover your spiritual gifts, your _____, and some of the various ways in which you can serve God and His Church. You will also receive the necessary training to enable you to accomplish the ministry you select. We will even help you to organize and develop a new ministry to help fill a great passion that was placed in your heart by God.

THE BENEFITS OF KNOWING YOUR _____

"...I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ Jesus saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven." Philippians 3:12b-14 (NLT)

"You Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm." Isaiah 26:3 (TEV)

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (LB)

"...and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven." (v. 14)

"He has...set eternity in the hearts of men..." Ecclesiastes 3:11a (NIV)

THE _____ OF OUR PURPOSE

²⁹Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. ³⁰And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' ³¹The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." Matthew 12:29-31 (NLT)

It's Not About _____! It All Starts With _____.

"For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, ... everything got started in Him and Finds its purpose in Him." Colossians 1:16 (Msg.)

You were made by _____ and for _____—and until you understand that, life will never make sense. It is only in God that we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance, and our destiny. Every other path leads to a dead end.

"Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart for my holy purpose. Jeremiah 1:5 (GW)

God is not just the starting point of your life; he is the *source* of it. To discover your purpose in life you must turn to God's Word, and not use the world's wisdom.

God has a purpose for your life on earth, but it doesn't end here. His plan involves far more than the few decades you will spend on this planet. It's more than "the opportunity of a time"; God offers you an opportunity beyond your lifetime.

1. You Were Planned For _____.

"You created everything, and it is for your pleasure that they exist and were created." Rev. 4:11 (NLT)

"The Lord takes pleasure in His people." Psalm 149:4a (TEV)

2. You Were Formed For _____.

"I am the vine, and you are the branches." John 15:5 (CEV)

"Christ makes us one body...connected to each other." Romans 12:5 (GWT)

3. You Were Created To _____.

"God knew what He was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son.... We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in Him." Rom 8:29 (Msg.)

"We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created." Col. 1:15 (Msg.)

4. You Were Shaped For _____.

"Why, we're just God's servants, each of us with certain special abilities, and with our help you believed. My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollo's work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts. The person who does the planting or watering isn't very important, but God is important because he is the one who makes things grow." 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 TLB

5. You Were Made For _____.

"In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world." John 17:18 (Msg.)

"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me." Acts 20:24 (NCV)

⁸Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

You Can Be a _____ Member of the Body of Christ (The Church)

The Bible states that every believer is given at least one _____.

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:7)

Scripture also states,

"...you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

The truth about salvation can set you free from the power and penalty of sin, and the truth about spiritual gifts can set you free to _____ by _____ to others. Understanding your unique design and giftedness will enable you to choose a ministry in which to serve that is best for you.

The following assessment will help identify the gift (s) God has given you to use for His glory. Please use it as a guide only, realizing that it is a man-made instrument and not inspired like Scripture. Make sure the ministry area for which you volunteer will allow you to use your gifts.

Read the following 90 statements and place a number from 1-7 beside each statement that best describes how the statement fits you. (1=never, 2=very seldom, 3=seldom, 4=sometimes, 5=often, 6=very often, and 7=always)

Answer as you really feel, not as you think you “ought” to answer. You must be completely candid with your answers in order for this assessment to be most effective in helping you determine the gifts with which God has blessed you.

- ___ 1. I work well under pressure and can get to the heart of a matter and take decisive action.
- ___ 2. Other people seem to have confidence in my ability to tell when something or someone is right or wrong.
- ___ 3. I would rather deal with someone having problems personally, instead of sending them to someone else.
- ___ 4. I receive great satisfaction in sharing Christ freely and effectively with unbelieving persons.
- ___ 5. I have known God’s will with certainty in specific situation even when concrete evidence was missing.
- ___ 6. I joyfully assume responsibility for meeting financial needs in church and community.
- ___ 7. I notice and have a strong desire to meet the practical needs of others.
- ___ 8. I enjoy attacking Biblical problems and researching the issues.
- ___ 9. I enjoy taking the leadership of a group where none exists.
- ___ 10. People regularly express their appreciation of my presence when they are undergoing extreme difficulty.
- ___ 11. God uses me to build up, encourage, and comfort other Christians by speaking to them of spiritual things.
- ___ 12. The smallness or insignificance of a task is not a consideration in my deciding whether or not to do a job if it needs to be done.
- ___ 13. I would like to see the spiritual needs of believers met and am willing to be personally involved in nurturing and discipleship.
- ___ 14. I get excited about discovering new insights from Scripture that I can share with others.
- ___ 15. I have a greater desire to learn how to apply God’s Word than to simply understand it.
- ___ 16. People often look to me for guidance in organizing and managing.
- ___ 17. I seem to understand people and their motives even when I know I don’t know them well.
- ___ 18. I sense a great deal of identification with people having personal and emotional problems, but I am not weighed down by them.
- ___ 19. I have been instrumental in leading others to believe in Christ as their Savior.
- ___ 20. In specific cases, God has given me assurance that He would do what seemed unlikely.
- ___ 21. I give cheerfully and liberally in support of the Lord’s work without being presented with a specific need.
- ___ 22. I don’t mind helping others even if they are undeserving or if they take advantage of me.
- ___ 23. I am ready, willing, and able to defend my position on theological issues.
- ___ 24. I have a desire to help, lead, guide, and direct people in an important church ministry.

- ___ 25. I enjoy turning compassion into cheerful deeds of kindness.
- ___ 26. Other believers are blessed by my ability to effectively communicate God's Word with boldness and clarity.
- ___ 27. I feel a burden to relieve others of detail work in order to free them to do their most important tasks.
- ___ 28. I would love to be in a position to equip saints for the work of the ministry.
- ___ 29. People have told me that I have an ability to explain difficult passages of Scripture.
- ___ 30. The decisions I have made or advice I have given in difficult situations have proven to be the right thing to do in most cases.
- ___ 31. I am willing to make decisions if I am convinced it is the Lord's will and the right thing to do even at the risk of being misunderstood by others.
- ___ 32. The evaluations I make of people/of things said is usually correct even when others didn't agree at the time.
- ___ 33. When someone shares a problem with me, I am able to help them from the Word of God and motivate them to act on it.
- ___ 34. I am at ease talking to unbelievers about their need of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- ___ 35. I am able to believe God will act in a situation in spite of evidence to the contrary.
- ___ 36. I am willing to maintain a lower standard of living in order to benefit God's work with my financial support.
- ___ 37. I enjoy working in the background if I can meet the practical needs of others.
- ___ 38. In my study of God's Word, I find that new insights & understanding of difficult subjects seem to come easy.
- ___ 39. I am constantly setting goals and objectives for myself and my ministry as a believer.
- ___ 40. The sight of misery makes me want to find a way to express God's love to hurting people.
- ___ 41. I have the ability to minister to others more from the Word of God than through my experiences.
- ___ 42. I find it difficult to say no to expressed needs in the ministries of the church.
- ___ 43. I am patient with and like to help Christians who are making slow progress in their Christian walk.
- ___ 44. I am constantly thinking of ways Biblical concepts can be presented in an intelligible and interesting way.
- ___ 45. I can see possible results very quickly that may come from negative situations.
- ___ 46. I can lead a committee in making decisions.
- ___ 47. I can sense when a teaching is true to God's Word.
- ___ 48. I enjoy talking to people about their spiritual development.
- ___ 49. I feel comfortable in asking those to whom I witness to become a Christian.
- ___ 50. I find myself accepting God's promises at face value and applying them to given situations without doubt.
- ___ 51. I have a conviction that all I have belongs to God and I want to be a good steward of those things.
- ___ 52. I enjoy serving others physically or materially in order to make their burden lighter.
- ___ 53. I have found in studying God's Word, I seem to know what a passage is saying before other believers discover it, even though we are studying it at the same time.
- ___ 54. I have a desire to help others reach lofty spiritual goals.
- ___ 55. I want to reach out to people who suffer physical, mental, or emotional problems in some special way.
- ___ 56. I will not compromise the truth at the risk of being criticized for being narrow-minded.
- ___ 57. I find great joy in doing things that need to be done no matter how small or trivial the task.
- ___ 58. I am willing to accept the responsibility to help protect weak Christians from influences that would undermine their faith.
- ___ 59. I can see how different Biblical truths relate to each other to form the whole.
- ___ 60. I find it easy to clarify people's problems for them and give them answers based on the Bible.

- ___ 61. I easily spot weaknesses and strengths in organizational planning.
- ___ 62. I have a sensitivity that enables me to know whether a teaching or writing is of the Holy Spirit, an evil spirit, or a human spirit.
- ___ 63. I can detect potential sin in a person and help them reach higher levels of spirituality.
- ___ 64. I like going into non-Christian environments for the specific purpose of winning the unbeliever to Christ.
- ___ 65. When I am confronted by an obstacle, I tend to see it in terms of God's resources instead of my own resources.
- ___ 66. I would rather provide material resources for a project than perform some manual task.
- ___ 67. I have a strong sense of compassion toward needy people.
- ___ 68. Mastering major Biblical truths is a high priority with me.
- ___ 69. I have a vision of God's purposes and I desire to implement plans to lead people to accomplish them.
- ___ 70. My strong sense of compassion toward needy people drives me to action.
- ___ 71. I don't shy away from opportunities to tell of God's judgment for wrong-doing and of His gracious promises to those who turn to Him.
- ___ 72. I see myself in more of a supporting ministry to others than being in a place of leadership.
- ___ 73. I am willing to work hard for unity in the local assembly of believers.
- ___ 74. I find it easy and enjoyable to spend time in intense study and research of the Bible, organizing my thoughts in a systematic way.
- ___ 75. I can see several sides of an issue and sense which way God is leading a group.
- ___ 76. I enjoy organizing ideas, people, resources, and time for more effective ministries.
- ___ 77. Other believers trust my counsel about questionable matters and have confidence in my judgments.
- ___ 78. I would be willing to spend some time each week in a counseling ministry.
- ___ 79. I see people come to Christ because of my witness to them.
- ___ 80. I find it easy to trust God in very difficult circumstances or tragedies without hesitation or indecision.
- ___ 81. I believe when I give to specific causes it is an answer to someone's prayer.
- ___ 82. I find myself looking for opportunities to help other people.
- ___ 83. I am able to distinguish between pertinent principles in Scripture and insignificant observations.
- ___ 84. If I had the opportunity, I would enjoy leading, directing, and motivating others in some phase of the Lord's work.
- ___ 85. I would be blessed in taking part in a ministry to those who are suffering physically.
- ___ 86. When situations are not right, I am burdened enough to speak up and try to correct them.
- ___ 87. People have expressed to me their appreciation in helping relieve them of some of their responsibilities so that they may minister more effectively.
- ___ 88. I receive great joy from being able to disciple a group of Christians.
- ___ 89. I feel good defending Biblical principles in spite of opposition or ridicule.
- ___ 90. At times, God gives me direction and understanding beyond my natural abilities.

The Spiritual Gift Ministry Key Chart

Use the score sheet on the next page to find each ministry total and the transfer the totals back to this page in the total column

Add the scores from the numbered statements beside each gift and put the total in the appropriate space.

	TOTAL	GIFT
1+16+31+46+61+76 =	_____	ADMINISTRATION
2+17+32+47+62+77 =	_____	DISCERNMENT
3+18+33+48+63+78 =	_____	ENCOURAGEMENT
4+19+34+49+64+79 =	_____	EVANGELISM
5+20+35+50+65+80 =	_____	FAITH
6+21+36+51+66+81 =	_____	GIVING
7+22+37+52+67+82 =	_____	HELPING
8+23+38+53+68+83 =	_____	KNOWLEDGE
9+24+39+54+69+84 =	_____	LEADERSHIP
10+25+40+55+70+85 =	_____	MERCY
11+26+41+56+71+86 =	_____	PROPHECY
12+27+42+57+72+87 =	_____	SERVICE
13+28+43+58+73+88 =	_____	SHEPHERDING
14+29+44+59+74+89 =	_____	TEACHING
15+30+45+60+75+90 =	_____	WISDOM

Scoring Worksheet

Transfer totals to previous page to discover your Spiritual Gifts

$1) \underline{\quad} + 16) \underline{\quad} + 31) \underline{\quad} + 46) \underline{\quad} + 61) \underline{\quad} + 76) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$2) \underline{\quad} + 17) \underline{\quad} + 32) \underline{\quad} + 47) \underline{\quad} + 62) \underline{\quad} + 77) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$3) \underline{\quad} + 18) \underline{\quad} + 33) \underline{\quad} + 48) \underline{\quad} + 63) \underline{\quad} + 78) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$4) \underline{\quad} + 19) \underline{\quad} + 34) \underline{\quad} + 49) \underline{\quad} + 64) \underline{\quad} + 79) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$5) \underline{\quad} + 20) \underline{\quad} + 35) \underline{\quad} + 50) \underline{\quad} + 65) \underline{\quad} + 80) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$6) \underline{\quad} + 21) \underline{\quad} + 36) \underline{\quad} + 51) \underline{\quad} + 66) \underline{\quad} + 81) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$7) \underline{\quad} + 22) \underline{\quad} + 37) \underline{\quad} + 52) \underline{\quad} + 67) \underline{\quad} + 82) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$8) \underline{\quad} + 23) \underline{\quad} + 38) \underline{\quad} + 53) \underline{\quad} + 68) \underline{\quad} + 83) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$9) \underline{\quad} + 24) \underline{\quad} + 39) \underline{\quad} + 54) \underline{\quad} + 69) \underline{\quad} + 84) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$10) \underline{\quad} + 25) \underline{\quad} + 40) \underline{\quad} + 55) \underline{\quad} + 70) \underline{\quad} + 85) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$11) \underline{\quad} + 26) \underline{\quad} + 41) \underline{\quad} + 56) \underline{\quad} + 71) \underline{\quad} + 86) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$12) \underline{\quad} + 27) \underline{\quad} + 42) \underline{\quad} + 57) \underline{\quad} + 72) \underline{\quad} + 87) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$13) \underline{\quad} + 28) \underline{\quad} + 43) \underline{\quad} + 58) \underline{\quad} + 73) \underline{\quad} + 88) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$14) \underline{\quad} + 29) \underline{\quad} + 44) \underline{\quad} + 59) \underline{\quad} + 74) \underline{\quad} + 89) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$15) \underline{\quad} + 30) \underline{\quad} + 45) \underline{\quad} + 60) \underline{\quad} + 75) \underline{\quad} + 90) \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Total

As a starting place, consider the top three or four scores as your spiritual gifts. Following is a brief description of the 15 spiritual gifts. This is not necessarily an exhaustive list, but these are named in various places in the Scriptures as spiritual gifts and we see these gifts active and operating in the church today.

Spiritual Gift – is a supernatural enabling by the Holy Spirit equipping God’s people to serve Him by effectively ministering to other people.

ADMINISTRATION - The ability to organize and guide human activities in such a way that Christ’s program is carried out. 1 Corinthians 12:28

DISCERNMENT - The ability to distinguish between truth and error; to know when a person or an act is of God. 1 Corinthians 12:10

ENCOURAGEMENT - The ability to motivate people through encouraging words to live practical Christian lives. Romans 12:8

EVANGELISM - The ability to present the Gospel to unbelievers in such a clear and meaningful way that people respond and become members of the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11

FAITH - The ability to envision what God wants to happen and to be certain He is going to make it happen in response to prayer, even when there is no concrete evidence available. 1 Corinthians 12:9

GIVING - The ability to support the Lord’s work materially with generous, timely, and cheerful contributions. Romans 12:8

HELPING - The ability to see the needs of others and to respond willingly to meet those needs. 1 Corinthians 12:28

KNOWLEDGE - The ability to grasp the truth about God’s Word in order to bring it into focus in a contemporary world. 1 Corinthians 12:28

LEADERSHIP - The ability to envision God’s purpose and plan for the future and set goals which will inspire others to work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God. Romans 12:8

MERCY - The ability to empathize with hurting people and to translate compassion into cheerful acts of service. Romans 12:8

PROPHECY - The ability to proclaim and apply God’s truth so that believers may be edified, encouraged, and consoled, and non-believers convinced. 1 Corinthians 12:10,28

SERVICE - The ability to serve with others in their ministries by aiding them in practical ways, enabling them to be more effective in their work for the glory of God. Romans 12:7

SHEPHERDING - The ability to oversee the spiritual lives of others and care for their spiritual needs by teaching and guiding them towards maturity. Ephesians 4:11

TEACHING - The ability to communicate knowledge to others for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11

WISDOM - The ability to regulate one’s relationship with God by being able to apply God’s truth to an immediate problem or need and help others do the same. 1 Corinthians 12:8

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SHAPE – Being You

The moment we're born, we start a journey. And we ask ourselves this question, "Who am I?" We want value, meaning, and significance. And then we ask ourselves a second question: "Do I matter to anyone?" Our search begins at birth and many times lasts for a lifetime. What we have to learn is that it's okay to be you. Let me put the caution in here, being you is being who God made you to be. It's not an excuse for sin, it's not an excuse for being insensitive, mean, uncaring...we can't justify actions or attitudes that are wrong by saying, "That's just who I am." That's rationalization, it's not being you.

I'm talking about enjoying your inner worth, finding a healthy self-esteem by living the life God designed for you and "gifted" you to live.

*God has given **gifts to each of you** from His great variety of spiritual gifts. **Manage them well** so that God's generosity can **flow through you**. 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)*

Most individuals spend their entire lives searching for fulfillment of their inner need for significance and worth in three areas.

Where are common places we look for our value?

1. _____

That's appearance. And we say, "Surely style will give me value, meaning, and significance. I know I'll find my worth in style.

What are some advertisements that say you can find your personal value in style?

*Charm can be **deceptive** and beauty **doesn't last**.... Proverbs 31:30 (LB)*

That verse reminds me of two elderly golfers on the eighteenth tee when they saw an elderly woman streak by totally naked. One golfer said to the other golfer, "Did you see what that woman was wearing?" The other golfer said, "No I didn't...but whatever it was, it sure did need ironing." Some people have bad days because they have bad hair days; or because their outfit doesn't match; or because they've got a pimple.

*The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the **outward appearance**, but the LORD looks at the **heart**. 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)*

2. _____

Have you ever stopped to think what you're really doing when status becomes a driving force in your life, in the establishment of your self-esteem? There are two words in status, stat and us.

When you're into stat-us you keep stats on us - you and me. You keep up with who's who, who's got what, where they live and what they drive. Status is finding self-esteem, self-worth, and confidence in our belongings.

Confidence placed in riches comes to nothing. Proverbs 11:7 (TEV)

3. _____

Why, do we do what we do? To be successful. We ask ourselves, "Do I matter to anyone?" And we answer, "I will if I'm successful."

*The LORD says, "The wise should not boast of their **wisdom**, nor the strong of their **strength**, nor the rich of their **wealth**. If any want to boast, they should boast that they know and understand Me....
Jeremiah 9:23-24 (TEV)*

Wisdom, strength and wealth: the "Big Three" in America's value system. We compare, compete, and contrast in all three of these. Why? Because they are what we consider to be success.

Now, let's be clear...listen up. Some of you will leave here and say that I said that none of us should be concerned about our appearance. We should live our entire lives in burlap sacks; never shave or bathe and never use deodorant.

Number two, I said we should never have any goals and it's a sin to make more than \$10,000.00 a year.

Third, I also said we should never be successful. Anybody who's successful should feel bad and repent.

Not so. In God's Word, many of His people were very successful, stylish and had some level of status. But here's the key...listening?...those things were not their sources of personal worth and value. Those things aren't necessarily wrong, unless they are necessary in your life for you to have an understanding of your worth.

How can I discover my real value?

...The Lord gives me honor; He is the source of my strength. Isaiah 49:5 (TEV)

1. _____ I am a masterpiece.

Let's say that together...I am a masterpiece.

VanGogh's Starry Night

Check out the painting on the screen. What is that? Right, VanGogh's, "Starry Night" – and it's a masterpiece. What if you actually owned that painting? What would you do with it? I don't think any of us would want to hide it, we'd want to put it on display where people could enjoy it.

God's Word says we are masterpieces. We're originals. Each of us is a one of a kind.

We're much more than works of art, we're works of heart.

Yet we tend to hide ourselves away instead of putting ourselves on display. Are you doing that with your originality? You shouldn't. Why? Because your originality is a gift from God.

When you die and stand before God, He's not going to say, "_____, why weren't you more like _____." (Billy Graham, Mother Teresa, the Church Pastor) What He might say is, "Why weren't you more like you?" If you're not you, who's going to be you. Stop trying to be somebody else. If you try to be somebody else, you're making a mockery out of God's creative genius. There's no one past, present, or future, who has ever had the exact thoughts going through your mind right now. There's no one who can relate to people exactly like you. There's no one who has your hairline, your build, your laugh, your sneeze – you are one of a kind.

*You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit them together in my mother's womb.
Thank You for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about.
Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it. Psalm 139:13 (LB)*

2. _____ I was bought with a price.

Say this with me...I was bought with a price.

Have you ever had a garage sale? What happens? We put all of our junk out and people buy it. They'll buy anything, even outdated clothes, toys with missing pieces, and broken appliances. Why? Because an object is as valuable as the price someone is willing to pay.

If you're still struggling with the question of your value: If you're still asking the question, "Do I matter to anyone?", you are struggling with a price tag. Let me tell you about your price tag.

You're so valuable to God, it cost Him the death, burial and resurrection of His Son - all just for you. That's how much you matter to God.

It cost God plenty to get you out of the dead-end, empty-headed life you grew up in. He paid with Christ's sacred blood, you know. He died like an unblemished, sacrificial lamb. 1 Peter 1:18-19(The Message)

The bottom line is this:

3. I am _____ to _____!

You are made to matter; and you're not going to figure out how much you really do matter until you stop striving in the areas of style, status, and success. When you realize you are a masterpiece and recognize you have been bought with a high price, amazing and exciting things will begin to happen as you learn it's okay to be you.

An old country preacher once said, "Be who you is. 'Cause if you is who you isn't, you isn't who you is." One more time... "Be who you is. 'Cause if you is who you isn't, you isn't who you is."

I want you to know this...God sees your incredible potential, and you are more valuable to God than you can even begin to imagine.

God's children are even more precious than fine gold. Lamentations 4:2 (Paraphrase)

Tom Brokaw of NBC News said, "It's easy to make a buck in our society; it's tough to make a difference."

I want you to know this, and you need to listen closely, you listening...nudge the person beside you and say, "Are you listening?" You are designed to make a difference.

4. I am _____ to make a _____!

Say that with me, "I am _____ to make a _____."

Here's the catch...to do that, for you to make a difference...you've got to be you.

"'Cause if you is who you isn't, you isn't who you is."

Zig Ziglar once said, "If man can take molded bread and turn it into medicine, what can an awesome God make out of you?"

And that takes us to number 3.

5. _____ my shape.

Your hands formed and shaped me.... Job 10:8a (GN)

There are five personal factors that determine your SHAPE:

S _____

Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit to every person when they become a Christian. These gifts are to be used to minister to others, and to help build up the body of Christ, the Church.

*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 Corinthians 12:4-7 (GN)*

H _____

*God has put it into their **hearts to accomplish His purpose**... Revelation 17:17 (NIV)*

The heart, the passions you have, God placed them in your life. He wants to help you see how that part of your shape, your design can be used to make a difference in our world.

A _____

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

All of us have some natural talents and abilities. When we combine those with our spiritual gifts and use them in our area of passion, they multiply their effectiveness.

P _____

It's obvious that God doesn't use a cookie cutter to stamp out people. He loves variety. Just look around this room. And there is not a "right" or "wrong" personality. We need variety to keep balance. When you take a look at your personality, you'll be able to see the best places to plug your spiritual gifts, abilities, and heart to work in the church.

For you have heard of my past...I persecuted the church with fanatical zeal...and did my best to destroy it...I was ahead of most of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion, and had a boundless enthusiasm.... Galatians 1:13-14 (Ph)

That's the apostle Paul's own description of some of his personality traits: zeal and enthusiasm.

E _____

What experiences have you had? Educational? Vocational? Spiritual?

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

One of the most ignored elements in seeing where your life can make a difference in the future is what has happened in your life in the past. Your victories, your failures. Your joys, your hurts, your problems. They all help make you you, and they're valuable for making a difference in other people's lives.

Sometimes, we get really frustrated in the process of trying to reflect our shape. Life seems chaotic. When that happens for you, I want to encourage you to pray this prayer of the Psalmist.

God, make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. Psalm 51:10 (TM)

HOW GOD SHAPES YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY

Determine your SHAPE:

Spiritual Gifts

Heart

Abilities

Personality

Experience

SHAPE: UNWRAPPING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

God gives every believer spiritual gifts to be used in ministry.

“Whoever does not have the Spirit cannot receive the gifts that come from God’s Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 2:14 (TEV)

“Christ has generously divided out His gifts to us.” Ephesians 4:7 (CEV)

“It is the same and only Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.” 1 Corinthians 12:11 (TLB)

*“The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.”
1 Corinthians 12:7 (TLB)*

An Unopened Gift Is _____.

“There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving.” 1 Corinthians 12:5 (TLB)

SHAPE: LISTENING TO YOUR _____

Your Heart Reveals The _____.

As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.” Proverbs 27:19 (NLT)

Another Word For Heart Is _____.

"It shall come about, if you listen obediently to my commandments which I am commanding you today, to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and all your soul," Deuteronomy 11:13

When You Are Doing What You Love To Do, No One Has To Motivate You.

"A simple life in the fear-of-God is better than a rich life with a ton of headaches." Proverbs 15:16 (Msg.)

YOUR SHAPE

"You shaped me first inside, then out, you formed me in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13 (Msg.)

Only You Can Be _____.

"Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (TLB)

SHAPE: APPLYING YOUR _____.

Your Abilities Are The Natural Talents You Were Born With.

"and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship." Exodus 31:3-5 (NIV)

All Of Our Abilities _____.

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well." Romans 12:6a (TLB)

Every Ability Can Be Used For _____.

"whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

"There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service." Romans 12:6 (NLT)

What I'm Able To Do, God _____ Me To Do.

"equip you with all you need for doing his will." Hebrews 13:21 (TLB)

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings." 1 Peter 4:10 (TLB)

SHAPE: USING YOUR PERSONALITY

We Don't Realize How Truly _____ Each Of Us Is.

"God works through different men in different ways, but it is the same God who achieves His purposes through them all." 1 Corinthians 12:6 (Ph)

SHAPE: EMPLOYING YOUR _____.

1. Family experiences: What did you learn growing up in your family?
2. Educational experiences: What were your favorite subjects in school?
3. Vocational experiences: What jobs have you been most effective in and enjoyed most?
4. Spiritual experiences: What have been your most meaningful times with God?
5. Ministry experiences: How have you served God in the past?
6. Painful experiences: What problems, hurts, thorns, and trials have you learned from.

God uses painful experiences most to prepare you for ministry.

"What a wonderful God we have-he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so 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 this same help and comfort God has given us." 2 Corinthians 1:4 (TLB)

For God To Use Your Painful Experiences, You Must Be Willing To _____.

"I think you ought to know, dear brothers, about the hard time we went through in Asia. We were really crushed and overwhelmed, and feared we would never live through it. We felt we were doomed to die and saw how powerless we were to help ourselves; but that was good, for then we put everything into the hands of God, who alone could save us, for he can even raise the dead. And he did help us and saved us from a terrible death; yes, and we expect him to do it again and again." 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 (TLB)



959 Church Street West
Monmouth, Oregon 97361
Phone 503 838-1145 Fax 838-1162
E-mail mcc@monmouthchristian.org
Website: www.monmouthchristian.org