SHAPE WORKBOOK · SHORT VERSION

A Vessel for the Master's Use

A journey into how God designed you

"…a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work."

— 2 Timothy 2:21



S	H	A	P	E
Spiritual Gifts	Heart	Abilities	Personality	Experiences

ADAPTED BY

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Welcome

A lesson from the kitchen



A kitchen holds a small spoon and a big vessel, a tumbler and a strainer. Each has a different shape and is used at a different time and in a different way — but all share one purpose: to serve others.

From a small spoon to a big vessel — all made to serve.

> Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay… Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.
>
> — **2 Timothy 2:20–21 (ESV)**

S.H.A.P.E. — five questions, one shape

S	**Spiritual Gifts**	What has the Lord graced me to do?
H	**Heart**	What does my heart long to do?
A	**Abilities**	What can I do better than others?
P	**Personality**	How has God made me?
E	**Experiences**	What paths have I walked? What lessons have I learned?

Section 1

S — Spiritual Gifts

What has the Lord graced me to do?

What did the Master make this vessel for? You don't cook in a ladle, and you don't serve with a big pot. Each is used for the very thing it was designed for.

Spiritual gifts are not given for ourselves or our own purposes; they are given to **bless** the church, the body of Christ. Every believer receives them. A gift still in its wrapping helps no one — this section helps you unwrap yours.



Five truths about spiritual gifts

1. **Only after salvation.** Abilities come with your first birth; spiritual gifts come with your new birth. They are given to believers who confess Jesus as Lord and have received the Spirit.
   1 Cor 12:1–3, Eph 4:7–8

2. **The Holy Spirit distributes them.** We don't choose our gifts; the Spirit "apportions to each one individually as he wills."
   1 Cor 12:4, 11

3. **To everyone.** Not just to some: every believer has at least one gift. No title or position is needed.
   1 Cor 12:7, Eph 4:7, 1 Pet 4:10

4. **To serve.** Not for our own glory, but "for the common good" and "to equip the saints for the work of ministry."
   1 Cor 12:7, Eph 4:12, 1 Pet 4:10

5. **It must be unwrapped.** A gift still in its wrapping helps no one. "Do not neglect the gift you have"; "fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you."
   1 Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6

> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
>
> — 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV)

I. Gifts — Self Test

Statements 1–13 / 57

Write a number for how true each statement is of your life. Answer from what you actually do and feel, not what you think you should. If you are unsure about a ministry you have never done, give it 0 or 1.

Score: 3 = Always true | 2 = Mostly true | 1 = Sometimes | 0 = Never

#	Statement	0–3
1	I like to manage people, tasks and events.	
2	I would like to start churches in places where there are none now.	
3	I enjoy making new handcrafted things with wood, cloth, paint, metal, glass and other materials.	
4	I enjoy developing and using my artistic skills (art, drama, music, photography…).	
5	I can easily tell spiritual truth from error, and good from evil.	
6	I enjoy putting courage and strength back into discouraged people.	
7	I share the gospel clearly and fruitfully.	
8	I naturally and easily trust that God will answer my prayers.	
9	I give generously and gladly to people who need help with financial needs and goals.	
10	I am happy to help others by working behind the scenes on their tasks, without anyone knowing.	
11	I want my home to be a place for people who need ministry and help.	
12	I take prayer requests from people who need prayer and keep praying for them faithfully.	
13	I have dedicated myself and a major part of my time to reading and studying Scripture, to understand its truth fully and accurately.	

Self Test — continued

Statements 14–28 / 57

Score: 3 = Always true | 2 = Mostly true | 1 = Sometimes | 0 = Never

#	Statement	0–3
14	I stir others to receive vision.	
15	I want to show compassion to hurting people and help them heal from their wounds.	
16	I speak to people in a way that leads them to recognise sin, repent and live a pure life.	
17	I enjoy spending my time nurturing and caring for others.	
18	I set aside time to learn new truths from Scripture and share them with others.	
19	People often seek me out for advice on spiritual and personal problems.	
20	With clear goals, I have developed plans and put them into action.	
21	I am drawn to the idea of ministering in other countries or among other people groups.	
22	I am skilled at working with many kinds of tools.	
23	I find new and sound ways to communicate the Lord's truth.	
24	I can spot deceit or trickery before others notice it.	
25	I point people to God's promises and give them hope.	
26	Again and again I look for chances to make friends with people who are not Christians.	
27	Even in hard situations, I firmly trust that God's care, help and favour will come to me.	
28	I manage my money well so that I can give a large part of it away.	

Self Test — continued

Statements 29–43 / 57

Score: 3 = Always true | 2 = Mostly true | 1 = Sometimes | 0 = Never

#	Statement	0–3
29	I enjoy doing the everyday tasks that support ministry.	
30	I delight in meeting new people, welcoming them and helping them.	
31	I enjoy waiting in prayer for long periods and praying as God leads me what to pray for.	
32	I sometimes know things about people without knowing how I came to know them.	
33	I set goals and skilfully manage people and resources to reach them.	
34	I patiently help people going through painful experiences to get their lives steady again.	
35	I boldly oppose cultural trends, teachings and events that go against biblical truth.	
36	I want to guide and help a person as a whole — in their relationships, emotions and spiritual life.	
37	I explain Scripture in a way that makes others want to study it and know more.	
38	I have often found simple, practical solutions in the middle of conflict and confusion.	
39	I foresee what lies ahead, anticipate coming problems and make plans in advance to meet them.	
40	I like to be the first to take up and carry out new things.	
41	I design and carry out things in ways that help the church.	
42	I use a variety of art forms to explain God's truth.	
43	I can detect preaching, teaching or relationships that are contrary to Scripture.	

Self Test — continued

Statements 44–57 / 57

Score: 3 = Always true | 2 = Mostly true | 1 = Sometimes | 0 = Never

#	Statement	0–3
44	I encourage and stir others towards spiritual growth.	
45	I lovingly invite unbelievers to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.	
46	I trust God in situations where human effort alone cannot succeed.	
47	I give my money and possessions to God's work willingly and joyfully.	
48	I take great joy in being a helper so that others can do their work well.	
49	I do what is needed so that people feel important, needed and that they belong.	
50	When I hear about needy situations, I feel burdened to pray for them.	
51	When I read or study Scripture, I discover truths that benefit others in the body of Christ.	
52	I can identify places of need and lead others to help there.	
53	I enjoy helping people who seem undeserving of help, or who cannot help themselves.	
54	I keep speaking biblical truth even in difficult places where people do not know it or cannot accept it.	
55	Lovingly, calmly and patiently, I help unsettled believers stand firm in faith and fellowship.	
56	I present God's messages, skills and information so that people can easily understand and apply them.	
57	I have insight to find solutions to problems that others cannot see.	

Finished! On the next page, add up the scores of the 3 statements for each gift and fill in your gifts chart.

II Score & My Gifts Chart

Add up the scores of the 3 statements in each row and write it in the "Total" box (maximum 9). Then shade the same number of boxes on the right.

Gift	Statement numbers	Total	3	6	9
A Administration	1 · 20 · 39				
B Apostleship	2 · 21 · 40				
C Craftsmanship	3 · 22 · 41				
D Creative Communication	4 · 23 · 42				
E Discernment	5 · 24 · 43				
F Encouragement	6 · 25 · 44				
G Evangelism	7 · 26 · 45				
H Faith	8 · 27 · 46				
I Giving	9 · 28 · 47				
J Helps	10 · 29 · 48				
K Hospitality	11 · 30 · 49				
L Intercession	12 · 31 · 50				
M Knowledge	13 · 32 · 51				
N Leadership	14 · 33 · 52				
O Mercy	15 · 34 · 53				
P Prophecy	16 · 35 · 54				
Q Shepherding	17 · 36 · 55				
R Teaching	18 · 37 · 56				
S Wisdom	19 · 38 · 57				

III My top three gifts

	Gift	How will I use this gift now and in future?
1		
2		
3		

Tongues, interpretation, healing and miracles are not in this test; they are discerned through prayer and the confirmation of the church. For a fuller picture, take the Full version (133 statements).

Section 2

H — Heart

What does my heart long to do?

Whatever a vessel is filled with is what it carries to others.

Gift says:
"What I can do"

Heart says:
"Where, and for whom"

The things you do without noticing the time, and the sights that move you to tears — these are signs of your heart.

> Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
>
> **— Psalm 37:4 (ESV)**

I What drives me?

If I could spend a whole month only for God, what would I do? Which subject makes my heart come alive when I talk about it?

II Who do I care about? (tick three)

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Teenagers (13–19)
- ☐ College students
- ☐ Youth / young workers
- ☐ Newly married couples
- ☐ Families / parents
- ☐ Women
- ☐ Men
- ☐ The elderly
- ☐ Widows / people living alone
- ☐ New believers
- ☐ Unsaved friends / neighbours
- ☐ Villages that have not heard the gospel
- ☐ The sick / hospitals
- ☐ People with disabilities
- ☐ People addicted to drugs or alcohol
- ☐ Prisoners
- ☐ Migrant workers
- ☐ Ministers / pastors
- ☐ People at my workplace
- ☐ Others: _____

Section 3

A — Abilities

What can I do better than others?



What the vessel is made of — steel, brass, clay; every material has its use.

Abilities are the natural talents God has given you, from birth or through learning. To build the tabernacle, God filled Bezalel with his Spirit and gave him skill (Exodus 31:1–5). Cooking, tailoring, accounts, driving — no ability is too small for God's work.

Tick only the abilities you **do well and enjoy doing** . Don't tick work you can do but find draining.

- [ ] Teaching / explaining
- [ ] Public speaking
- [ ] Singing
- [ ] Playing an instrument
- [ ] Writing (articles, songs)
- [ ] Translating
- [ ] Drawing / designing
- [ ] Decorating
- [ ] Cooking / serving food
- [ ] Tailoring / handicrafts
- [ ] Building / carpentry / electrical work
- [ ] Repairing
- [ ] Farming / gardening
- [ ] Driving
- [ ] Accounts / managing money
- [ ] Computers / mobile / internet
- [ ] Photography / video / sound
- [ ] Social media
- [ ] Planning
- [ ] Organising events
- [ ] Supervising / managing
- [ ] Leading
- [ ] Encouraging
- [ ] Listening / counselling
- [ ] Mentoring
- [ ] Coaching
- [ ] Connecting people
- [ ] Welcoming / hospitality
- [ ] Peacemaking
- [ ] Promoting / publicity
- [ ] Research / reading
- [ ] Analysing
- [ ] Starting new things
- [ ] Imagining / seeing vision
- [ ] Adapting to change
- [ ] Travel / new places
- [ ] Sports / competition
- [ ] Working with children
- [ ] Caring for the elderly / sick
- [ ] Drama / storytelling
- [ ] Record-keeping / documentation
- [ ] Cleaning / maintenance
- [ ] Fundraising
- [ ] First aid / health care
- [ ] Others: _____

Section 4

P — Personality

How has God made me?

The vessel's shape — wide or narrow, lidded or open; each one fits its own job.

There is no "right" or "wrong" personality; God loves variety. In each row, tick the circle that describes you best; the middle circle = both equally.

> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
>
> **— Psalm 139:14 (ESV)**

I How I relate to others

Outgoing I gain energy from a crowd		**Reserved** deep with a few; refreshed by being alone
Self-expressive I share my thoughts easily		**Self-controlled** I open up only once I trust
Cooperative peace matters most		**Competitive** challenge and winning excite me

II How I respond to opportunities

High-risk I like new, uncertain opportunities		**Low-risk** I like clear, stable settings
People ministry that touches people directly		**Projects** behind-the-scenes tasks
Follow I do well under a good leader		**Lead** I take responsibility and lead
Team working together with others		**Solo** I do my best work alone
Routine finish one job, then the next		**Variety** many things at once

III My personality in one sentence, and the ministry setting that suits me

Section 5

E — Experiences

What paths have I walked? What lessons have I learned?



A new iron dosa tawa doesn't make good dosa; heat and use season it. The fires and dents of life prepare us the same way.

God wastes nothing; both joyful and painful experiences can become tools for helping others.

> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.
>
> **— Romans 8:28 (ESV)**

I Joyful experiences / achievements

Area	An experience I remember	Whom could I help through this, and how?
Personal life		
Family / relationships		
Education / training		
Work / career		
Spiritual (salvation, Spirit baptism, ministry)		

Section 6

My S.H.A.P.E. — Summary

This one page is your profile



Washed, placed on the shelf, ready for every good work.

S Spiritual Gifts

My main spiritual gifts

H Heart

Who, which need and which problem I care about

A Abilities

My top five abilities that I enjoy using

P Personality

My personality and the ministry setting that suits me

E Experiences

Experiences through which I can help others

My Kingdom Purpose statement

God has given me _____ (gifts / abilities). When I use them to meet _____ (which need) for _____ (whom), I feel the fulfilment of living for God's glory.

Section 7

The next 90 days

Your shape becomes clear only when you act on what you have learned



Write three small, definite steps — for example, serving on trial in one church ministry for four weeks.

Days 1–30

What am I going to do?

When?

Who will support me?

Days 31–60

What am I going to do?

When?

Who will support me?

Days 61–90

What am I going to do?

When?

Who will support me?

Confirmation by others

The cook knows which vessel to reach for; others often see our use before we do.

Show this summary to two people who know you well. Let them write the gifts and abilities they see in you.

Name	Relationship	Gift / ability they see in me	Signature

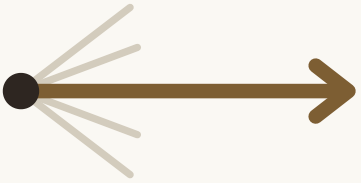
Pastor's note / recommended ministry

Closing

Not for everything — for this!

A ladle doesn't try to become a big vessel; it serves best by being a ladle.

We are not called to do everything; we are called to fulfil the purpose God has set for us. David "served the purpose of God in his own generation" and fell asleep (Acts 13:36). Jesus, too, finished the work the Father gave him (John 17:4).



Bartholomäus Ziegenbalg (1683–1719)

Could have: Gone to many places and done many things

The one thing at the centre: Arrived at Tranquebar in 1706 and made giving the Tamil people the Bible in their own language the centre of his work. His Tamil New Testament was printed in 1714. He died at 35, yet we still read the Bible in Tamil today.

Mother Teresa (1910–1997)

Could have: Gone anywhere in the world and served all kinds of people

The one thing at the centre: Came to India in 1929; in 1946 heard a "call within a call" and gave her life to the poorest of the poor in Kolkata — the dying and people with leprosy.

Draw my vessel

Which vessel am I now?

My vessel _____

Because...

_____

_____

My response: I don't have to do everything. The "one thing" God has called me to:

_____

_____

_____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Prayer: Lord, not everything — help me faithfully finish the work you have given me. Amen.



From a small spoon to a big vessel — all made to serve.

God has shaped you for a particular purpose. This short version helps you discover that shape from five angles — spiritual gifts, heart, abilities, personality and experiences — in 57 statements you can complete in one sitting. Use the full version to go deeper.

Adapted by Praison Timothy

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The S.H.A.P.E. concept was first introduced by Rick Warren in *The Purpose Driven Life* (Zondervan) and developed by Erik Rees in *S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life* (Zondervan). This workbook adapts that framework. Spiritual gifts inventory translated into Tamil by Praison Timothy. Scripture quotations: ESV.

2 Timothy 2:21