

2 Cor. 1:4 (NLT) 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.

We are effective when we are able to _____ our weaknesses, not just our strengths

The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life – the ones you’ve wanted to hide and forget – are the experiences God wants to use to help others. They are your ministry!

For God to use your painful experiences you must be willing to share them. Stop covering them up. Honestly admit your faults, failures and fears.

People are always more encouraged when we share how God’s grace helped in weakness than when we brag about strengths.

2 Cor. 1:8-10 (NIV) We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. 9Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us,

Experience is ___ what happens to you. It is what you ___ with what happens to you.

You will be most effective when you use your spiritual _____ and _____ in the area of your _____ desire, and in a way that best expresses your _____ and _____.

What God-given ability or personal experience can I offer to my church?

Understanding Your Shape

Psalm 139:13 (MsgB) Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out; you formed me in my mother's womb.

Only you can be you

1 Cor. 12:4-6 (MsgB) God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. 5God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. 6God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all.

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SHAPE: Applying your _____

Exodus 31:3-5 (NIV) and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts - 4to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.

_____ of our abilities come from God

Romans 12:6 (NLT) God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out when you have faith that God is speaking through you.

_____ one has plenty of abilities

Every Ability can be used for God’s _____

1 Cor. 10:31 (NIV) So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

God has a place in His church where _____ specialties can

_____ – you can make a difference

1 Cor. 12:6 (NIV) *There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.*

Deut. 8:18 (NIV) *But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.*

How do you discover how your ability can give God glory?

- 1) Realize that your ability is God given and give Him _____ for it.
- 2) Use your ability to serve the needs of _____ and to share your faith with unbelievers.
- 3) Return at least a tithe (____ percent) of the profit to God as an act of _____.
- 4) Make it your goal to be a _____ Builder, not a _____ builder.

What I'm able to do, God _____ me to do.

Hebrews 13:21 (NIV) *equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Examine what you are _____ at doing

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

SHAPE: Using Your _____

God has created us with a unique combination of personality traits.

There are ___ right or wrong personality traits for ministry.

God made you to be _____

Serving in the manner consistent with God's shaping of us, including our personalities will really give us _____, satisfaction and _____.

SHAPE: Employing Your _____

Romans 8:28-29 (NIV) *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. 29For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Examine at least six kinds of experiences from your past:

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

God _____ wastes a hurt!

The greatest ministry you will have will most likely come from your greatest _____.

God intentionally allows you to go through painful experiences to _____ you for ministry to others.