

Online SHAPE Academy- Lesson #4

Abilities-Discovering What You Are Naturally Good At

“Show me a person who doesn’t know his talents or hasn’t developed them for service to others, and I will show you a person who has little sense of purpose, meaning, motivation and value.” –Tom Patterson

You most likely enjoy doing the things you do well.

Abilities

“The abilities you do have are a strong indication of what God wants you to do with your life. They are clues to knowing God’s will for you...God doesn’t waste abilities; he matches our calling and our capabilities.” -Rick Warren

The truth is you _____ at doing something!

There are certain things that you naturally love to do.

The things you enjoy doing make work more like play.

When opportunities to do those things arise, they trigger an energized anticipation to get started.

It doesn’t seem tiring or time consuming.

“Have you ever had someone say to you ‘Thank you so much’ and your response was ‘But I didn’t do anything?...People will be healed by God through you just being and doing what God meant you to be and do, not by all the things you think you should be and do to benefit the world.” –Robin Chaddock

Where do I naturally _____ ?

Are you someone who loves to inspire others?

Do you find yourself frequently delivering a “can do” message?

Is creative thinking just part of how you do things?

Do you love to work with your hands?

Are you musically talented?

Are you known as a team builder?

Is goal-setting a natural part of your life?

Do you regularly set and meet objectives?

Are you excited by the challenge of refreshing and improving programs?

Do you have a track record of vision casting and getting people excited about the direction of the vision?

Whatever you are naturally good at and love to do—find a way to use it for God!

What if I am already using my abilities?

God never _____ showing us his purpose.

But we need to keep seeking.

We are made to be used by God.

When we lose our purpose, we lose our passions and our gifts go unused.

“To find me, look over in the corner of the shop, over here, behind the cobwebs, beneath the dust, in the darkness. There are scores of us, broken handles, dulled blades, cracked iron. Some of us were useful once, and then...many of us never were. But, listen, don’t feel sorry for me. Life ain’t so bad here in the pile...no work, no anvils, no pain, no sharpening. And yet, the days are very long.”

Max Lucado, *Shaped By God*

The days would be very long—life would be very long and dull—without the expectant hope of being used for a purpose greater than ourselves.

Remember: Our strengths and abilities show off HIS greatness and magnitude. They are not meant to boost our self-esteem.

Don’t just focus on what you should do, but focus on what you want to do and the things you are good at. This will free you for service.

Embrace the Things You Love to Do

Embrace the things you _____ to do not just the things you _____ do.

Your job may require you to lead, but you may not have a genuine desire for leading.

If that is the case, don’t include leadership in your personal SHAPE profile.

Do you really know what abilities you were born with?

Assignment #4

E _____ What You Love to Do

Our goal is to embrace and express the natural abilities—those things God has allowed you to excel at—so you can use them to fulfill your Kingdom Purpose without anxiety or fear of failure.

“The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.” –Michelangelo

Assignment #5

Shamgar

Dare to be Shamgar!!

*“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires, not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory**