

# SHAPED FOR GREATNESS



**SHEPHERD**  
CHURCH

EXPERIENCES | MAY 19, 2024

**MATTHEW 20:26 (GW)** <sup>26</sup>BUT THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT'S GOING TO BE AMONG YOU. WHOEVER WANTS TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU WILL BE YOUR SERVANT.

**Spiritual Gifts** are special \_\_\_\_\_ that are distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God's design and grace. Spiritual gifts are given to glorify God and for the common good of the Body of Christ. Answers **what** I do when I serve.

**Heart** (or Passion) is the God-given \_\_\_\_\_ that compels us to make a *spiritual* difference in a particular area of ministry or life where God is glorified, and people are edified. Answers **where** I serve.

**Ability** is a \_\_\_\_\_ aptitude or acquired proficiency. Answers **what** I can do when I serve.

**Personality** (Personal Style) is our characteristic pattern of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. It is not who we are, but it influences how we act and react in most situations. Answers **how** I serve.

**Experiences** include positive and negative events from our life that God uses to help us grow and in turn prepare us to help others in their spiritual journey as well. (Answers what, where, how I serve.)

**Romans 8:28 (NLT)** <sup>28</sup>And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

1. God uses your \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.

**Romans 8:28 (NIV84)** <sup>28</sup>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.

A. Where do painful experiences come from?

- Sometimes painful experiences are a result of \_\_\_\_\_ sinful choices.  
**Ezekiel 33:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> . . . "Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?"
- Sometimes painful experiences are a result of \_\_\_\_\_ person's sinful choices.
- Sometimes painful experiences are a result of living in a \_\_\_\_\_ where the enemy has influence.  
**John 16:33 (NLT)** <sup>33</sup> . . . Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."
- Sometimes painful experiences are a result of my \_\_\_\_\_ with God.  
**Philippians 1:29 (NLT)** <sup>29</sup> For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.
  - This kind of suffering is described as a \_\_\_\_\_.

B. God uses my painful experiences to help \_\_\_\_\_.

**Hebrews 12:11 (Living Bible)** Being punished isn't enjoyable while it is happening--it hurts! But afterwards we can see the result, a quiet growth in grace and character.

**Philippians 1:19 (Living Bible)** I am going to keep on being glad, for I know that as you pray for me, and as the Holy Spirit helps me, this [my being in jail] is all going to turn out for my good.

C. God uses my painful experiences to help \_\_\_\_\_.

**Genesis 37:19-20, 23-24, 28 (Living Bible)** "Here comes that master-dreamer," they exclaimed. <sup>20</sup>"Come on, let's kill him and toss him into a well and tell Father that a wild animal has eaten him . . . <sup>23</sup>So when Joseph got there, they pulled off his brightly-colored robe, <sup>24</sup> and threw him into an empty well-- . . . <sup>28</sup> So when the traders came by, his brothers pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver, and they took him along to Egypt.

**Genesis 50:20 (Living Bible)** As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil, for he brought me to this high position I have today so that I could save the lives of many people.

D. God never wastes a \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (Living Bible)** What a wonderful God we have--he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, <sup>4</sup> 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. God uses our \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.

A. God uses our spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 1:12** Then, too, I need your help, for I want not only to share my faith with you but to be encouraged by yours: Each of us will be a blessing to the other.

3. God uses our \_\_\_\_\_ experiences.

**John 9:25 (Living Bible)** "I don't know whether he is good or bad," the man replied, "but I know this: I was blind, and now I see!"

**Acts 3:6 (NIV)** Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

## MY NEXT STEP:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ some experiences in your life that have shaped your spiritual development and offer them to God to use.

**Romans 8:29 (MSG)** <sup>29</sup>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. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him.

Some experiences I've had that God might use in my life include:

- My spiritual experience of how I became a Christian:
- Other spiritual experiences I've had that have influenced me:
- A painful experience(s) that I've had that has influenced my spiritual development or passion:
- A positive experience(s) that I've had that has influenced my spiritual development or passion:

2. View your experiences as \_\_\_\_\_ for God to use you.

3. Let God know you are \_\_\_\_\_ for Him to use to help others.