



**Opportunities to Serve &
Gifting Assessment: SHAPE
August 26, 2018**

Cross Church believes that every believer has been uniquely equipped to serve God through the local church. One way that Cross Church helps members identify their gifting employs an acrostic made popular by Rick Warren called S.H.A.P.E. According to Warren, *“Your ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when you are using your gifts and abilities in the area of your heart’s desire in a way that best expresses your personality and experience.”* In short, S.H.A.P.E. is an assessment designed to help you discover your best-fit in a church. The “S” stands for “Spiritual Gifts” which are your supernaturally gifts. The “H” stands for “Heart” and refers to your passions and interests. “A” stand for “Abilities” which are your skills, talents, and natural abilities. The “P” is for “Personality” and the “E” is for your life experiences. When you consider all of these factors, you will have a better idea of how to serve God through Cross Church. The following is an explanation and application of these five ideas.

Spiritual Gifts

A spiritual gift is a special ability given by the Holy Spirit to serve others and strengthen the body of Christ. While the Bible lists many spiritual gifts, these lists are not comprehensive. However, all of these gifts can be placed into two categories—speaking and serving (or helping). The Bible puts it this way:

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to **serve** one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then **speak** as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of **helping** others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. **1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)**”*

If you are not aware of your spiritual gifts, you can take an assessment here:

http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_MYCS_030526_Spiritual_Gifts_Survey.pdf

Heart

“Heart” refers to your passions and interests. The bible says, “*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart*” **Psalm 37:4**. To ascertain your “heart” ask yourself the following questions:

- What drives you?
- If you had a day to do anything you desired, what would you do?
- What would you do for God if you knew you could not fail?
- What pushes you to action?
- What do I love to spend time doing?
- Who are the people you most want to help?
- Who do you feel you can influence the most?
- To what age group do you feel drawn?
- What are the needs I feel most drawn to?
- What are the top two needs I love to meet for people?
- What causes am I most passionate about?
- Where could I make the greatest impact for God?

In order to help you identify your Heart, answer the following questions?

Check the following groups you would like to serve:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled | <input type="checkbox"/> Men | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitalized | <input type="checkbox"/> Infants | <input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers/Preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Moms | <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young married | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Check the issues or causes you feel most strongly about:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abuse/Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> Grief Recovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Law/Justice system |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol/Drug abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Finances | <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage/Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At risk children | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Care/Adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Fitness | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce | <input type="checkbox"/> Homelessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Policy/Politics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Illness Support (cancer etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty/Hunger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Injustice issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution/Trafficking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism | | <input type="checkbox"/> Relief efforts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics | | |

- Other

Abilities

“Abilities” refers to your God-given abilities, natural talents, learned skills or professional qualifications. To determine your abilities, check the following items that you are able to do with competence and confidence.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/budgeting | <input type="checkbox"/> Building maintenance/repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job training/placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Language translation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/gardening | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business leadership/entrepreneurship | <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop publishing/newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal/law enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing/quilting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare/children's activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving - vans, buses or trucks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Management / human resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Social work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching /sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical / dental | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching/training/mentoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical/mechanical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers/technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Team leadership/group facilitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/woodworking | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition/public health | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consulting | <input type="checkbox"/> English as a Second Language instruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Events planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking/meal planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle maintenance / repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phones/reception/office work | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster/adoptive parenting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography/videography | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising/resourcing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CPR/lifeguarding | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming/hosting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project management/administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics/creative design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis intervention/paramedic | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/editing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations/marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy machinery or equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Janitorial/cleaning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data input/database management | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Real estate/surveying | <hr/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decorating/interior design/beautification | |

Just because you *can* do something well doesn't mean you *want* to do it. So, go back over the abilities you checked and circle the activities that you genuinely enjoy doing, or find particularly meaningful. These are your "Motivated Abilities."

Personality

Since each person is wired with a unique disposition that affects both what you do and how you do it, identifying your personality is an important aspect of your area of church service. Personalities are not right or wrong, better or worse. Instead, they are all part of God's design for variety and balance. The Bible describes our uniqueness this way: *"Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body"*

1 Corinthians 12:14-20 NIV.

Experience

The last letter in our acronym is "E" for "Experience." In short, your experiences can have a profound influence on your areas of service in the church. The bible puts it this way, *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."* 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Take a moment to think about your life experiences and how you have been comforted by God through many of them.

In short, we bring to church a plethora of gifts, talents, experience, and pain. If you are still wondering how to use your life to advance the kingdom of God, then consider the opportunities available at Cross Church. If you do not see anything that strikes your passions, then consider starting a ministry at Cross Church that lights your fire and fuels your spirit.