

LEANING INTO YOUR STRENGTHS

Working Smart – Part 3

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed. But skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10

SKILL/HABIT #3: Lean into your **STRENGTHS**.

*“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you.”
Jeremiah 1:5a*

*“13 You Lord made my whole being; you formed me in my mother's body. 14 I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way... 15 You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. 16 All the days planned for me were written in your Book before I was one day old!”
Psalm 139:13-16*

KEY TRUTH #1: God was **INTIMATELY INVOLVED** in your birth.

TWO BIG QUESTIONS:

- **What makes you, YOU?**
- **What is your next STEP once you discover it?**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

“Each one has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.” 1 Corinthians 7:7b

HEART

“Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” Proverbs 4:23

ABILITIES

“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well...” Romans 12:6a

PERSONALITY

“God works through different people in different ways...” 1 Corinthians 12:6

EXPERIENCES

“Remember what you have learned about the Lord through your experiences with him.” Deuteronomy 11:2

“All that happens to us is working for our good if we love God...” Romans 8:28

HOW DO I LEAN INTO MY STRENGTHS THROUGH MY GOD-GIVEN SHAPE?

1. DISCOVER it

- **EXAMINE** your past

“You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted?” Galatians 3:4

“Everyone should examine his own conduct; then he will be able to take the measure of his own worth; with no need to compare himself to others.” Galatians 6:4

“Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities...” Romans 12:3b

- **EXPERIMENT** with different tasks

2. ACCEPT it!

KEY TRUTH #2: There are two barriers that keep you from fulfilling your unique SHAPE: **COMPARING** and **CONFORMING**.

Two Myths: I must be **LIKE** you, or I must be **LIKED** by you.

“20 What right do you have as a human being to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: Why did you make me this shape? 21 A potter can do whatever he likes with the clay!” Romans 9:20-21

“Each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him.” 1 Corinthians 7:17a

3. ENJOY it!

“19 To enjoy your work and to accept your lot in life — this is a gift from God. 20 People who do this rarely look with sorrow on the past, for God has given them reasons for joy.” Ecclesiastes 5:19-20

“It is God who is at work within you — energizing and creating in you the power and desire to will and to work for his good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.” Philippians 2:13

When you live in your shape and lean into your strengths three things happen:

#1: You will feel **ENERGIZED**.

#2: You will have more **CONFIDENCE**.

#3: You will have **SIGNIFICANCE** and **SATISFACTION** in life.

4. DEVELOP and USE it!

“Keep using the gift God gave you...let it grow, as a small flame grows into a fire.” 2 Timothy 1:6

“God has given each of you special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's...blessings.” 1 Peter 4:10

KEY TRUTH #3: There is one thing that keeps you from living out your SHAPE: **FEAR**

“I was afraid, so I hid the talent you gave me in the ground.” Matthew 25:25

IMPORTANT QUESTION: Why must I lean into my strengths and live out my Shape? Because I'm ACCOUNTABLE to God.

“From where he sits God overlooks all of us on earth. He has shaped each person and now he watches everything we do.” Psalm 33:14-15

“Offer every part of your body to God to be used in doing good.” Romans 6:13b