

Spiritual Gifts, Temperament and Calling

For tonight's dialogue, let's consider 5 significant factors that can influence who we are. We'll use the acronym **S.H.A.P.E.** to help us discover these important factors and talk about how each one can help determine our calling.*

Spiritual Gifts**:

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. **Romans 12:6-8**

1. Spiritual gifts are divine enablings given by God to accomplish the spiritual ends He desires. Referring to the scripture above and the list of possible gifts on the backside of this sheet, with what has God gifted you? Share how you've come to discover your gifts.
2. Share how you feel your gifts might help define your calling.

Heart:

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

The important thing is that we grow in our capacity to be true to who we are by acknowledging the deepest desires of our hearts. Our longings are a key indicator of who we are and what we are called to be and do...One way to identify our desires is to appreciate what it is that gives us the greatest joy...Do not try to *imagine* what might bring you joy; seek what fundamentally *does* bring you joy. **–Gordon Smith**

3. Reflect for a moment on what fundamentally *does* bring you joy, sincerely trying to avoid *imagining* what might bring you joy. Briefly share your thoughts from this reflection. From the very root of your heart's desires what do you long for (to have, to do, to be) more than anything? How might love, above all, help define your calling?

Abilities:

and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. **1 Corinthians 12:6 (CEV)**

4. Ability can be defined as natural aptitude or acquired proficiency, competence in doing, skill. How do our abilities differ from the "spiritual gifts" we receive from God? Why is the distinction important?

Personality:

For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him?
1 Corinthians 2:11a

Merriam-Webster Definitions:

Temperament: constitution of a substance, body, or organism with respect to the mixture or balance of its elements, qualities, or parts. a: makeup b: complexion
Disposition: a: prevailing tendency, mood, or inclination. b: temperamental makeup. c: the tendency of something to act in a certain manner under given circumstances.

5. How might your temperament and disposition affect fulfillment of your calling?

Experiences:

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who 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

The place God calls you is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet. **–Frederick Buechner**

6. In your experience as an artist, have you come to this crossroads that Buechner is talking about? How does this help shape an understanding of your calling?

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. **Romans 12:3**

7. How do you assess yourself "with sober judgement" and sincere honesty? How can existing in a Christian community help us with this issue?

The Haven mission statement is:
To empower artists to influence the culture for Christ.

Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.

* information derived from a packet provided by NYC's Trinity Baptist Church.

** see attached sheet for a list of spiritual gifts and a list of some categories of abilities.