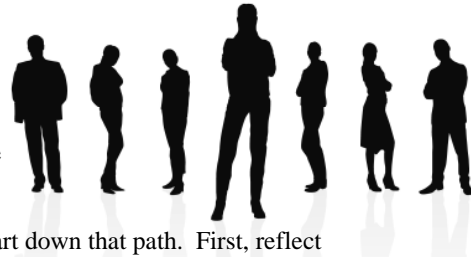


## Finding Your Fit in Ministry

Scripture makes it clear that every Christian is part of the Body of Christ, the Church, and that every Christian has been called and gifted to serve the Church and the world in a special and unique way. How do you explore and discover what God has for you to do?



Good question! There are a few things you can do to start down that path. First, reflect on the SHAPE acronym:

**S** stands for Spiritual Gifts. When you became a Christian the Holy Spirit infused you with power and gave you certain gifts to use for God's glory. These abilities are empowered by the Spirit and influence people for eternity.

You can go online to take several different spiritual gift inventories, such as:  
<http://www.buildingchurch.net/g2s.htm>  
<http://www.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

**H** stands for Heart. What pulls at your heart when you look around your world? God has given each of us different passions and issues that draw our attention. You might get motivated by the plight of the poor in Denver or the lack of hope for those with AIDS in Africa. You might find a strong desire to serve with the worship team on Sunday mornings or to invest in the children of the church. What does your heart tell you?

**A** stands for abilities. What are the skills that you find easy and life-giving? Do you find it easy to organize and administrate large projects? Maybe you are able to facilitate a planning meeting well or sit and talk with people in a way that helps them see with more clarity and hope. Perhaps you can play an instrument or program a computer. Those skills are all part of God's plan for your life.

**P** stands for personality. How would you describe your personality? God wired you up in a certain way for a purpose. Of course, we all have tendencies in our personalities that can do more damage than good, but what are the good things in your make-up. Are you patient, gentle, focused, passionate, a people-person and/or a deep thinker?

**E** stands for experience. God has taken you through life experiences to teach you and prepare you to help others through similar circumstances. The difficulties you have had are not random or accidental. God can take them and use them to serve His Kingdom. What have you experienced that could help others and build a stronger church?