

# How to Discover My Ministry

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 301*)

"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service"  
(Romans 12:1).

## 1. DEDICATE MYSELF TOTALLY TO THE LORD

*"I urge you ... to offer yourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship" (Romans 12:1).*

## 2. IGNORE THE WORLD'S IDEA OF "ME FIRST"

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).*

## 3. EVALUATE MY GIFTS AND ABILITIES

*"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you" (Romans 12:3).*



**Humility is not denying your strengths, but being honest about your weaknesses.**

## 4. COOPERATE WITH MY LOCAL CHURCH

*"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one Body, and each member belongs to all the others" (Romans 12:4-5).*

## 5. BEGIN USING MY MINISTRY

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us ... prophecy ... serving ... teaching ... encouraging ... contributing ... leadership ... showing mercy ..." (Romans 12:6-8).*

## PAUL'S SPIRITUAL ANATOMY LESSON

**(1 Corinthians 12:1-31)**

1. Each member of the Body of Christ has a ministry.
2. Each member has a unique function in the Body.
3. Each member's ministry is important to the Body.
4. Each member cooperates with all the other members.

*"Each of us is a part of the one Body of Christ ... The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' And some of the parts that seem*

*weakest and least important are really the most necessary! ... So God put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important” (1 Corinthians 12:13, 21-22, 24).*

### **Identifying My Unique S.H.A.P.E.**

*“Your hands **formed** and **shaped me** ...” (Job 10:8).*

God has been molding and shaping you for ministry all of your life. In fact, God started even before you were born.

*“Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your **workmanship** is marvelous ... You were there while I was being **formed** ... You saw me **before I was born** and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe” (Psalm 139:14-16).*

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

- In architecture, FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION; once we know what a building should do, then we can design it accordingly.
- But in ministry, FUNCTION FOLLOWS FORM; once we know how we are designed, then we will know what we should do.

### **MY MINISTRY IS DETERMINED BY SEVERAL FACTORS:**

S	SPIRITUAL GIFTS
H	HEART
A	ABILITIES
P	PERSONALITY
E	EXPERIENCES

*“There are **different kinds of spiritual gifts** but the same Spirit gives them. There are **different ways of serving**, but the same Lord is served. There are **different abilities** to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for their service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each one, for the good of all” (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).*



**God doesn’t intend for ministry to be difficult. He wants your ministry to be a blessing to you and a benefit to the church, not a burden.**

### **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

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

- What am I **GIFTED** to do?
- **UNWRAPPING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS** is a test that will give you a simple overview of spiritual gifts and help you identify which ones you have been given by God.

### **HEART**

*“God has put it into their hearts to accomplish his purpose” (Rev. 17:17).*

*“For it is God who works in you, inspiring both the will and the deed, for his own chosen purpose” (Philippians 2:13).*

- What do I **LOVE** to do?
- **MONITORING MY HEARTBEAT** is a test that will help you to clarify what you really love to do.

### **ABILITIES**

*“There are different abilities to perform service” (1 Corinthians 12:6).*

*“I ... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts ...” (Exodus 31:3).*

*“... our competence comes from God” (2 Corinthians 3:5).*

- What natural talents and **SKILLS** do I have?
- **APPLYING MY ABILITIES** is a test that will help you fully appreciate the natural talents and vocational skills you have and how they can be used in ministry.

### **PERSONALITY**

*“No one can really know what anyone else is thinking or what he is really like, except that person himself” (1 Corinthians 2:11).*

- Where does my **PERSONALITY** best suit me to serve?
- **PLUGGING IN MY PERSONALITY** is a test that will help you see how your God-given temperament can best be used in ministry.

### **EXPERIENCES**

- **WHAT SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*“There has been enough time for you to be teachers – but you still need to be taught ... (you are) without any experience in the matter of right and wrong” (Hebrews 5:12-13).*

- **WHAT PAINFUL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways” (Proverbs 20:30).*

*“God helps us in our troubles, so we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:4).*

- **WHAT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life – guard it well” (Proverbs 4:13).*

- **WHAT MINISTRY EXPERIENCES HAVE I HAD?**

*“Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel ...” (2 Corinthians 9:13).*

- Where do my **EXPERIENCES** best qualify me to serve?

- **EXAMINING MY EXPERIENCES** is a test that will help you review your personal history to discover how God has prepared you for a ministry that is unique.



**My ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when I am using my GIFTS and ABILITIES in the area my HEART desires, in a way that best suits my PERSONALITY and EXPERIENCES. In other words, real success and fulfillment is only found in doing what God made me to do.**

**EXAMPLE: How Paul’s Ministry Was Shaped**

- **PAUL’S SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

*“And of this gospel I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher” (2 Timothy 1:11).*

- **PAUL’S HEART**

*“My constant ambition has been to preach the gospel where the name of Christ was previously unknown, and to avoid building on another man’s foundation” (Romans 15:20).*

*“For God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles” (Galatians 2:8).*

*“Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus ...” (Acts 20:24).*

- **PAUL’S ABILITY**

*“Paul went to see them, and stayed and worked with them, because he earned his living by making tents, just as they did. He debated in the synagogues every Sabbath, trying to convince both Jews and Gentiles” (Acts 18:2-4).*

- **PAUL’S PERSONALITY**

*“For you have heard of my past ... I persecuted the church with fanatical zeal ... and did my best to destroy it ... I was ahead of most of my contemporaries in the Jewish religion, and had a boundless enthusiasm ...” (Galatians 1:13-14).*

- **PAUL’S EXPERIENCES**

▪ **HIS SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES**

- ✓ Watching Stephen being stoned (Acts 8:1)
- ✓ Conversion on Damascus Road (Acts 9:1-20)
- ✓ Three years maturing in Arabia (Galatians 1:18)
- ✓ Special vision from God (2 Corinthians 12:2-7)

▪ **HIS PAINFUL EXPERIENCES**

*"... I have been in prison more times ... near death often ... been whipped five times with thirty-nine lashes by the Jews and three times by the Romans ... once stoned ... I've been in three shipwrecks ... and once spent twenty-four hours in the water ... In my travels I've been in danger from floods ... robbers ... enemies ... wild animals and false friends ... I've served long hours without sleep or food or shelter or even clothing ..." (2 Cor. 11:23-27).*

*"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these great revelations, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan, to torment me." (2 Corinthians 12:7).*

**God never wastes a hurt.**

▪ **HIS EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

*"(Paul said) I received my training at the feet of Gamaliel, and I was schooled in the strictest observance of our fathers' Law" (Acts 22:3).*

▪ **HIS MINISTRY EXPERIENCES**

- ✓ Read the story of Paul's life in the book of Acts.

### Study Questions

1. Humility is not denying your \_\_\_\_\_, but being honest about your \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Using Romans 12:1-8, list five (5) ways to discover your ministry.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Using 1Corinthians 12:1-31, list four (4) things to remember about Paul's spiritual anatomy lesson.
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) \_\_\_\_\_
4. List and briefly explain (with Scripture reference) the five (5) factors that determine your

ministry.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 4) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. My ministry will be most effective and fulfilling when I am using my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the area my \_\_\_\_\_ desires, in a way that best suits my \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Using Scripture to support, outline the way Paul’s ministry was shaped.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
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- 6) \_\_\_\_\_  
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