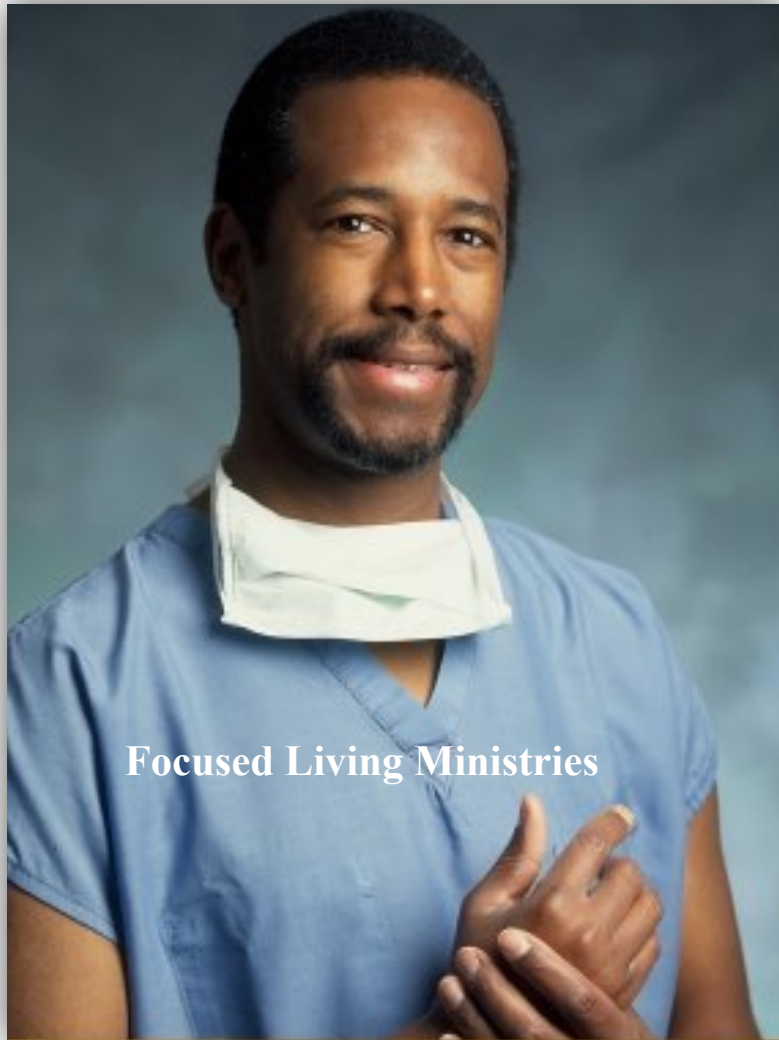


BUILT 2 BLESS #6



The autobiography “*Gifted Hands*” by Ben Carson, is the inspiring story of an unmotivated inner city kid from the ghetto with poor grades who became the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital at age 33 and is currently the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. While at JHH, Dr. Carson performed thousands of delicate, highly technical brain surgeries on children from around the world

including the first successful separation of Siamese twins joined at the head. This compassionate, Christ-follower who lives to help others says it started when *“I became acutely aware of an unusual ability, a divine gift of extraordinary eye and hand coordination and to think spatially in three dimensions has been invaluable assets in surgery. It’s my belief that God gives us all gifts that we have the privilege of developing to help us serve Him and humanity. I’m a good neurosurgeon. That’s not a boast but a way of acknowledging the innate ability God has given to me.”*

What gifts or abilities have you been given by God and how are you using them to serve Him by helping others? How has God BUILT you to be a BLESSING to others?

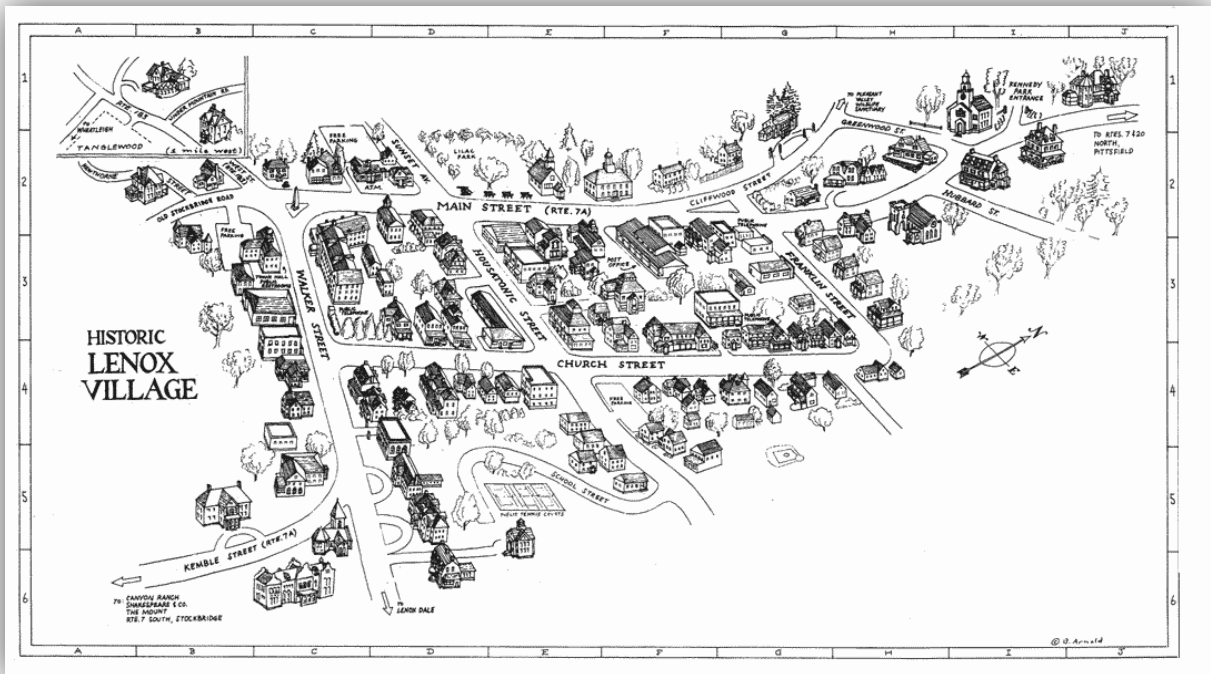
Remember, Paul is writing to the new followers of Christ at the church in Colossae during his first Roman imprisonment. Though Paul had never met them (2:1), he had heard about them (1:4,9) through Epaphras (1:7) whom he lead to Christ (Phil 19) and who started this church. Paul's heart was burdened to help build and grow their faith (Col 1:28-29; 2:6-7) so that they would not cave to their culture filled with disastrous man-made philosophies (2:4,8) and destructive lies (2:18-23). He also wanted to do his part (1:24) in helping them work through some internal strife in the church (3:5-9) in order to encourage them to stay on mission to maximize and leverage their lives for Jesus and His glory (3:1-4, 17, 23; 4:2-6).

COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:7

(1:27-29; 2:1-2) What was the burden (God-given passion) of Paul's heart? What burden/passion as God put on your heart?

(1:24-25; 4:7-18) What God-given gifts/abilities did Paul use to build and bless others? How did he maximize and leverage his situation for others?

(1:24; II Cor 11:23-30; II Tim 4:5-8) What did it cost Paul to spend his life building and blessing others? Would he say it was worth it? Why?



During WWII a platoon was ordered to take an enemy infested town in France. The CO ordered each **soldier** to memorize every road, alley, barn and field on a map given to them of the city. They devoured it mastering every detail before battle. 40 years later a group of **tourists** visited that town and each was given the same map. A few glanced at it, several pocketed it, most tossed it in the trash. Why? Did Paul see himself as a **soldier** or **tourist**? What about you? How would viewing life as a **soldier** rather than a **tourist** impact or direct your life mission and usage of your God-given abilities?

SENT What do the following passages teach about Paul's mission, motives, priorities and passion that energized him to bless others? How might they ignite you to become other-oriented rather than self focused?

Acts 20:23-24

Romans 1:11-17

1 Corinthians 15:9-11, 58

Galatians 2:20

Philippians 1:20-21

Philippians 3:7-14

1 Timothy 4:10

2 Timothy 1:7-9

What do the following verses reveal about how Jesus saw Himself ?

John 4:34 7:16
5:30 7:29
6:29 8:29
6:38 17:25

What do the following verses teach about how we should see ourselves?

John 20:21
Matt 28:18-20
Acts 13:1-4
I Thess 3:1-2
Romans 10:13-15

S.H.A.P.E.

(**S**piritual gifts. **H**eart. **A**bilities.

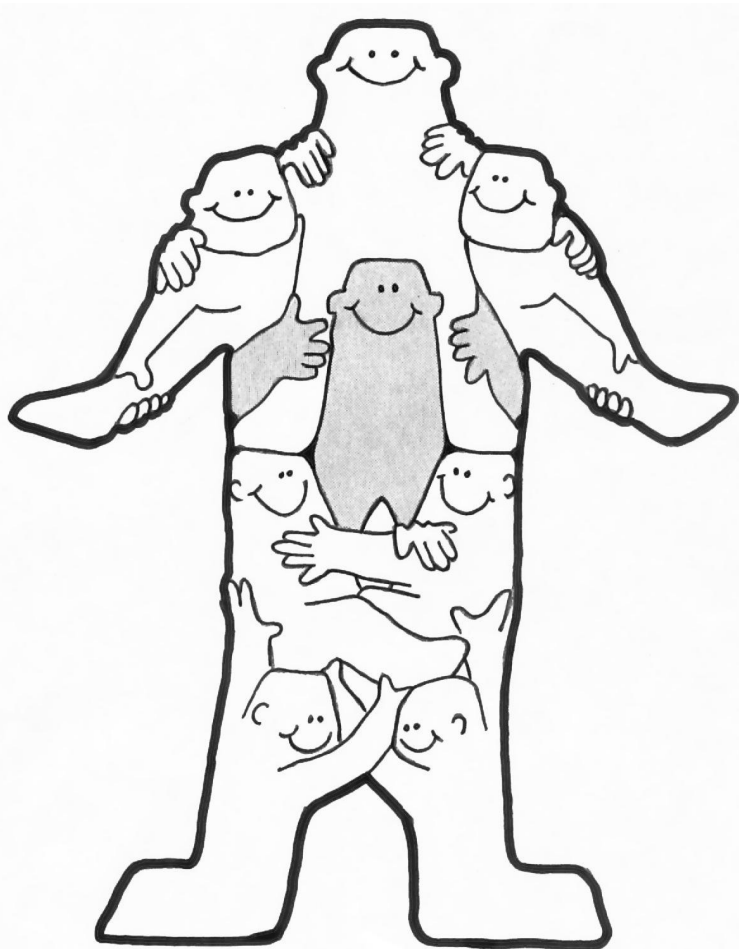
Personality. **E**xperience. Adapted from *Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren).

Paul blessed countless others because he was spiritually in **S.H.A.P.E.** The Lord can use this powerful tool to reveal what

the Lord has **BUILT** into your life so that you can **BLESS** others starting at home.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A spiritual gift is “a special attribute (ability) given by the Holy Spirit to every member of the Body of Christ according to God’s grace to help grow His church” so that together we might



play “a vital role in His plan for the redemption of the world” (Peter Wagner, Gene Wilkes). Our Father longs that we **ble**ss others so He **bu**ilds His men by giving each member of His “Body”(Church) at least one Spirit-empowered ability or function (1 Cor 12:4-11, 28-30; Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:11; 1 Pet 4:11). The Spirit determines who

receives which gifts (1 Cor 12:11) and each is equally valuable so there should never be comparison or envy (1 Cor 12:18-29). We are commanded to develop and selflessly use our gifts to help one another grow in Christ in order to lovingly draw others to Him as Lord and Savior (Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:12). These “gifts” are not to be neglected in the closet and but opened and used that we might mature spiritually (1 Pet 4:10; Eph 4:13).

ASSIGNMENT: Invest 20 minutes to take one or two of the spiritual gift inventories listed below which will help you indentify the spiritual gift(s) that God has built into you in order bless others. If you have already done this, help another man in the Forum by sharing your gift(s) and how you are blessing others with them. Pray, go on line and follow the directions. Please use your spiritual gift(s) as the church

worldwide cannot function properly without you (I Tim 4:14)! You'll be **satisfied**, others **edified** and God **glorified**! Be prepared to share your findings with your TAG Team.

https://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcf_mycs_030526_spiritual_gifts_survey.pdf

<http://www.elca.org/en/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>

A summary of some of the spiritual gifts appears below. We acknowledge that there are differing opinions as to their definitions, number, whether these lists are exhaustive, and if all the gifts are applicable today. This brief section is

not meant to address these questions. Gifts are always tested in service to the Lord. So as you have served the Lord over the years, which gifts do you sense rise to the surface?

The gift of

ADMINISTRATION enables the Body by developing a set of tracks (processes/programs/systems) and organizes others to remain on task to accomplish God given long and short term goals. (1 Cor. 12:28)

APOSTLESHIP is the divine ability to start and oversee the development of new churches, ministries or programs and to motivate the members to look beyond its walls in order to carry out the Great Commission (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).

DISCERNMENT distinguishes between truth and error by evaluating

good and evil and recognizing right from wrong in order to understand the real intentions or motives of others for the protection and well-being of the Body. (1 Cor. 12:10)

ENCOURAGEMENT presents truth in such a way as to strengthen, refresh, comfort, or inspire to action those who are distressed or wavering in their faith and help motivate others who may be apathetic to become involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. (Rom. 12:8).

EXHORTATION proclaims God's truth through counsel, preaching or teaching in a challenging way in order to motivate and move God's people to effective and faithful service to others.

EVANGELISM effectively and enthusiastically communicates the Gospel to unbelievers so they respond

in faith by receiving Christ and move toward discipleship. (Eph 4:11).

FAITH acts on God's promises and encourages others to trust God in spite of apparently insurmountable odds with confidence and unwavering belief in His ability to work beyond our understanding in order to fulfill his purposes. (1 Cor 12:9)

GIVING joyfully, generously and liberally present their talents, time and treasures to the work and mission of the Body. (Rom 12:8)

HELPS/SERVICE recognizes practical needs especially in the Body but also in our culture and joyfully assists to graciously meet those needs. (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

HOSPITALITY often use their home and/or resources to make family,

friends, visitors, guests and strangers feel welcome and at ease in order to integrate or assimilate them relationally into the Body. (1 Pet. 4:9)

KNOWLEDGE manifests itself in teaching/training in discipleship and is the God-given ability to learn, know, and then explain the precious truths of God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:28).

LEADERSHIP aids the body by casting vision, motivating and directing members to work together harmoniously to accomplish the goals and purposes of God for His church. (Rom. 12:8).

MERCY practically aids by first empathizing with hurting people followed by cheerful acts of compassion to those who are suffering in order to

bring health and point them to Christ.
(Rom. 12:8)

MIRACLES authenticate the ministry and message of God through supernatural interventions which glorify Christ.

TEACHING explains the truths, principles and doctrines of the Bible with conviction and clarity while instructing the members of the Body to know and apply God's Word themselves causing greater Christlikeness in the lives of the listeners. (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

SHEPHERDING/ PASTORING look out for the spiritual welfare of the Body by nurturing, caring for, overseeing and guiding them toward on-going spiritual maturity so that they may become more like Christ.

WISDOM discerns the work of the Holy Spirit in the Body and applies His teachings from the Bible to various situations and needs with effective results. (1 Cor. 12:28)

From my viewpoint my spiritual gift mix is...

Main or dominant gift

Secondary gift(s)

Spiritual gifts are also confirmed by others who have seen you in action as you have served the Lord. Ask 2 people who know you well to share what spiritual gift(s) you have demonstrated as they have seen you serve.

Person #1 _____

Person #2 _____

To discover, develop and use your spiritual gift, first prayerfully determine a real need in the lives of people around you. Once you see and begin to understand the primary needs of the Body, ask the Lord to give you an opportunity to step forward in faith to help meet these needs. Then ask, “What do I enjoy doing?” recognizing that the Lord will both equip and motivate you to serve out of delight rather than duty. Next, seek counsel from mature, godly leaders and mentors who will help to confirm or deny whether or not you have particular gifts in certain areas. Lastly, serve (1 Peter 4:10-11)! The Lord will direct as you serve.

HEART

Not only has God given you spiritual gifts but He has also wired you with certain **passions**, **burdens**, **convictions**, **desires** and **dreams** which motivate and

direct everything you do. Philippians 2:13 says, "*For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*" So reflect prayerfully over the passions God has put in your heart as you fully answer the following overlapping questions.

- I feel God's pleasure most when I.....
- Since my youth I sense the main passion(s) of my heart is...
- What work are you doing when you totally lose track of time never seeing it as a burden?
- I am most motivated when I am.....
- I am often excessively burdened when I.....
- What 'type' of person(s) is your heart consistently delighted to go after and eager to serve?

ABILITIES (God-given)

Your family and the people with whom you work closely will honestly confirm what you are especially good at and not so good at as they can see the evidence. Natural abilities come easily, develop naturally or are learned quickly. Below is just an incomplete starter list. Be sure to look for any correlation between your spiritual gifts and your God-given natural abilities. [Artistic, Classifying, Composing, Counseling, Decorating, Editing, Entertaining, Entrepreneur, Evaluating, Facilitating, Feeding, Graphics, Interviewing, Leading, Managing, Mechanical, Musical, Numbers, Organizing, Persuading, Physical Fitness, Planning, Promoting, Public Relations, Recruiting, Relationships, Remembering, Repairing, Researching, Speaking, Teaching, Welcoming, Work w/ hands, Work w/ computers, Writing, Other.

I believe my God-given natural abilities are....

And I am excited about using them to **build** the body of Christ and to **reach** those who are without Christ.

PERSONALITY

Different personalities often explain why two men can have identical abilities and similar spiritual gifts yet manifest them so differently. God uses a man's personality like a rudder on a great ship to steer and help determine a man's service for His glory. Prayerfully put an X where you think you land on these scales.

Specialist-----Generalist

Introvert-----Extrovert

Concrete-----Abstract

Scheduled-----Spontaneous
Analytical-----Creative
Systematic-----Casual
Influencer-----One influenced
Steady-----Roller Coaster
Routine-----Variety
Individual-----Team player
Thinker-----Feeler
Competitive-----Cooperative
Work with data-----Work with people
Organized-----Loose ends

As you reflect over your answers what insights do you gain from how God has ‘wired’ you? When did you last thank God that you are “*fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Ps 139:13-14) and that you are “*God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do*” (Eph 2:10)? What 3 words does your wife and/or a friend say characterize

your personality? How practically have you seen how the Lord has used your personality type to bless others?

EXPERIENCE

God wastes nothing. He uses our strengths, weaknesses, successes and failures to make us more like Jesus. And during the course of your life God has ordained certain experiences (pos/neg) through which He has grown, chiseled, carved, molded and matured (sanctified) you.

- What major life lessons has God taught you during times of success which others need to hear?
- What major life lessons has God taught you during times of failure?

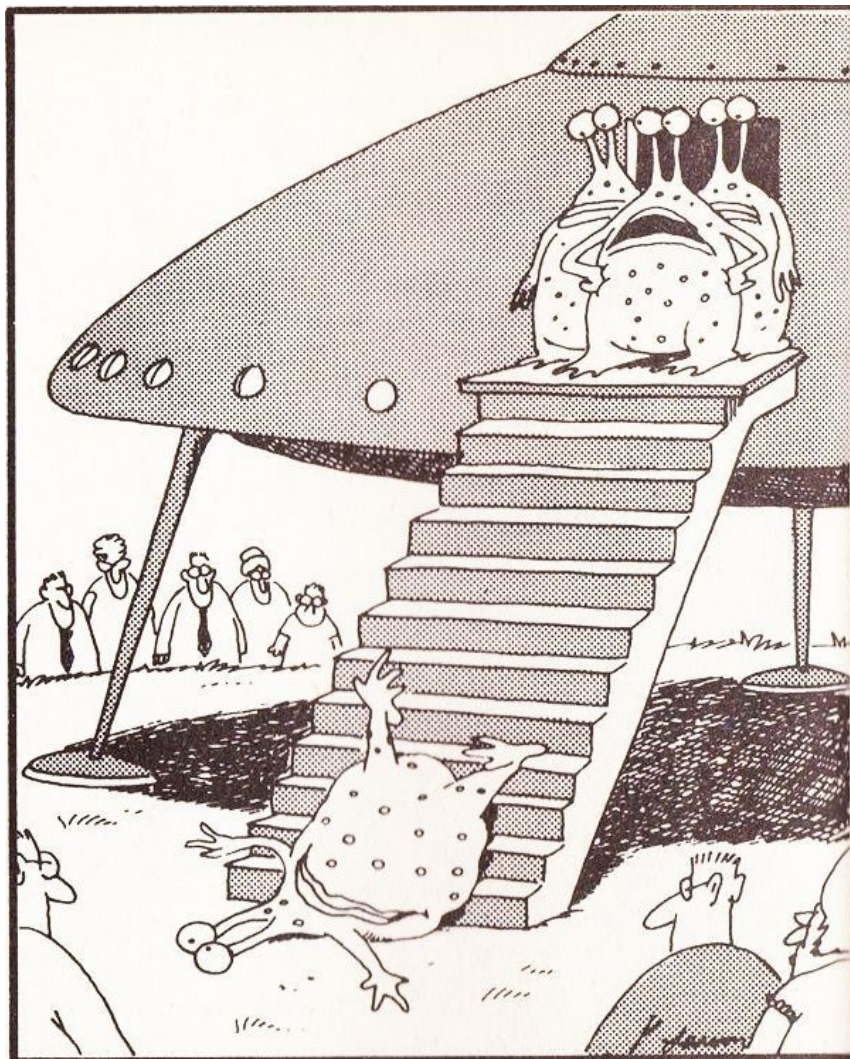
- What key life lessons/principles did God most teach in your younger years which are with you to this day?
- What primary vital lessons have you learned from others which have shaped your life up to this point?
- How can you use your experience to build and bless others?



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER Now

that you better understand your S.H.A.P.E., what area of service for the Lord and others best fit in this season of life? This does not have to be a formal ministry position in your church or something that has been "done before." It is your sweet spot! No, we're not talking about Dairy Queen or your tennis racquet. We're talking about living and serving in the zone for which you were created by God.

What has God uniquely called and designed you to do in this season of life that you do well?



"Wonderful! Just wonderful!... So much for instilling them with a sense of awe."

*“Whoever wishes to become **GREAT** among you shall be your **SERVANT**; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to **SERVE**, and to **GIVE** his life a ransom for many.”*

Mark 10:44-45