

February 4, 2018

## **“Deeper – A Journey to Spiritual Maturity”**

*“Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation-” 1 Peter 2:2*

### **“Give – Finding My Place to Serve”**

*“For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10*

## **A. What is the path to spiritual maturity?**

1. Spiritual maturity is developed by obediently following God’s Word.
2. Spiritual maturity is developed by being in relationships with fellow believers.
3. Spiritual maturity is developed by putting into practice the Word of God on a regular basis.
4. Spiritual maturity is developed as we give in service to one another!

*“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10*

## **B. Finding my SHAPE...**

*“God has given every creature He made a special area of expertise to fulfill its purpose. This is true for every one of us. You were uniquely designed, wired, and “shaped” by God to do certain things. You are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece. God never wastes anything. He would not give you abilities, interests, talents, gifts, personality, and life experiences unless He intended to use them for His glory.” –Rick Warren*

*“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” 1 Peter 4:10*

1. S – Spiritual Gifts: What am I gifted to do?
2. H – Heart: What do I love to do?
3. A – Ability: What was I designed to do?
4. P – Personality: What fits me in who I am?
5. E – Experiences: What have my experiences equipped me to do? (Vocational, Educational, Relational, Spiritual, Painful)

*“Have you experienced so much for nothing? Surely it was not in vain, was it?” Galatians 3:4*

## **C. Jesus gave us the model for serving...**

*“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from His love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.*

*Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honor and gave Him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ’s return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.” Philippians 2:1-18*

I want to have the same attitude as Jesus:

1. Jesus humbled Himself: So, no job is beneath me!
2. Jesus obediently served: So, wherever and whatever you are asking, Lord, I will go and do!
3. Jesus gave His life in serving: So, I am willing to serve whatever it costs me!
4. Jesus waited for God to lift Him up: So, I will serve whether any person notices or not.

Here’s my prayer:

*Lord, I find encouragement, comfort, and fellowship when I am a part of a body of believers. When my heart is tender and compassionate, I find joy in agreeing together, in loving together, and in working together.*

*Because You saved me, Jesus, I long to serve. You have given me that desire and will give me the power to please You. I will do my part to not complain or argue (although that’s hard for me), because I don’t want people to criticize You. I want my light to shine brightly as I look forward to Your Return!*

*Nothing I do is useless or in vain if I do it just for You. It is a joy for me to serve – I want others to see my joy – to share my joy – and to find that same joy in serving!*

*Thank you, Jesus, for showing me how!*

*Amen*

## **D. How do I find my place?**

*“You formed me with your hands; you made me,” Job 10:8a*

Statements of affirmation:

1. God has shaped me uniquely for a purpose He designed for me!
2. God has placed me in the body of Christ to share my purpose!
3. God has called me to be available for this purpose!
4. God will give me both the energy and the joy when I am fulfilling that purpose!

## **E. Where do I fit in?**

*“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.” Romans 12:6*

*I am glad you asked...it just so happens that directly behind you are some options for you to discover how you can fulfill that purpose!*

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