

Interpretation The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by understanding, at a specific time, God's message when spoken by another using a special language unknown to the others in attendance.

Knowledge The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating God's truth to others that He has revealed to them for their help and edification.

Leadership The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by casting vision, stimulating spiritual growth, applying strategies and achieving success where God's purposes are concerned.

Mercy The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually or relationally. Their actions are characterized by love, care, compassion and kindness toward others.

Miracles The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ through supernatural acts that bring validity to God and His power.

Pastoring The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by taking spiritual responsibility for a group of believers and equipping them to live Christ-centered lives. "Shepherding" is another word used for this particular gift.

Prophecy The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by offering messages from God that comfort, encourage, guide, warn or reveal sin in a way that leads to repentance and spiritual growth. The original Greek meaning of this word is "to speak forth the truth."

Teaching The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by teaching sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education.

Tongues The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by communicating God's message in a special language unknown to the speaker.

Wisdom The God-given special ability to serve and strengthen the body of Christ by making wise decisions and counseling others with sound advice, all in accordance with God's will.

Sharing Our Shared Riches

Jan 31/Feb 1, 2009

We are now His magnificent masterpiece created on purpose for a purpose that God wants us to discover and do.

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

We have in us all the rich, unlimited resources we need to accomplish infinitely more than we can ask or think. That's how truly rich we are in Christ through the Holy Spirit living in us.

Ephesians 3:20 - *Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope.*

Therefore, we have all we need to live a life worthy of our magnificent calling in Christ! *Ephesians 4:1-6*

Living worthy boils down to:

1. Christ-like character – *humble, gentle, patient, loving*

2. Deep commitment to loving, unified relationships where we focus on all we have in common in Christ.

One Body One Lord, Same Spirit One Faith, Same Glorious Future, One Baptism, One God and Father

Paul expands on living worthy of our calling later in this chapter. *Ephesians 4:17-32*

Here is a summary checklist of Paul's "Top Ten" characteristics of worthy living for Christ:

- 1. Live no longer like unbelievers (Gentiles)**
- 2. Throw off your old evil nature**
- 3. Put on your new nature and let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes**
- 4. Stop telling lies and be truthful**
- 5. Don't let anger control you and give the devil a foothold**
- 6. Quit stealing and use your hands for good hard work, then you will have something to give**

**Want to know more? SHAPE Class starts Sunday, Feb. 8!
5:30pm in the Worship Center; 3 weeks**