

“S.H.A.P.E. : Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life”

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Book Notes by Dave Kraft

You can be one of the 87 percent of the workforce that doesn't like their work — one of the 80 percent of the people that says “I don't use my talents on a daily basis.” You can be a statistic.

Max Lucado ends his comments with these powerful words: “Can you be anything you want to be? I don't think so. But can you be everything God wants you to be? I do think so

I have discovered that most people, myself included, tend to define their purpose in life by one of three things ... trends, what others tell them, or by truth.

You were not created to conform. You were not created to compare. You were not created to compete. You were not created to compromise. You were created to contribute to God's kingdom and make a significant difference with your life. You were created to just be you!

“Talents have to do with techniques and methods; gifts have to do with spiritual abilities. Talents depend on natural power, gifts on spiritual endowment.”

The fruit of the Spirit reveal Christ's contribution to our character, while our spiritual gifts reveal the contribution we make to God's kingdom.

How many gifts you have is not nearly as important as discovering and developing the gifts you do have.

“I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish humble tasks as though they were great and noble. The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.” Helen Keller

Arthur F. Miller Jr. talks about the danger of misusing what God has given us. “The dark side of giftedness means inflating its payoff beyond its intention until it has assumed the place of God.”

Four common traps Satan often uses to trip up believers and make them ineffective.

Trap #1: **Comparison**-Wanting to be like others

Trap #2: **Projection**-Wanting others to be like you

Trap #3: **Rejection**-Not accepting the gifts God has given you

Trap #4: **Deception**-Thinking you have gifts you really don't have

Don't settle for a half-developed gift. Stretch yourself and learn all you can.

Ask yourself:

- What do my dreams and desires drift toward?
- What do I really want to do for God?
- What motivates me to take action?
- What do I crave?

Because there are so many different kinds of needs to be met, you need to narrow your focus.

Spiritual Needs

Physical Needs

Relational Needs

Emotional Needs

Educational Needs

Vocational Needs

- What cause or issue makes my heart race?
- Where could I make the greatest impact for God?
- If time wasn't an issue, to what cause would I donate myself?

“So, if you had permission to do what you really want to do, what would you do? Just start making a list of all the things you deeply desire to do with your life, great and small. And remember — ‘Don’t ask yourself, How?’ How? is never the right question; how? Its a faithless question. How is God’s department. He is asking you what? What is written on your heart? What makes you come alive? If you could do what you’ve always wanted to do, what would it be?” John Eldredge

Sometimes dreams get buried by jobs that are unfulfilling, situations that are unraveling, “to do” lists that are unending, and finances that are overwhelming.

Ask yourself:

- What pursuit would release the passion in my life for God?
- What God-centered dreams can I identify that have been buried by life?
- What would I attempt to do for God with the rest of my life?

“The difference between an ordinary day and an extraordinary day is not so much what you do, but who you do it for.”

It’s much too easy to fall into what’s familiar. All too often, we limit ourselves to a few habits.

Michelangelo said, “The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”

Nothing worth doing is ever easy. Significant achievements always involve a high degree of courage, focus, perseverance, and yes, risk.

God has instilled a unique personality in each one of us for his glory.

God didn’t create other people to please you — and he didn’t create you to please them. He made us to please him.

In fact, sometimes we need to venture out in order to discover our full personality. But if you continually stay outside your own personality style — trying to be someone you’re not — you will be ineffective for God. There are no wrong people in life; only the right people doing the wrong things.

My friend Frank once told me that FINE stands for “Feelings Inside Never Expressed.”

Based on Eric Liddell famous statement: "I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure."

God made me _____ and when I _____ I feel his pleasure

What is it that when you do it, you feel his pleasure?

Some dream statements to get you thinking:

- I dream about educating people on how to live purposeful lives for God.
- I dream about launching and leading a church that reaches out to the emerging generation.
- I dream about harvesting souls for God.
- I dream about teaching Scripture to teenagers.
- I dream about igniting the kingdom passion of every young adult.
- I dream about unleashing the potential for God's work in the people around me.
- I dream about sharing God's love overseas.
- I dream about leveraging resources for kingdom growth.
- I dream about conquering world poverty for God.
- I dream about mentoring children who have been abused
- I dream about managing people and processes for kingdom effectiveness.
- I dream about helping simplify lives with practical tools.
- I dream about restoring hope to hurting people.
- I dream about helping people overcome addictions with the love of Jesus.
- I dream about mentoring young women.
- I dream about meeting physical needs of those in financial difficulty.
- I dream about inspiring men to live godly lives.
- I dream about empowering people to live healthy lifestyles.
- I dream about developing tools that help people grow closer to God.
- I dream about writing stories that inspire teenagers to follow God.
- I dream about helping others grow spiritually.
- I dream of funding kingdom initiatives that help people in poverty.
- I dream of leading and building teams for effective ministry.
- I dream about impacting children through music.
- I dream about creating beauty that draws people to Jesus.
- I dream about strengthening marriages from God's Word.

Statistics show that while millions of people set goals every year, less than 3 percent ever accomplish them,

You can't extend your time, you can't borrow time, you can't make time, and you can't buy time. You can, however, prioritize your time.

a cruiser (someone who is apathetic toward life), a consumer (someone who focuses on getting), or a contributor (someone who lives to give).

I have a little sign on my computer that reads, "God will speak when you stop."

The word Sabbath actually means 'to catch one's breath.'

