# MAXIMIZING YOUR STRENGTHS

8 Skills You Need To Succeed in Life & Work — Part 3 Rick Warren Nov 14-15, 2015

Skill #1 Ignoring the Naysayers Skill #2 Recognizing What Matters Most

"<u>Before I shaped you</u> in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had <u>holy plans</u> for you." Jeremiah 1:5a (Mes)

"You Lord, <u>made</u> my whole being; you <u>formed</u> me in my mother's body. I praise you because you <u>made me</u> in an amazing and wonderful way . . . You <u>saw</u> my bones being formed as I <u>TOOK SHAPE</u> in my mother's body. When I was <u>put</u> <u>together</u> there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days <u>planned</u> for me were written in your Book <u>before I was one day old</u>!"

Psalm 139:13-16 (NCV)

# THE 5 ELEMENTS GOD USES TO "SHAPE" YOUR LIFE

S

"Each one has <u>his own gift from God;</u> one has this gift, another has that." 1 Corinthians 7:7b (NIV)

H

"Guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

Α

"God has given each of us the <u>ability</u> to do certain things well . . ." Romans 12:6a (LB)

Ρ

"God works through different people in different ways . . ." 1 Corinthians 12:6 (Ph)

Ε

"All that happens to us is working for our good if we love God . . ." Romans 8:28 (LB)

#### HOW DO I MAXIMIZE MY GOD-GIVEN SHAPE?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

• BY\_\_\_\_\_

"You have experienced many things. Were all those experiences wasted?" Galatians 3:4 (ICB)

"Everyone should <u>examine his own conduct</u>; then he will be able to take the measure of his own worth; with no need to compare himself to others." Galatians 6:4 (Knox)

"Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities . . ."

Romans 12:3b (Ph)

• BY

2.

"What right do you have as a human being to cross-examine God? The pot has no right to say to the potter: <u>Why did you make me this shape</u>? A potter can do whatever he likes with the clay!"

Romans 9:20-21 (JB)

"Each one should retain the place in life that the Lord <u>assigned</u> to him and to which God has <u>called</u> him." 1 Corinthians 7:17a (NIV)

3.

"To <u>enjoy</u> your work and to accept your lot in life — this <u>is a gift from</u> <u>God</u>. People who do this rarely look with sorrow on the past, for God has given them reasons for joy." Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 (NLT)

"It is God who is at work within you — <u>energizing</u> and creating in you the <u>power and desire</u> to will and to work for his good <u>pleasure and</u> <u>satisfaction and delight.</u>" Philippians 2:13 (Amp)

4.

"<u>Keep using</u> the gift God gave you . . . <u>let it grow</u>, as a small flame grows into a fire." 2 Timothy 1:6 (NCV)

"God has given each of you special abilities; be sure to use them to help <u>each other</u>, passing on to others God's . . . blessings." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

## WHAT HOLDS US BACK?

*"I was afraid, so I hid the talent you gave me in the ground."* Matthew 25:25

## WHY MUST I MAXIMIZE MY STRENGTHS?

*"From where he sits God <u>overlooks all of us</u> on earth. He <u>has shaped</u> <u>each person</u> and now he watches everything we do."* 

Psalm 33:14-15 (Mes)

"Offer every part of your body to God to be used in doing good." Romans 6:13b (NCV)