

APPENDIX

What's in Your Box?

Assessing Your God-given Tools

FINDING YOUR ROLE

GOD HAS GIFTED US with a number of abilities. Look over this list of roles and determine which ones fit you. Then create a top-ten list and start using these strengths to make a difference for God.

- **Adapter:** You can easily adjust to new situations. Changes, alterations, and modifications don't make you break a sweat.
- **Administrator:** When someone is needed to run the show, you're the one most frequently called upon. You're good at governing or ruling the program.
- **Analyst:** You're a regular Sherlock Holmes, gifted at investigating, probing, examining, and evaluating situations.
- **Builder:** You're good at making things with your hands, including construction and assembly.
- **Coach:** You have the ability to prepare, instruct, train, and equip others. You're good at helping them develop who they are meant to be.
- **Communicator:** You're good at getting the message out. You love to share or impart information.
- **Competitor:** You love to enter contests of any kind, and you'll do what it takes to get to the finish line first. Most of all, you like to win.
- **Computer:** Who needs a calculator? You have a natural ability with numbers and love to add or estimate.
- **Connector:** You're a natural at pairing people up or getting them networked in groups. Relationships matter to you.
- **Consultant:** You're the one people come to for advice or to discuss matters, either personal or professional.
- **Cook:** Friends say you should have your own show on the cooking

channel or your own catering business. You love preparing and serving food.

- **Coordinator:** You know what goes together when it comes to mixing, matching, and harmonizing.
- **Counselor:** You are frequently sought out for advice, moral support, or a shoulder to cry on. People know you will listen to them and that you truly care.
- **Decorator:** Martha Stewart, move over! You love to enhance and beautify your surroundings.
- **Designer:** You like to draw, create, or organize graphics. Get the picture?
- **Developer:** When you get involved, projects grow, increase, or expand.
- **Director:** You're a natural when it comes to managing or supervising a project. You understand how to oversee resources to achieve a goal or an aim.
- **Editor:** You're gifted at knowing what needs to be corrected, altered, or amended to improve a creative project.
- **Encourager:** You have a reputation as one who supports others, cheering them on and inspiring them.
- **Engineer:** You're gifted when it comes to designing, planning, and construction.
- **Facilitator:** In a group setting, you're the one who gets the ball rolling. You have an ability to aid, assist, or get things going.
- **Forecaster:** You have a natural ability to see trends and patterns and predict what will happen.
- **Implementer:** You're the one people call when a plan needs to be executed. You know how to make things happen.
- **Improver:** You see how to make a situation better by enhancing or enriching it.
- **Influencer:** You're naturally able to sway opinion or to mold, shape, or change a situation or an atmosphere.
- **Landscaper:** You're at home in the garden and love to improve property.

- **Leader:** You know how to pave the way for others and direct them along a winning path.
- **Learner:** Information is your hobby. You love to study, gather information, and understand how things work.
- **Manager:** You're good at overseeing teams or projects.
- **Mentor:** You enjoy guiding the growth of others by teaching and/or advising them.
- **Motivator:** Your words and/or actions help stir others into action.
- **Negotiator:** You're good at settling arguments or mediating discussions.
- **Operator:** Running mechanical or technical instruments comes easily to you.
- **Organizer:** You have an ability to simplify life for yourself and others by arranging, fixing, classifying, or coordinating.
- **Performer:** You are gifted at singing, speaking, dancing, playing instruments, and any of the theatrical arts.
- **Pioneer:** You thrive on new endeavors—the more ground-breaking and original, the better.
- **Planner:** You like to map out your adventures and are good at making preparations.
- **Promoter:** You're a natural-born salesperson, gifted at showcasing, sponsoring, and endorsing people, projects, and products.
- **Recruiter:** You are good at enlisting people for a role, project, or team. Recruiters know how to hire, draft, and engage the skills of others.
- **Repairer:** Whether it's people or things, you know how to put things back together; to fix what's broken; to refurbish, restore, or heal.
- **Researcher:** You enjoy gathering information, studying topics, or examining facts.
- **Resource:** People count on you to deliver the goods. You provide the resources needed to get things accomplished.

- **Server:** Helping others fulfills you, too.
- **Strategist:** The wheels are always turning in your head, figuring out the next best move. You enjoy calculating and looking down the road.
- **Teacher:** When you speak, people listen and learn. You have an ability to explain or demonstrate how to do things. Tutoring others comes naturally.
- **Translator:** You know how to decipher other languages and help build bridges to understanding. You can interpret, decode, or explain what someone or something else means.
- **Traveler:** You are drawn to exploration and visiting other places and lands. The world fascinates you.
- **Visualizer:** You see things before they become reality through your naturally creative ability to imagine the future. You relate to life visually and enjoy dreaming of what could be.
- **Welcomer:** People feel warmed by your presence as you greet them and welcome them, either into your home, church, or place of business. People are comfortable around you.
- **Writer:** Words fascinate you. You love stringing them together any way you can. You're good at composing stories, communicating messages, and keeping records.

My top 10 talents:

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

EXPLANATION OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Administration—This God-given ability serves and strengthens the body of Christ by effectively organizing both people and resources in order to reach ministry goals. If this is your gift, you might be:

- An effective organizer
- Known for being an efficient planner who reaches your goals
- A natural delegator
- Someone who looks for opportunities to make decisions
- A person who sees what needs to be done in order for dreams to become reality

Apostleship—A person with this gift is good at launching and leading new ministry endeavors for the purpose of advancing God's kingdom. The original Greek word for *apostle* means “sent one.” If this is your gift, you might be:

- Driven to start new endeavors, most often churches, for God
- Open to risky new challenges
- Someone who enjoys making a difference in the lives of both believers and nonbelievers
- Eager to be known as one of Christ's ambassadors to the world
- A person who enjoys working hard to help churches reach their full potential for God

Discernment—God gives us this ability to help us recognize truth or error within a message, a person, or an event. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Someone who easily “reads” people and who is usually right
- Able to recognize whether a message is from God, Satan, or man
- Able to recognize inconsistencies in others
- Someone who easily identifies another’s true motives or agenda
- Able to perceive when the truth is communicated with error or is being twisted

Encouragement—Some people are naturally able to inspire and encourage others. They often serve as counselors or people who empower others to achieve their God-given dreams. If this is your gift, you might be:

- One who inspires others to live for Christ
- Easily able to rejoice with those who have overcome difficult life situations through Christ’s help
- Someone who seeks out opportunities to help others reach their full potential in Christ
- A natural encourager, whether through your words or your actions
- One who readily rejoices at others’ success

Evangelism—People who share the love of Christ with others in a way that draws them to accept Christ’s gift of eternal life display the gift of evangelism. If this is your gift, you might be:

- A person who looks for ways to build relational bridges with nonbelievers

- Able to sense when a person might be open to hear and receive the gospel
- Someone who's seen many people come to faith in Christ
- Able to triumph over logical arguments, winning others to Christ simply by loving them
- Someone who is deeply concerned for people who don't yet know Jesus

Faith—People with this gift are able to trust God to handle any and all obstacles along the way to accomplishing his purposes. If this is your gift, you might be:

- A person who welcomes the opportunity to take risks for God
- Energized by volatile situations
- Challenged by ideas and situations that most people see as impossible
- Often seen by others as having a passionate prayer life
- Someone able to embark on ventures with great God-confidence

Giving—This gift is characterized by the ability to joyfully support and fund initiatives for building God's kingdom through support that goes above and beyond the regular tithe. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Able and willing to intentionally give more than the 10 percent tithe in order to advance efforts you see as growing God's kingdom
- Someone who prefers your donations to remain anonymous whenever possible
- A person who seeks out ways to increase your resources in order to give more for God's use

- Someone who sees your resources as tools given by God for his use

Healing—People with this gift are able to heal and restore physical health to others by means other than the traditional or natural. If this is your gift, you might be:

- A person who firmly believes that people can be supernaturally healed
- Someone who prays to be used by God for the purpose of healing others
- Able to realize without question that healing occurs only by God's divine permission
- Someone who views traditional medicine as one way God may choose for healing
- Able to embrace this gift as from the hand of God and to see it specifically as a way to bring him glory

Helping—People with this gift enjoy assisting others in reaching goals that glorify God and strengthen the body of Christ. It is sometimes called the gift of helps or service. If this is your gift, you might be:

- A person who enjoys and looks for ways to help out behind the scenes
- Someone who rejoices in the success of others
- Detail oriented
- Often in search of ways to assist others
- Not interested in recognition for what you do

Hospitality—A person with this gift enjoys providing others with a warm and welcoming environment for fellowship. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Known for making others feel valued and cared for
- Always on the lookout for people who may go unnoticed in a crowd
- Someone who wants others to feel loved and welcomed
- Able to see your home as God's property for the express purpose of making others feel welcome
- Someone who promotes fellowship among others

Interpretation—People with this gift are able to understand a message from God delivered by another using a special language (see Tongues, page 250) unknown to others in attendance. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Able to perceive a clear idea of what God is saying through another person, even though the language the speaker is using is unknown to you.
- Able to translate words and messages of God in a way that edifies, comforts, and exhorts believers
- Able to communicate so as to make understood the sounds, words, and utterances made by others that glorify God

Knowledge—This is a gift to communicate God's truth to others in a way that promotes justice, honesty, and understanding. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Someone who devotes much of your time to reading Scripture
- A person who loves to share biblical insight
- One who enjoys helping others understand God's Word

- One who finds time spent studying and researching Scripture beneficial
- Someone who delights in answering difficult questions about God's Word

Leadership—This is the gift to cast vision, stimulate spiritual growth, apply strategies, and achieve success where God's purposes are concerned. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Given to huge visions for God and able to inspire others to work toward accomplishing those goals
- Naturally drawn into leadership roles
- A motivator who encourages both people and teams to work together to achieve God's purposes
- Naturally able to grasp the big picture
- Able to delegate responsibility to others who are qualified in order to get things done for God

Mercy—This gift involves ministering to those who suffer physically, emotionally, spiritually, or relationally. Its actions are characterized by love, care, compassion, and kindness toward others. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Drawn to opportunities that allow you to meet the needs of others in practical ways
- Able to devote significant prayer time on behalf of the needs of others
- Someone who puts the needs of others ahead of your own
- A person who grieves at the grief of others
- One who is most fulfilled by visiting people in need, whether in hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, prisons, on the mission field, or wherever else God leads

Miracles—A person with this gift recognizes God’s supernatural power to act in the natural world. If you have this gift, you might be:

- Able to view prayer as a supernatural vehicle through which God acts in the lives of people on earth
- Someone who gives credit to God alone for supernatural works
- Able to grasp fully that miracles occur only by God’s will
- Someone who sees yourself as an instrument for God’s use
- Someone who prays and expects supernatural results in “impossible” situations

Pastoring—A person gifted in pastoring takes spiritual responsibility for equipping a group of believers to live Christ-centered lives. *Shepherding* is another word used for this particular gift. If this is your gift, you might be:

- Driven to help others reach their full potential in Christ
- Someone who enjoys serving others and who looks for opportunities to serve
- Good at developing personal, trust-based relationships with others, particularly a small number of people
- Someone with a propensity for meeting the needs of others, willingly giving your time to help them with spiritual issues
- Someone who believes that people take precedence over projects

Prophecy—People with this gift are known for 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 the word *prophecy* is “to speak forth the truth.” The gift includes both forth-telling (preaching), and foretelling (revelation). If you have this gift, you might be:

- Known for publicly communicating God's Word, using a variety of means
- Someone who loves to share your strong biblical convictions with others
- A person who views yourself as God's tool, ready to be used by the Holy Spirit in changing lives
- Someone who finds it easy to confront others' motives when they are not up to God's standards
- A person who frequently receives and shares messages directly from God for comforting, challenging, or confronting his people

Teacher—This gift enables you to teach sound doctrine in relevant ways, empowering people to gain a sound and mature spiritual education. If you have this gift, you might be:

- Given to hours in the study of Scripture in order to best apply its principles and truth
- Someone who enjoys making the Bible clear and understandable to others
- A person who seeks out opportunities to speak biblical insight into daily situations
- Good at helping others learn to study the Bible
- Able to recognize a variety of ways to effectively communicate the Word of God, including speaking

Tongues—This gift enables a person to communicate God's message in a special language unknown to the speaker. If you have this gift, you might be:

- One who believes God is prompting you to communicate his message, often through prayer, in a specific language unknown to you

- Someone who intercedes for others in prayer using unknown words, sounds, and utterances
- One who desires and seeks out opportunities to pray, using these unknown languages for God's glory
- Ready to share with others the words and/or messages of God given to you in unknown languages
- Able to comfort or exhort others using unknown languages inspired by God

Wisdom—This gift is characterized by the ability to make wise decisions and to counsel others with sound advice, all in accordance with God's will. If this is your gift, you might be:

- One who enjoys speaking biblical insights into life situations
- Sought after by others for advice/wisdom
- One who takes pleasure in counseling others
- Known for making correct decisions and judgments
- Able to recognize God as the primary source of wisdom and direction

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

I hope you'll take time to invite a few friends to join you here at the coffee shop or in someone's home, to dig deeper into getting to know the you God made you to be. Here are some questions to help spur discussion.

Week One Discussion Questions: Surrendering Your Life Completely

Discuss with the group your thought of this week's video message from Erik. If you have not viewed this week's message please watch week one online at www.onlyyoucanbeyou.com.

Other discussion questions based on this week's reading:

- What does it mean to you today to realize God has made you for a specific purpose? How will this knowledge change the way you live tomorrow?
- How have past lies impacted your present? Discuss ways to replace those old soundtracks with God's truth and agree to check up on one another's progress.
- Can you name a few cravings that might not be God's best for you? How will you let God turn them into a hunger for the things of God?
- How could letting go of past pain and forgiving those who've hurt you help you become more of who God made you to be? What might the new you look like?
- How could releasing your roles into God's hands help you become more you?
- What do you think would happen if you gave your deepest desires to God? Why are you afraid to take this step? What's the worst that could happen if you did?

- What have you been holding on to that's keeping you from fully experiencing the new life God has for you? Confessing it to a friend is a good first step in letting it go.

Week Two Discussion: Stewarding Your Unique Style Wisely

Discuss with the group your thought of this week's video message from Erik. If you have not viewed this week's message, please watch week two online at www.onlyyoucanbeyou.com.

Other discussion questions based on this week's reading:

- How could using your God-given uniqueness for his pleasure help you become more you? Share some of your struggles and ideas.
- If your current lifestyle isn't giving you opportunities to grow your God-given abilities, where can you go to discover what you to do best? Take a step this week.
- Consider "test-driving" a ministry or two at your church to find out what God has uniquely given you. If you've done that, share your experience with your group.
- Tell your group where God is stirring you to make a difference with your life. What ideas can you offer one another for moving ahead in search of that passion?
- How could God use your high-point experiences on page 131 to help someone else? What about the not-so-high-point moments you noted on page 135?
- What did you discover about your own special mix of ingredients on pages 142-143? Why do you think we need all personality types in God's kingdom?
- From page 151, what do you think God has put in your puzzle box? Is the complete picture beginning to show up? Share what God is revealing to you with your group.

Week Three Discussion: Serving Others Passionately

Discuss with the group your thought of this week's video message from Erik. If you have not viewed this week's message, please watch week three online at www.onlyyoucanbeyou.com.

Other discussion questions based on this week's reading:

- What is the difference between Jesus' style of leadership and that of so many leaders today? How can a leader be a servant? Have you ever thought of yourself as a leader? What difference does that awareness make for you?
- Why do you think people are afraid or reluctant to help others today? How can a choice to help make you look more like Jesus—and more like the real you?
- Do you remember a time when you did not know Christ? How can recalling your own hungry days help you reach out to those who are starving spiritually?
- Have you begun to find true significance through serving? If so, how can your experience encourage others to do the same?
- Why do you think so many of us shy away from groups? What can you do to plug yourself into ministry and encourage others to do so as well, in spite of past issues?
- Have you ever received a blessing that went on to bless others as well, or do you know a story like the ones in this chapter? Share it briefly as an encouragement to invest in others.
- What will you do next as a result of spending the last three weeks on this adventure? How has God revealed his plan for your life? Are you ready to "pay it forward"? What is next for you? Share your plans with your group—and don't neglect to pray for one another.