

Building on My Strength

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I. Introduction.

- A. We all struggle with identity, importance and impact.
- B. We want to understand how God has uniquely shaped us for a purpose.
- C. Text: Ephesians 2:10.

II. God planned a person before he was born. (Psalm 139:13-16)

- A. Abortion is wrong because it short-circuits God's will for a life.
- B. Every person was made in the image of God with mind, will and emotions.
- C. Every person is an incredible creation of God.

III. One's life purpose is revealed by the shape God gave it.

- A. God has shaped the life with sovereignty.
- B. God has used several things to shape a person.
 - 1. Spiritual gifts.
 - 2. Heart. (Proverbs 4:23)
 - 3. Abilities.
 - 4. Personality.
 - 5. Experiences.

IV. A key to knowing God's will for one's future is to look at one's past. (Galatians 6:4)

- A. Look at your past for enjoyable achievements.
- B. The more you understand how God has shaped you, the more you understand God's purpose. (Romans 12:3)

V. One can learn more about one's shape by experimenting. (Proverbs 19:8)

VI. The results of doing what we were meant to do.

- A. Energy.
- B. Confidence.

C. Satisfaction.

VII. The barriers to doing what we are supposed to do are...

A. Preparing.

1. Spend less time focusing on what you do not do well and more time focused on what you do well.
2. We must stop rejecting our heritage.

B. Performing.

1. If we are going to be what God meant us to be we must stop fulfilling roles that others expect us to be.
2. People may not know what they want to be because of stress, need for recovery, or a desire to be other people.
3. The more one focuses on doing what he is gifted at, the more effective he will be. (I Corinthians 7:17)

VIII. One day we will give an account of how we used what God gave us.

- A. The greatest accomplishment is to meet God through Jesus Christ.
- B. The second greatest accomplishment is to discover one's shape and use it for God's glory.

Application questions:

1. How does one go about discovering his spiritual gifts and his purpose for God as a result?

2. What are your spiritual gifts? How do you know?

3. What roles are you fulfilling for which you are not gifted? Can those roles be given to someone else so you can focus on your best gifts? Explain.
