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Introduction — Created on Purpose

1. There are two great days in our lives, the day we were born and the day we discover why. It's when we discover why we were born that a life of purpose begins.
 - Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no revelation (a prophetic vision), the people are unrestrained; the people are unrestrained; but blessed is he who keeps the law of God.*
2. According to Ephesians 2:10, God created us with a very real and unique purpose to fulfill — *For we are His own master work, a work of art, created in Christ Jesus — spiritually transformed, ready to be used for good works, which God prepared for us beforehand, so that we would live the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us.* AMP
 - Psalms 139:13-18 *You formed my innermost parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb ...for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;... my frame was not hidden from You, when I was being formed in secret, and intricately and skillfully formed, as if embroidered with many colors,...* AMP

Three Expressions...

1. Our SPIRITUAL GIFTS tell us WHAT we do best in the Kingdom of God.
2. Our PERSONAL STYLE of ministry or personality tells us HOW we can serve with confidence.
3. Our PASSION tells us WHERE we can best focus our energy. It is the area in which we have a strong desire to make a significant impact.

Characteristics of the Spirit's Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11 *Now about the spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed... All these things (the gifts, the abilities, the empowering) are brought about by one and the same Holy Spirit, distributing to each one individually just as He chooses.* (1 Peter 4:10)

1. The Body of Christ is diverse and made up of a vast array of people functioning in many different ways and gifts. Every believer is important and has unique spiritual and motivational gifts to contribute.
 - Romans 12:4-5 *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*
2. The original Greek word for "gift," is "charis" or "charisma." It is an ability that, when used by the Holy Spirit, brings joy and results in devotion to God and a love for others in the Body of Christ.
3. Spiritual Gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer for meaningful service.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11, 18 *All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines.*
4. Our spiritual gifts are not just *for us* but are to be used by the Holy Spirit *through us* as He determines. If I have been given the spiritual gift/ability of healing, I need to find people needing healing. They are a starting point for service. By exercising our abilities, we'll learn about God's will for our lives and the joy of experiencing God's love flowing through ME to others. (Romans 12:1-2)
5. Spiritual Gifts are given to build up the body of Christ by empowering members to serve one another.
 - Ephesians 4:11-16 *...From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Continued next week...