

# **Finding Your Laughing Place**

## **Part Two**

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# Heart

I remember a conversation concerning an individual's decision to get involved in a ministry area. When asked why they choose that area, the response floored me. "Well, this is something I would be least interested in and have zero passion for. For me to succeed, God would really have to show up!"

Wow. NOT the way to think about where you best fit in Kingdom purposes!

In the English Standard Version, "heart" is used 917 times in 850 verses.

While occasionally heart is used as a reference to the physical organ of the body, primarily the word is used to reference our inner self – motives, inclinations, desires, inspiration, and will. It is not a simplistic how you feel about this or what you think about that. It is a much more complex interlinking and integration of thinking and feeling – both/and, not either/or.

## The Inner You

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might." Deut. 6:5*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." Prov. 3:5*

*"...man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 1 Sam. 16:7b*

## Motives and Intentions

*"The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Gen. 6:5*

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." Ps. 19:14*

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." Ps. 51:10*

*"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and the spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Heb. 4:12*

## Desires

*"May he grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!" Ps. 20:4*

*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." Prov. 13:12*

*"Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved." Rom. 10:1*

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Luke 12:34*

## Motivation and Inspiration

*“All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work of the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord.” Ex. 35:29*

*“But, as it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.’” 1 Cor. 2:9*

*“So, we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.” 2 Cor. 4:16*

*“...having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,” Eph. 1:18*

## Will and Determination

*“He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.” Ps. 112:7*

*“May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.” 2 Thess. 3:5*

## Danger Will Robinson!

I enjoyed watching the 1960’s TV series *Lost in Space*. The robot would often warn the young boy Will about where he was going or a decision he was about to make, by saying, “Danger, Will Robinson!”

When it comes to my heart, I often hear the Holy Spirit say, “Danger, Ed Laymance!” It is so very easy to allow what I want and what God wants to get mixed. Kingdom purposes become polluted.

If I gave you a bottle of pure water with .01% bacteria mixed in, would you drink it? Of course not! Yet we think that is acceptable when it comes to the condition of our heart before our Lord.

I am not saying you must be sinless. That is not going to happen this side of heaven. As very flawed sinful people, our **ongoing daily ask and attitude must be**, “Create in me a clean heart, O Lord!”

*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. <sup>18</sup> And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? <sup>2</sup> You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup> You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

<sup>4</sup> *You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.* <sup>5</sup> *Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”?* <sup>6</sup> *But he gives more grace. Therefore, it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”* <sup>7</sup> *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* <sup>8</sup> *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double minded.* <sup>9</sup> *Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.* <sup>10</sup> *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. James 3:13-4:10*

## **Daily Decisions and Defining Moments**

Every day we make many decisions, large and small. All those daily decisions lead to life-altering defining moments. This is why we are told to pay close attention to our heart!

*“Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.” Prov. 4:23*

There are many ways to continually monitor your heart. Use James 4:7-8 for a daily spiritual EKG.

### **Humble Yourself**

Know who God is and who you are, and don't get the two confused.

### **Submit**

Do whatever God says do when God says do it, whether you feel like it or understand it.

### **Resist**

Say **NO** to any thought, idea, belief, feeling, emotion, or behavior, that does not agree 100% with what God says.

### **Draw Near**

Actively, intentionally, continually, and passionately pursue your relationship with Jesus.

### **Stop Ignoring Your Sin**

Stop excusing, explaining away, rationalizing, accommodating, and allowing sin. Ignoring and disregarding what God says is always a bad plan!

### **Be Single-Minded**

Stop playing games, being half-hearted, occasional, casual, double-minded, and random. Go all in.

## Change of Heart

The desires of our heart are very different before meeting Jesus and after meeting Jesus.

*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Eph. 2:1-3*

After salvation, the sanctification process begins.  
Your passions begin to turn toward the King and the Kingdom.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Cor. 5:17*

You find yourself drawn to different kinds of ministries, and have a growing interest and passion for Kingdom purposes related to specific people groups, age groups, ministry needs, life issues, etc. You may have been a Grinch before Jesus, but now your heart for God is growing! God's design and intentions for your life begin to make more sense.

There are many things in life we do because they need to be done, not because they are fun. However, we rarely succeed in the things we do not enjoy. This is true with vocational work, and this is true with Kingdom work! As with spiritual gifting, **invest most** of your ministry time and energies in areas you are passionate about. And, because we are family, jump in and help with the stuff that needs to get done!

## Understanding your Heartbeat

Ask the Holy Spirit to **bring to your mind** what He wants you to recall from childhood to now.

Pay attention to:

What you've loved doing – creating, organizing, exploring, leading, facilitating, inspiring, etc.  
Things you accomplished/participated in at school, sports, work, home, etc. that were important to you.  
Recall people you've helped, those who have impacted you, and those you have wanted to be like.

Note things you've loved and what you did well, was important to you, and significant people.

For example:

You like to advocate, and you convinced your school principal to allow an after-school program.  
You like building things, and you enjoyed working on a construction mission trip.  
You like inspiring, and you enjoyed teaching a neighbor kid to play the guitar.  
You like designing, and you enjoy showing friends shortcuts that your dad taught you.

Think in blocks of time, not a year-to-year replay of everything.

Some people have a great deal of recall concerning the past. Others, not so much. Just write what you are impressed to record. As things come to mind later, add them.

# Things Remembered

Childhood:

Teen Years:

College/20's:

To Infinity and Beyond:

## I Love To

Circle any that apply:

Acquire	Advocate	Collect	Create	Debate	Design
Develop	Explain	Explore	Facilitate	Help	Improve
Influence	Inspire	Invest	Lead	Learn	Maintain
Organize	Plan	Prevail	Repair	Risk	Serve

Look back at **Things Remembered** and notice how they connect with **Things I Love**.

For example:

You may love to influence, and you remember getting your 10<sup>th</sup> grade class to vote for a friend running for class president, convinced a group to change a decision, and got agreement to have a debt cancelled.

You may love to organize, and you remember organizing a clothing drive for the homeless in college, helping your random friend organize their closet, and coordinating logistics for a mission trip.

You may love to create, and you remember as a child making things for friends, building a treehouse out of scraps in the garage, and writing a song for a class assignment.

If you have more than three words circled on **Things I Love**, pick your top three.

Since this list is obviously a sample list, other words may better describe your heartbeat. You do not need to use descriptors from this list.

Record your insights concerning Heart on your Personal Profile.



# Abilities

## **You are born with natural talents and abilities.**

There are natural talents and abilities you are born with. While the total number of natural talents and abilities identified varies from one researcher to another, the general number is in the hundreds. Hundreds? Yes. Because the talents and abilities are natural to us, we don't give much thought to them.

*"I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you."  
Ex. 31:6*

*"For we are his (God's) workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10*

## **In addition, there are talents, abilities, and skills that you learn and develop.**

We learn basic things like how to tie shoelaces, scrambling eggs, and throw a ball. There are skills that require specific training, such as accounting, playing a musical instrument, interior design, and carpentry. There are skills that are developed through relationships, like teamwork, and skills from classes and seminars, like conflict resolution and time management. All require intentional time, effort, and energy to improve.

*"The number of them along with their brothers, who were trained in singing to the LORD, all who were skillful, was 288." 1 Chron. 25:7*

*Of David's mighty men we read of skilled bowmen that could shoot arrows and sling stones with either the right or the left hand, and experienced warriors, expert with shield and spear.  
1 Chron. 12:2,8*

*"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.  
<sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability."  
Matt. 25:15*

## **All skills, talents, and abilities, natural/learned/developed, are to be used for Kingdom purposes.**

*"...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" 1 Cor. 10:31*

*"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established." Prov. 16:3*

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Col. 3:17*

To better facilitate Kingdom involvement, Lake Church is utilizing an online survey called Skill Mapping. You can access the survey using the QR code provided below, or from a link you will receive by church email. If you need help accessing the website, just contact the church office.



Information you provide is sent to the church and entered in your membership profile. This will help pastors and staff match your skill sets with Kingdom ministry needs moving forward!  
**Please complete the online survey!**

The Skill Mapping Survey questions are provided below for use with your Laughing Place Profile.

You are asked:

**Considering the ways God has wired you, prepared you, and used you. In which of these areas do you have skills and experience? Mark all that apply.**

- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Administration/Office Task.          | Advertising/Marketing       |
| Art/Photography                      | Automotive/Mechanic         |
| Bilingual/Languages/Translation      | Business/Entrepreneurship   |
| Communications/Public Relations      | Counseling                  |
| Equipping/speaking/Teaching/Training | Evangelism/Apologetics      |
| Financial/Accounting/Banking         | Fitness/Nutrition           |
| Food/Cooking                         | Fundraising                 |
| Gardening/Landscaping                | Graphic/Web Design          |
| Handyman/Facilities                  | Health Care                 |
| Hosting/Events                       | Interior Design             |
| IT/Technology                        | Jobs/Human Resources        |
| Mentoring/Discipling                 | Music                       |
| Nonprofit Management or Support      | Organization/Planning       |
| Project Management                   | Research/Data Analysis      |
| Security/Policing                    | Social Media                |
| Sports/Coaching                      | Video Production/Filmmaking |
| Writing/Editing                      | Other _____                 |

Enter your responses on your Personal Profile

You are asked:

**When serving, which issues or people groups are you most passionate about?**

children (0-11), youth (12-18), college/young adult (19-30), women, men, parents/families, singles, elderly/seniors, single moms, married couples, global missions, poverty, incarcerated/prison ministry, disabled/caretakers, human trafficking, homeless, refugees/immigrants, military/veterans, mental health, addiction recovery, food security, race and diversity, sanctity of life/pregnancy aide, human sexuality, sick/hospitalized, other.

Enter your responses to this question under the Heart section of your Personal Profile.

Next you are asked:

**What is your PRIMARY career field or daily workplace, whether paid or unpaid?**

**CHOOSE ONE**

Accounting, advertising/marketing/communications, animal sciences, architecture, beauty/cosmetology, business development/entrepreneurship, business executive/management, childcare, church or religious work, city planning/zoning, community organizing/activism, community services, counseling, creative arts or graphic design, education (past-secondary), education (primary or secondary), energy/natural resources, engineering, entertainment/film, facilities management/custodial, farming/agriculture, financial services, fitness/wellness/nutrition, food services, forestry, funeral services, health care (practitioner or technician), homemaking/stay-at-home parenting, human resources/management, hospitality, insurance, interior design, it/technology, legal, library services, manufacturing, military, outdoor recreation, performing arts, philanthropy, physical/life/natural sciences, public safety (first responder, police), public service or government, public transportation, publishing/media/ journalism, real estate, retail, retired, sales, social sciences, social work, sports/coaching, supply chain/logistics, student, trades (construction, plumbing, electricity), transportation/shipping, web development/design, other.

Enter your response on your Personal Profile

**Last, you are asked to respond to the following statements with a 1-5 ranking of strongly agree to strongly disagree:**

I experience my work (paid or unpaid) as a way to honor God.

Christian spiritual practices (prayer, meditation, Bible reading) are a strong support to me in my work.

I openly express my faith in the workplace in a way that is genuine to who I am.

My Christian faith helps me make ethical decisions in the workplace.

I am looking to make a difference in the world through my work.

I pray about my work on a regular basis (at or outside of work).

Others at my place of work know that I am a follower of Christ.

My Christian values inform how I relate to others in the workplace.

Enter your responses on your Personal Profile

# Personality

Personality preferences influence everything about you - how you think, how you feel, and what you do. Identifying these characteristics and traits can help us better understand ourselves and greatly improve relationships with others.

There are many inventories that have been developed to explore personality type, like DISC, True Colors, StrengthsFinder, and Enneagram. All show different aspects of personality preferences and illustrate the value of using several different inventories. I am using The Myers Briggs Temperament Analysis®, and Gary Smalley and John Trent's Connect Assessment as a basis for discussing personality preferences. I have noted additional resources for you to expand your study.

## Helpful Resources

### Myers Briggs

The MBTI® is a professional resource, not free.  
Go to [mbtionline.com](http://mbtionline.com) for this inventory.

[16personalities.com](http://16personalities.com) is a free online inventory,  
based on the MBTI®

*Please Understand Me 2*, David Keirsey

### The Four Personality Types

[Strongfamilies.com](http://Strongfamilies.com) – Free Online Connect Assessment

*The Two Sides of Love*, Gary Smalley and John Trent

*Wired That Way*, Marita Littauer and Florence Littauer

*Personality Plus for Couples*, Florence Littauer

*Taming The Family Zoo*, Jim and Suzette Brawner

*The Treasure Tree*, Gary Smalley and John Trent

# Personality Profile Guidelines

You are unique – one of a kind. No one else is exactly like you!

You are also, in many ways, like others.

Your personality is the way you express yourself.

Understanding personality preferences help us understand behavior.

For example: Why is winning so important to one person, but no big deal to someone else? Why does someone need their desk to be nice and neat while others find organizing their desk a waste of time? Why is it that some people desire time alone while others desire more interaction?

Historically, there are four basic personality types used to describe behavior, beginning with Hippocrates in 307 BC. He theorized that personality traits and behavior are based on four body fluids which he called Sanguine, Choleric, Phlegmatic, and Melancholy. While the association with physiology has long since gone away, the four designations have often been used as a template to describe personality preferences. I like Gary Smalley and John Trent's Connect Assessment that uses animal names and characteristics for the four designations – Otter, Lion, Golden Retriever, and Beaver.

I also find helpful the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator® (MBTI®). This resource identifies eight personality preferences on four scales. Everyone uses every preference; however, we favor one preference over the other on each of the four scales.

The eight MBTI® preferences are combined to form sixteen personality types. One type is not better than another, just different. High scores on a preference only indicate a definite preference, not a level of skill or ability with that preference.

Personality inventories, no matter which one you use, intention to identify your strengths and weaknesses. Inventories should be used to help you improving natural strengths, minimizing natural weaknesses, and identify strengths outside your preferences you need to develop.

Personality type is **an explanation for behavior, not an excuse!**

Personality type should be used to help you understand behavior, not stereotype and pigeonhole.

Personality type is just one way to better understand some behavior, not the way to understand all behavior. Inventories are like viewing only a few snap shots in a photo album called, *You*. There are many other pictures of you that include spiritual gifts, heartbeats, abilities, talents, skills, and life experiences! You are so much more than an inventory or assessment!

The Preference Indicator and MBTI® Worksheets used here are a brief and basic look at personality preferences. I recommend you utilize the books and inventories mentioned on the previous page under Helpful Resources as a next step to expand your understanding.

# Preference Indicator

Mark any words that describe you 51% of the time

Fits In	Not Time Conscious	Confrontive	Impatient
Promoter	Impulsive	Director	Decisive
Emotional	Entertainer	Easily Angered	Believable
Spontaneous	Optimistic	Get It Done	Outspoken
Charming	Easily Distracted	Determined	Selectively Organized
Energetic	Hands-on	Competitive	Challenges
Panic	Erratic	Take Charge	Aggressive
Bubbly	Keep it Simple	Initiator	Takes Control
Silly	Sunshine	Pursuing	Task-Motivated
Funny	Forgetful	Opinionated	Tough-Minded
Witty	Blends in	Planner	Analytical
Coordinator	Indecisive	Moody	Accurate
Even-Tempered	Diplomatic	Respectful	Scheduled
Procrastinator	Obliging	Organizer	Careful-Cautious
Adaptable	Compliant	Long Lasting	Structured
Steady	Easy-Going	Exact	Deep Thinker
Listener	Contemplator	Sensitive to Others	Sympathetic
Calm	Tentative	Correct	Easily Depressed
People Watcher	Observant	Conservative	Not Forgetful
Harmonious	Like to Delegate	Tender-Hearted	Serious

## Basic Motivations of the Four Types

### **Otter** (Sanguine)

Basic Motivation – Let’s Have Fun!

### **Lion** (Choleric)

Basic Motivation – Let’s get it done!

Strong-willed Lions add – my way, now!

### **Golden Retriever** (Phlegmatic)

Basic Motivation – Let’s find the peaceful, easy way!

### **Beaver** (Melancholy)

Basic Motivation – Let’s do it right!

We are a mix of all four types and can operate in all four depending on the situation. However, two of the four tend to be our preference most of the time.

For example:

I am a Golden Retriever – Beaver.

I am always looking for the peaceful, easy way to do the right thing.

You may be an Otter – Lion.

You want to have fun, and it will be fun if stuff gets done.

Maturity recognizes the importance and necessity of not allowing personal preferences to limit our effectiveness as we move in and out of different relationships and environments.

However, operating outside our natural preferences requires more energy from us and creates internal tension. The longer our basic motivations are unmet, the more frustrated we become!

Enter your blend and basic motivations on your Personality Profile.

# MBTI® Personality Traits

## **Extravert vs. Introvert**

Extroverts prefer to draw energy from the outside world of people, activities, and things.

Introverts prefer to draw energy from the inner world of reflection and time alone.

## **Sensing vs. Intuitive**

Sensors prefer focus on the practical present, concentrating on concrete information gained through the senses. An Intuitive prefers to focus on future possibilities, concentrating on information gained through patterns and insight.

## **Thinking vs. Feeling**

Thinking types prefer to make decisions based on logical, objective analysis of cause, effect, and what is justice. Feeling types prefer to make decisions based on values, person-centered concerns, harmony, and what is kind.

## **Judging vs. Perceiving**

A judging person prefers life to be lived in a planned organized way, where things are settled and finished before moving on to something else. A perceiving person prefers living a spontaneous, flexible life, where options are left open ended until a decision must be made.

## **What is Your Preference?**

At the bottom of each Worksheet, mark the preference you lean toward, and how strong you think that preference is for you.

Is your preference Extravert or Introvert?

If Extrovert, you are an “**E**”. If Introvert, you are an “**I**”.

Is your preference Sensing or Intuitive?

If Sensing, you are a “**S**”. If Intuitive, you are a “**N**”.

Is your preference Thinking or Feeling?

If Thinking, you are a “**T**”. If Feeling, you are a “**F**”.

Is your preference Judging or Perceiving?

If Judging, you are a “**J**”. If Perceiving, you are a “**P**”.

You are an E or I; S or N; T or F; and J or P. These letters combined make up the 16 profiles.

I am INFJ. You may be ESFJ, ISTP.... Put your four letters together to determine your profile.

Record your MBTI® insights on your Personal Profile



## How Are You Energized?

Extravert Types	Introvert Types
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energized through involvement with the outer world of people, activities, and things.</li> <li>2. Looks for activity.</li> <li>3. Desires interaction.</li> <li>4. Likes to talk things through-think out loud-develop ideas by discussion.</li> <li>5. A good mixer by nature.</li> <li>6. Prefers to work with people around.</li> <li>7. Dislikes complicated procedures and is impatient when events do not move quick enough (Do, Think, Do).</li> <li>8. More adventurous and open in trying new things.</li> <li>9. Broad interest in many things.</li> <li>10. What can I do?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energized through the inner world of ideas, emotions, and impressions.</li> <li>2. Looks for peace.</li> <li>3. Desires time alone.</li> <li>4. Likes to think things through before talking-develop ideas by reflection.</li> <li>5. Quiet by nature.</li> <li>6. Prefers to work alone without interruption.</li> <li>7. Likes to be careful with details and is frustrated when events move too quickly (Think, Do, Think).</li> <li>8. More cautious and reserved in trying new things.</li> <li>9. Deep interest in fewer things.</li> <li>10. Why are we doing this?</li> </ol>

## How Do You See Yourself?

Extravert	Introvert
Strong Preference	Slight Preference
Slight Preference	Strong Preference

## What Do You Notice Most?

Sensing Types	Intuitive Types
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present oriented-what is real? More interested in facts and experiences.</li> <li>2. Practical and realistic-if it ain't broke, don't fix it.</li> <li>3. How? Give me facts and details.</li> <li>4. Likes a standard operating procedure for solving problems.</li> <li>5. What do I know based on what I see? (Facts, details, examples)</li> <li>6. Prefers to live life as is.</li> <li>7. Climbs the mountain simply because it is there.</li> <li>8. Usually reaches a conclusion step by step, starting with A, then going to B and then C.</li> <li>9. Likes an established way of doing things-routine can be comfortable and predictable.</li> <li>10. They say precisely what they mean and mean what they say-literal minded (speak with periods)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Future oriented-what could be? More interested in possibilities.</li> <li>2. Theoretical and innovative-how can we build a better mouse trap?</li> <li>3. If will fly, trust me!</li> <li>4. Likes solving new complex problems.</li> <li>5. What is my gut feeling?</li> <li>6. Prefers to change/rearrange life.</li> <li>7. Works in bursts of energy fueled by imagination and inspiration.</li> <li>8. Usually reach a conclusion though synthesis-look at the whole and start where you think best.</li> <li>9. Likes to color outside the lines-routine is boring.</li> <li>10. Always mean more than they say-figurative minded (speak with dashes).</li> </ol>

### How Do You See Yourself?

Sensing		Intuitive	
Strong Preference	Slight Preference	Slight Preference	Strong Preference

## How Do You Make Decisions?

<b>Thinking Types</b>	<b>Feeling Types</b>
1. What is fair?	1. What is kind?
2. What are the rules?	2. What will make everyone happy?
3. Justice-a concern for people's rights. Never forgets and injustice.	3. Mercy-a concern for people's feelings. Never forgets an unkindness.
4. More often the head rules the heart-logical, objective decisions based on facts.	4. More often the heart rules the head-personal and subjective decisions based on emotions.
5. Tends to see everything as black and white.	5. Tends to see gray areas that complicate a black and white approach.
6. May hurt people's feelings without knowing it.	6. Enjoys pleasing people, even in unimportant things.
7. Principle oriented.	7. Value oriented.
8. More important to be right than liked.	8. More important to be liked than right.
9. When it's over, it's over.	9. When it's over, it's remembered.
10. Love to critique and argue	10. Love harmony and agreement.

### How Do You See Yourself?

<b>Thinking</b>		<b>Feeling</b>	
Strong Preference	Slight Preference	Slight Preference	Strong Preference

## What's Your Lifestyle Preference?

<b>Judging Types</b>	<b>Perceiving Types</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Likes to plan what happens.</li> <li>2. Prefers to finish one project before starting another.</li> <li>3. Needs to feel organized-uncomfortable with lack of structure.</li> <li>4. Wants to make decisions and have closure.</li> <li>5. Work ethic - don't relax until the job is done - plan your work and work your plan.</li> <li>6. Loves to make lists and gets pleasure in crossing off activities as they are completed.</li> <li>7. May appear driven, rigid, and inflexible.</li> <li>8. More self-disciplined.</li> <li>9. A place for everything and everything in its place - file it.</li> <li>10. Precise time.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Likes to wait and see what happens.</li> <li>2. Starting projects is fun.</li> <li>3. Needs to feel flexible-uncomfortable with too much structure.</li> <li>4. Wants to put off decisions and keep things open ended.</li> <li>5. Play ethic - suspend a project if something more fun comes along - be spontaneous.</li> <li>6. Makes lists to get things off their mind.</li> <li>7. May appear indecisive, restless, procrastinating.</li> <li>8. More impulsive.</li> <li>9. Let life happen - stack it.</li> <li>10. Approximate time.</li> </ol>

### How Do You See Yourself?

<b>Judging</b>		<b>Perceiving</b>	
Strong Preference	Slight Preference	Slight Preference	Strong Preference

## THE 16 MTBI TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS FREQUENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH EACH TYPE

<p><b>ISTJ</b> Quiet, serious, earn success by thoroughness and dependability. Decide logically what should be done and work toward it steadily, regardless of distractions. Take pleasure in making everything orderly and organized - their work, their home, their life. Value traditions and loyalty.</p>	<p><b>ISFJ</b> Quiet, friendly, responsible, and conscientious. Committed and steady in meeting their obligations. Thorough, painstaking, and accurate. Loyal, considerate, notice and remember specifics about people who are important to them, concerned with how others feel. Strive to create an orderly and harmonious environment at work and at home.</p>	<p><b>INFJ</b> Seek meaning and connection in ideas, relationships, and material possessions. Want to understand what motivates people and are insightful about others. Conscientious and committed to their firm values. Develop a clear vision about how best to serve the common good. Organized and decisive in implementing their vision.</p>	<p><b>INTJ</b> Have original minds and great drive for implementing their ideas and achieving their goals. Quickly see patterns in external events and develop long-range explanatory perspectives. When committed, organize a job and carry it through. Skeptical and independent, have high standards of competence and performance-for themselves and others.</p>
<p><b>ISTP</b> Tolerant and flexible, quiet observers until a problem appears, then act quickly to find workable solutions. Analyze what makes things work and readily get through large amounts of data to isolate the core of practical problems. Interested in cause and effect, organize facts using logical principles, value efficiency.</p>	<p><b>ISFP</b> Quiet, friendly, sensitive, and kind. Enjoy the present moment, what's going on around them. Like to have their own space and work within their own time frame. Loyal and committed to their values and to people who are important to them. Dislike disagreements and conflicts, do not force their opinions or values on others.</p>	<p><b>INFP</b> Idealistic, loyal to their values and to people who are important to them. Want an external life that is congruent with their values. Curious, quick to see possibilities, can be catalysts for implementing ideas. Seek to understand people and to help them fulfill their potential. Adaptable, flexible, and accepting unless a value is threatened.</p>	<p><b>INTP</b> Seek to develop logical explanations for everything that interests them. Theoretical and abstract, interested more in ideas than in social interaction. Quiet, contained, flexible, and adaptable. Have unusual ability to focus in depth to solve problems in their area of interest. Skeptical, sometimes critical, always analytical.</p>
<p><b>ESTP</b> Flexible and tolerant, they take a pragmatic approach focused on immediate results. Theories and conceptual explanations bore them—they want to act energetically to solve the problem. Focus on the here-and-now, spontaneous, enjoy each moment that they can be active with others. Enjoy material comforts and style. Learn best through doing.</p>	<p><b>ESFP</b> Outgoing, friendly, and accepting. Exuberant lovers of life, people, and material comforts. Enjoy working with others to make things happen. Bring common sense and a realistic approach to their work, and make work fun. Flexible and spontaneous, adapt readily to new people and environments. Learn best by trying a new skill with other people.</p>	<p><b>ENFP</b> Warmly enthusiastic and imaginative. See life as full of possibilities. Make connections between events and information very quickly, and confidently proceed based on the patterns they see. Want a lot of affirmation from others, and readily give appreciation and support. Spontaneous and flexible, often rely on their ability to improvise and their verbal fluency.</p>	<p><b>ENTP</b> Quick, ingenious, stimulating, alert, and outspoken. Resourceful in solving new and challenging problems. Adept at generating conceptual possibilities and then analyzing them strategically. Good at reading other people. Bored by routine, will seldom do the same thing the same way, apt to turn to one new interest after another.</p>
<p><b>ESTJ</b> Practical, realistic, matter-of-fact. Decisive, quickly move to implement decisions. Organize projects and people to get done, focus on getting results in the most efficient way possible. Take care of routine details. Have a clear set of logical standards, systematically follow them and want others to also. Forceful in implementing their plans.</p>	<p><b>ESFJ</b> Warmhearted, conscientious, and cooperative. Want harmony in their environment, work with determination to establish it. Like to work with others to complete tasks accurately and on time. Loyal, follow through even in small matters. Notice what others need in their day-by-day lives and try to provide it. Want to be appreciated for who they are and what they contribute.</p>	<p><b>ENFJ</b> Warm, empathetic, responsive, and responsible. Highly attuned to the emotions, needs, and motivations of others. Find potential in everyone, want to help others fulfill their potential. May act as catalysts for individual and group growth. Loyal, responsive to praise and criticism. Social, facilitate others in a group, and provide inspiring leadership.</p>	<p><b>ENTJ</b> Frank, decisive, assume leadership readily. Quickly see illogical and inefficient procedures and policies, develop and implement comprehensive systems to solve organizational problems. Enjoy long-term planning and goal setting. Usually well informed, well read, enjoy expanding their knowledge and passing it on to others. Forceful in presenting their idea</p>

# Experiences

## **Why are no two snowflakes exactly alike?**

NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has this to say on their website:

*Well, that's because individual snowflakes all follow slightly different paths from the sky to the ground—and thus encounter slightly different atmospheric conditions along the way. Therefore, they all tend to look unique, resembling everything from prisms and needles to the familiar lacy pattern.*

When watching snow fall, the variation I notice with the flakes is minimal. I see small, medium, or large. When looking at a flake I catch in my hand, I notice a few more differences in shapes and sizes. But when I see snowflakes enlarged under a microscope, I marvel at the complex, intricate and distinct differences of each one, just like NOAA describes.

A very important part of our unique shaping is the “different paths and environmental conditions” each of us experience as we move through life.

In this section, ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind not just the fact that you went to this school or had that job – that is like noticing the snowflakes as small, medium, and large. Ask Him to help you see under the microscope – see something about your experiences that make you uniquely you!

## **Your Personal Relationship with Jesus**

What was your life like before you met Jesus?

When did you begin your personal relationship with Jesus, and why?

What has changed for you since?

## **Family**

What are three things that come to mind as to how your family, or lack of family, has shaped you?

## **Educational**

What were some favorite subjects in school, and why?

As you think about all your educational background, what is one way that has shaped you?

## **Vocational**

What work have you been most effective in and enjoyed the most?

## Relational

What is one of the most influential relationships in your life and how has it shaped you?

## Kingdom Involvement

What Kingdom involvement have you been drawn to? What have you enjoyed, and why?

## The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Our tendency is to think that good experiences are beneficial, and the bad and ugly are not. So, we box them up, try and forget. The bad and the ugly was painful when we went through it, and painful to remember.

This is a mistake.

**My earth-bound point of view greatly limits what I see and how I see it.**

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.  
9For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts. Is. 55:8-9*

*I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.  
Phil. 1:12*

*And we know that **for those who love God** all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Rom. 8:28*



## **God can and will flip the script on what was purposed by evil for evil.**

Remember the story of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37-50? He was sold to slave traders by his brothers. After being bought on the slave market in Egypt, he was falsely accused and thrown in prison for years. He interprets a dream for Pharaoh and is made VP Pharaoh. He rescues his brothers and family from starvation and takes care of them. When his father dies, his brothers think Joseph will execute them for what they did to him as a boy. They are confused when he does not. His response to them?

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Ge. 50:20*

Joseph was not saying that he enjoyed all those years of horrible that happened. He was saying that even though what happened to him was purposed and intended for evil, he was allowing God to flip the script and use it for His plans and purposes! While Joseph did not choose what was done to him, he did get to choose what he did with what was done to him.

## **God desires for us to help each other through the terrible ,horrible, no good, very bad days.**

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Cor. 1:3-4*

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind one thing from the past you have not allowed Him to use for your good and Kingdom purposes. Ask Him what next? Do what he tells you to do.

## **Finishing the rest of the unfinished business.**

Allow God to flip the script on what was purposed by evil for evil. Go to [edlaymance.com](http://edlaymance.com). Under Resources, watch the talk, *Taking Away the Power of the Past to Control You* and use the Flushing exercise as a template for the hard work you must do.

Do not waste one more day in bondage to the pain of your past!

Then, come back to your Personal Profile and update what you are witness to God having done and what He is now doing!

# Personal Profile

Because we are all a work in progress, revisit this summary occasionally and update what you see God doing and how He is **continuing** to SHAPE you for Kingdom purposes.

## Spiritual Gifts

I probably or possible have these gifts from the Holy Spirit.

What that means to me is:

## Heart

My insights from *Things Remembered* and *Things I Love* are:

Issues I am most passionate about, and age groups/people groups I am most drawn to:

Something I must pay attention to concerning my heart is:

## **Abilities**

Natural talents and abilities I have are:

Skills I marked on the Skill Mapping Survey are:

My primary career field or daily workplace is:

Insights from the questions I ranked are:

## **Personality**

The two animals that most characterize me, and my basic motivations are:

What this means to me is:

My MBTI® profile is:

What this means to me is:

## **Experiences**

Insights from my current relationship with Jesus:

Insights from family experiences:

Insights from educational experiences:

Insights from vocational experiences:

Insights from relational experiences:

Insights from Kingdom involvement:

Insights from the good, the bad, and the ugly:

## **SHAPE**

What I know at this point about my Laughing Place is:

A next step to continue discovering and developing my Laughing Place will be: