



Tim Keller's List of Skills, Passions, Talents and Gifts

Dr. Tim Keller once commented that if you lift up the lid of a piano and sing a B-flat notes, only the B-flat string will vibrate. Why? Because it was built to pick up that wave length; the other strings are deaf to B-flat. So too, there are needs and activities that we vibrate to because of the way God has built us.

Read the seven different groups below that relate to skills, talents, and gifts. Try to identify one (or more) group that you “vibrate” to in interest or experience. Note that our unique design is usually reflected in a combination of these groups.

Adventuring (def): abilities that use physical strength and dexterity, as well as courage and boldness, to accomplish tasks some may consider uncertain or risky.

- Faith** – The God-given ability to believe God for the unlikely.
- Cross Cultural** – The interest or desire to travel or live in among people different from your culture of origin. The ability to adapt to another culture.
- Evangelism** – The desire or interest in sharing the truth of the gospel to people unaware or resistant to it.
- Spontaneous Fun** – The ability to delay routine responsibilities and get involved in impromptu activities designed to develop relationships for Kingdom purposes.
- Prayer** – The passion to plead to God for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The ability to pray with unusual perseverance with the result that answers to prayer requests are often experienced, sometimes in remarkable ways.

Artistic (def): creative abilities used to communicate feelings, ideas, concepts and philosophical perspectives.

- Service** – The God-given ability to detect and meet needs through various expressions of love and labor, including **musical & creative communications**, which is the ability to communicate God's truth through a variety of art forms..
- Acting** – People who enjoy performing on stage or in video productions.
- Costuming (Drama)** – Those who enjoy developing outfits and accessories for dramatic productions.
- Art** – People with the skills and ability to express themselves through drawings, painting and sculpture.
- Crafts** – Persons who enjoy leading children in doing crafts either in Sunday school or other activities.
- Building Crafts** – People who get a kick out of designing craft projects which can be used by different age groups in the children's ministry.

- **Creativity** - People who can use their imagination to arrange or bring something about.
- **Data Base Development**– People who understand computing data bases and how to effectively develop them for use in ministry applications.
- **Cross Cultural** – The interest or desire to travel or live in among people different from your culture of origin. The ability to adapt to another culture.
- **Decorating** – People with the skills and interests in designing and furnishing rooms or buildings.
- **Food Preparation** – Persons who enjoy planning and preparing food for groups ranging in size from very small to very large numbers of people.
- **Spontaneous Fun**– The ability to delay routine responsibilities and get involved in impromptu activities designed to develop relationships for Kingdom purposes.
- **Gardening and Landscaping**– People who enjoy designing, developing and/or maintaining beautiful grounds by playing in the dirt.
- **Graphics Design** – People who have the skills, ability, and experience to express their artistry through the use of computer graphics
- **Audio, Video & Lighting Tech** – People with the experience, or desire to learn, in the use of audio, video and lighting equipment to support our technical team.
- **Music – Children’s** - People with training and skills in vocal and/or instrumental music, to work with children in order to lead them to worship God and understand His love.
- **Music – Instrumental** - People with training and skills in instrumental music who will use these skills in musical performance, or train others in developing their instrumental skills, in order to lead people in the worship God and to understand His love.
- **Music – Vocal** - People with training and skills in vocal performance, who will use these skills, or train others in the use of their vocal gifts, in order to lead people in the worship God and to understand His love.
- **Photography** – People who enjoy illuminating God’s creation through the artistic use of the medium of photography.
- **Puppeteering** – People who enjoy acting through the use of puppets in order to communicate to children in a fresh and creative manner.
- **Video Scripting** – People who enjoy writing and can help express a concept or idea through word, audio and video, so that it is a clear expression of the desired message.
- **Story Boarding** – People who enjoy planning by creatively organizing random ideas into coherent schemes.
- **Web Site Creation** – People who understand computers and the internet, as well as web design and updating, and desire to promote the Kingdom of God through world class website development.
- **Writing** – People who express ideas well by composing them in written formats.
- **Creative/Interpretive Movement** –People with training and skills in creative and interpretive movement, who will use these skills, or train others in the use of their skills, in order to lead in the worship of God and in understanding His love.
- **Stage/Set Design** - People with the ability and desire to creatively design sets for artistic productions.
- **Story Telling** – The ability to make stories come alive and real in creative and innovative ways, particularly for children.

Influencing (def): abilities used to intentionally and directly motivate people to do or believe something.

- **Teaching** - The God-given desire and ability to understand, explain and apply God's Word to the lives of those listening.
- **Exhortation** – The God-given ability to arouse others to action, causing them to follow a specific course of action.
- **Evangelism** – The God-given desire and ability to effectively communicate the message of the gospel of Christ to unbelievers.
- **Pastor-Teacher** – The God-given desire and ability to pastor God's people primarily through the proclaiming and teaching God's Word.
- **Leadership** – The God-given ability to attract, lead and motivate people to accomplish their work of ministry.
- **Faith** – The God-given ability to believe God for the unlikely.
- **Business** - - People who have background and experience in running managing and leading business ventures.
- **Financial Counseling** – People who understand financial planning and are able to help others apply these principles.
- **Counseling** – One who is able to provide advice, opinion or instruction regarding issues, concerns, or circumstances.
- **Cross Cultural** – The interest or desire to travel or live in among people different from your culture of origin. The ability to adapt to another culture.
- **Discipleship** – People with a spiritual life product who desire to intentionally impart that product and are willing to spend enough time doing the right things to make that happen.
- **Distance Learning** – People who know how to design educational initiatives and curriculum for learning vehicles such as on-line training, as well as video & audio adaptations.
- **Greeting and Ushering** – People who enjoy helping visitors, regular attenders and members during worship services and other programs by providing friendly service and direction.
- **Journalism and Reporting** – Persons who enjoy gathering, writing, editing and publishing news and information.
- **Knowledge** – The capacity to gain deep insight into biblical truth by means of careful research and serious study. The ability to uncover the great principles of God's Word.
- **Language** The training, skill and/or cultural background to speak one or more languages other than English.
- **Public Relations** - The skills and ability to promote information and good will that secures public notice.
- **Mentoring** – One willing to serve as a friend and counselor, guiding others using lessons learned usually through their own life experience.
- **Prayer** – The passion to plead to God for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The ability to pray with unusual perseverance with the result that answers to prayer requests are often experienced, sometimes in remarkable ways.
- **Producing Events** – Persons who enjoy organizing and coordinating programs and productions, helping the people involved fulfill their roles in the accomplishment of the activity.

- ❑ **Story Boarding** – People who enjoy planning by creatively organizing random ideas into coherent schemes.
- ❑ **Theology** – People who study God’s truth in a systematic way and enjoy applying it to problems or opportunities.
- ❑ **Writing and Editing** - People who express ideas well by composing them in written formats, and who can help edit material for publication or production.
- ❑ **Volunteer Development** – People who enjoy helping others identify their gifts, skills, and passions, and work with them to find their best niche in ministry.
- ❑ **Small Group Leadership** – People who enjoy teaching and leading in a group of three to nine people, and who want to see these people grow and mature.
- ❑ **Mentor** – One willing to serve as a friend and counselor, guiding others using lessons learned usually through their own life experience.
- ❑ **Recruitment and Mobilization**
- ❑ **Coaching** - Persons who have skills in a particular sport to teach, encourage, and lead children, adolescents or adults.
- ❑ **Entrepreneur** - People who are energized by casting vision for and starting new ministries or re-vamping old ones.

Investigating (def): abilities used to experiment and use math, data, formulas and logic to achieve results.

- ❑ **Administration** – The God-given ability to give guidance and direction to the people and affairs of the church.
- ❑ **Business** – People who have background and experience in running managing and leading business ventures.
- ❑ **Legal** – People with legal training and skills who are willing to use them to serve others.
- ❑ **Medical Skills** – People with training and skills in the medical arts and are willing to use them to serve others.
- ❑ **Financial Counseling** – People with training and skills in financial planning who are willing to use them to serve others.
- ❑ **Computer** – People with an understanding of computer hardware and software operations, who are willing to use these skills to serve others..
- ❑ **Creativity** – People who can use their imagination to arrange or bring something about.
- ❑ **Data Base Development** – People who understand computing data bases and how to effectively develop them for use in ministry applications.
- ❑ **Distance Learning** – People who know how to design educational initiatives and curriculum development through distance learning vehicles such as on-line training, as well as video & audio adaptations.
- ❑ **Journalism and Reporting** – Persons who enjoy gathering, writing, editing and publishing news and information.
- ❑ **Knowledge** – The capacity to gain deep insight into biblical truth by means of careful research and serious study. The ability to uncover the great principles of God’s Word.
- ❑ **Language** – The training, skill and/or cultural background to speak one or more languages other than English.

- **Research** – People who enjoy using libraries, the internet, and research methods to uncover literature, data and information useful for sermon preparation, ministry planning, and program evaluation.
- **Theology** – People who study God’s truth in a systematic way and enjoy applying it to problems or opportunities.

Operating (def): the abilities to operate machinery or skilled equipment.

- **Service** – The God-given ability to detect and meet needs through various expressions of love and labor, including **craftsmanship**, which is the desire and ability to facilitate the ministry by constructing the necessary tools for ministry.
- **Audio, Video & Lighting Tech** – People with the experience, or desire to learn, in the use of audio, video and lighting equipment to support our technical team.
- **Video Editing** - People who enjoy editing video productions in order to express a concept or idea so that it is a clear expression of the desired message.
- **Computer** – People with an understanding of computer hardware and software operations, who are willing to use these skills to serve others.
- **Stage/Set Construction** – People with the ability and desire to use tools and building materials to build visual tools that enhance the message of the Kingdom.
- **Carpentry** – People with the skills of woodworking and cabinet-making who want to invest these abilities in helping others.
- **Electrician** – People with the skills of planning and wiring electrical systems who want to invest these abilities in helping others.
- **Painting** – People who enjoy painting and want to use this to help others.
- **Data Base Development** – People who understand computing data bases and how to effectively develop them for use in ministry applications.
- **Data Entry** – People who desire to serve by entering data and maintaining systems for existing ministry databases.
- **Word Processing** – People who enjoy keyboarding and are willing to use that skill to support administrative functions.
- **Building Crafts** – People who get a kick out of designing craft projects which can be used by different age groups in the children’s ministry.
- **Food Preparation** – Persons who enjoy planning and preparing food for groups ranging in size from very small to very large numbers of people.
- **Gardening and Landscaping** – People who enjoy designing, developing and/or maintaining beautiful grounds by playing in the dirt.
- **Medical Skills** – People with training and skills in the medical arts and are willing to use them to serve others.
- **Music** – People with training and skills in vocal and/or instrumental music, to either work with groups (children, youth, adults) or use these skills in musical performance, to lead others to worship God and understand His love.
- **Photography** – People who enjoy illuminating God’s creation through the artistic use of the medium of photography.

- **Web Site Maintenance** – People who understand computers and the internet, as well as web design, and desire to promote the Kingdom of God through the maintenance of a world class website.

Organizing (def): abilities to carry out systematic processes, organize details, establish plans, and arrange schedules.

- **Administration** – The God-given ability to give guidance and direction to the people and affairs of the church.
- **Service** – The God-given ability to detect and meet needs through various expressions of love and labor, including **hospitality**, which is the desire and ability to provide an environment of inclusion for new and needy people.
- **Accounting** – The knowledge and ability to use generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Business** – People who have background and experience in running managing and leading business ventures.
- **Financial Counseling** – People who understand financial planning and are able to help others apply these principles.
- **Data Base Development** – People who understand computing data bases and how to effectively develop them for use in ministry applications.
- **Distance Learning** – People who know how to design educational initiatives and curriculum for learning vehicles such as on-line training, as well as video & audio adaptations.
- **Building Crafts** – People who get a kick out of designing craft projects which can be used by different age groups in the children’s ministry.
- **Food Management** – The ability to plan and oversee food service, including management of volunteer and paid preparers and servers, for groups ranging in size from very small to very large numbers of people.
- **Greeting and Ushering** – People who enjoy helping visitors, regular attenders and members during worship services and other programs by providing friendly service and direction.
- **Producing Events** – Persons who enjoy organizing and coordinating programs and productions, helping the people involved fulfill their roles in the accomplishment of the activity.
- **Research** – People who enjoy using libraries, the internet, and research methods to uncover literature, data and information useful for sermon preparation, ministry planning, and program evaluation.
- **Scripting (Video)** – People who enjoy writing and can help express a concept or idea through word, audio and video, so that it is a clear expression of the desired message.
- **Story Boarding** – People who enjoy planning by creatively organizing random ideas into coherent schemes.
- **Web Site Creation & Maintenance** – People who understand computers and the internet, as well as web design and updating, and desire to promote the Kingdom of God through world class website development.
- **Editing** – People with grammatical and writing skill who can help edit material for publication or production.
- **Librarian** – Persons who love books and materials, and enjoy organizing them in such a way as to make them available to children and adults.

- **Volunteer Scheduling** – People who enjoy coordinating tasks and people, planning how to recruit and organize volunteers to complete projects.
- **Office Support** – People who love to come alongside of ministry and administrative staff, supporting them in their office functions, so that they can be more efficient and effective.
- **Mailing Coordination** – People who enjoy organizing large mailing projects, using volunteers to complete the task on schedule.

Social (def): abilities used to encourage, develop, support and help others to be more effective in their daily lives.

- **Teaching** – The God-given desire and ability to understand, explain and apply God’s Word to the lives of those listening.
- **Evangelism** – The God-given desire and ability to effectively communicate the message of the gospel of Christ to unbelievers.
- **Pastor-Teacher** – The God-given desire and ability to pastor God’s people primarily through the proclaiming and teaching God’s Word
- **Shepherding (Pastor)** – The God-given desire and ability to provide leadership, care and nurture for individuals or groups of people in the church over an extended period of time.
- **Mercy** – The God-given ability to hurt for those who hurt and to do what is necessary to help relieve them from their distress.
- **Service** – The God-given ability to detect and meet needs through various expressions of love and labor, including **hospitality**, which is the desire and ability to provide an environment of inclusion for new and needy people.
- **Hospitality** – The ability to welcome individuals or groups into one’s home or place of work in order to share fellowship, food, or lodging.
- **Caregiving** – People who like to come alongside those who are hurt, confused, or struggling and support them until they recover and regain strength.
- **Compassion** – Persons who feel deep sympathy for others struck by misfortune, accompanied by the desire to alleviate the suffering.
- **Counseling** One who is able to provide advice, opinion or instruction regarding issues, concerns, or circumstances.
- **Cross Cultural** – The interest or desire to travel or live in among people different from your culture of origin. The ability to adapt to another culture.
- **Discipleship** – People with a spiritual life product who desire to intentionally impart that product and are willing to spend enough time doing the right things to make that happen.
- **Distance Learning** – People who know how to design educational initiatives and curriculum for learning vehicles such as on-line training, as well as video & audio adaptations.
- **Encouragement** – Persons who desire to inspire and stimulate others toward belief and confidence in God and themselves.
- **Evangelism** - The God-given desire and ability to effectively communicate the message of the gospel of Christ to unbelievers.
- **Spontaneous Fun** – The ability to delay routine responsibilities and get involved in impromptu activities designed to develop relationships for Kingdom purposes.

- **Greeting and Ushering** – People who enjoy helping visitors, regular attenders and members during worship services and other programs by providing friendly service and direction.
- **Language** - The training, skill and/or cultural background to speak one or more languages other than English.
- **Public Relations** - The skills and ability to promote information and good will that secures public notice.
- **Medical Skills** – People with training and skills in the medical arts and are willing to use them to serve others.
- **Mentor** - – One willing to serve as a friend and counselor, guiding others using lessons learned usually through their own life experience.
- **Prayer** – The passion to plead to God for His kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. The ability to pray with unusual perseverance with the result that answers to prayer requests are often experienced, sometimes in remarkable ways.
- **Writing** - People who express ideas well by composing them in written formats.
- **Telephoning** – People who enjoy contacting others by telephone – even people they don't know – to solicit information or deliver a message.
- **Reception/Phone Answering** – People who enjoy receiving calls and helping take messages or direct the caller to the person or location desired.
- **Sign Language** - People with training and skills in sign language, who will use these skills, or train others in sign language, in order to lead or support ministry to the deaf..
- **Disabled/Special Education/Special Needs** – People with training and skills and/or a deep concern that children and adults with special needs receive ministry in the church
- **Food Serving** – People who enjoy caring for others by serving them meals.