Introduction: Can you imagine . . .

• . . . driving home after an exhausting and stressful day only to get an “S.O.S.” voicemail from a not-so-close friend . . . and immediately experiencing a shift of focus off yourself and your stressful day and finding yourself filled with compassion and energy to help this person in need?

• . . . hearing of a promotion or a financial windfall in the life of your ex-husband/wife . . . and having the first thoughts that come to your mind be joy and gratitude to God for His blessing on their life?

• . . . being able to hear the honest conversations of your children and your closest friends as they’ve gathered at your home after your funeral . . . describing you as the most patient, loyal, and Christ-like person they had ever known?
How God brings out the best in His children:

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NASB)

11 And He gave . . .
    . . . some as apostles,
    . . . and some as prophets,
    . . . and some as evangelists,
    . . . and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints . . .
    . . . for the work of service,
    . . . to the building up of the body of Christ;

13 until we all attain . . .
    . . . to the unity of the faith,
    and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
    . . . to a mature man,
    . . . to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

14 As a result, . . .
    . . . we are no longer to be children,
    . . . tossed here and there by waves,
    . . . and carried about by every wind of doctrine,
    . . . by the trickery of men,
    . . . by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

15 . . . but speaking the truth in love, . . .
    . . . we are to grow up in all aspects into Him,
    . . . who is the head, even Christ,

16 from whom the whole body . . .
    . . . being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies,
    . . . according to the proper working of each individual part,
    . . . causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.
1. **Leaders** are gifted to _____________ God’s people for service.  
   Ephesians 4:11-12a

2. **Every member** is a ______________.  
   Ephesians 4:12b

3. **Ministries are developed** to help ________________ to live every day in every way just as Jesus would live if He were living out His life in their physical body.  
   Ephesians 4:13

4. God **measures spiritual maturity** by a specific, ________________ criteria:
   - Doctrinal stability
   - Authentic relationships
   - Full participation
   - Growing love
   Ephesians 4:14-16
Are you positioning yourself for God to bring out the best in you?

A Diagnostic Evaluation:

1. I am currently being equipped for ministry by:
   - Worshipping regularly
   - Listening / Reading for personal growth
   - Being involved in an apprenticeship and/or mentoring relationship

2. I am currently ministering and building into the lives of others . . .
   - Rarely or sporadically
   - Functioning in my gifts with joy and fruitfulness
   - Involved in ministry, but don’t feel deeply useful
   - Regularly seeing other’s lives changed through me and my gifts

3. I am becoming more like Christ in my everyday life as evidenced by:
   - Coming Before God daily
   - A desire to read God’s Word
   - A disciplined study and understanding of God’s Word
   - An ability to “see through” false teaching

4. I am becoming more like Christ in my everyday life as evidenced by:
   - Doing life In community
   - Enjoying one or more deep, authentic relationships in Christ
   - My regular attendance in a small group where “speaking the truth in love” is common
   - Having three or four gut-level accountability relationships that are helping me through the most sensitive areas of my life

5. I am becoming more like Christ in my everyday life as evidenced by:
   - Being On mission 24-7
   - A desire to become more deeply involved with God’s people (worship, classes, friendships, meeting needs)
   - A sense of belonging and acceptance with my church family
   - A clear sense that I “fit” in my church body (I am loved by others and find myself caring and helping them in increasing measure)