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G O D ' S H E A R T B E A T
F O R O U R P U R P O S E

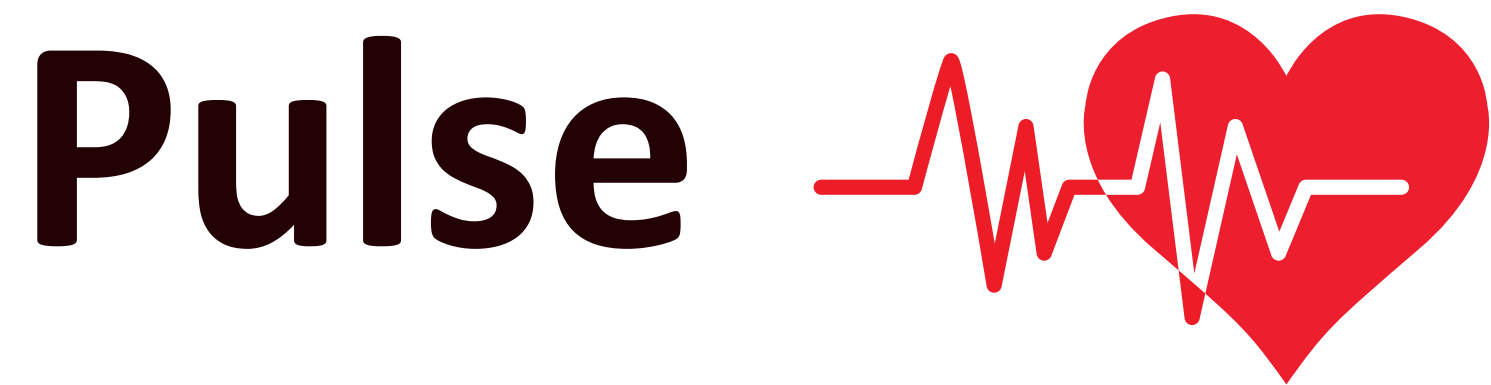


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God's Heartbeat For Our Purpose

**SOMETIMES THE
GREATEST ACT OF
CARE IS SIMPLY
SHOWING UP.**



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- Eph 4:11 is our key text in looking at these gifts but so often it's become a title and position rather than a *function in a community*.
- The word used is "pastor" is poimēnas and refers to a person who tends to people, guides, cares for, and protects people.
- The gift is often used in a church context but truthfully applies to all our of lives.

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**THE GIFT OF SHEPHERDING IS GOD'S STRENGTH TO NURTURE,
CARE FOR, AND GUIDE PEOPLE TOWARD MATURITY
(AND IN CHURCH BECOMING MATURE AND LIKE CHRIST.)**

DISTINCTIVES: PEOPLE WITH THIS GIFT

- *Take responsibility to nurture a person (in church with their walk with God)*
- *Provide guidance and oversight to individuals or group of people*
- *Model with their life what it means to be whole (in church, a fully devoted follower of Jesus)*
- *Establish trust and confidence through long term relationships*
- *Lead and protect those within their span of care*

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Traits:

- Influencing
- Nurturing
- Guiding
- Discipling
- Protective
- Supportive
- Relational



Key Responsibilities:

Those with the spiritual gift of shepherding are usually responsible for teaching, guiding, encouraging, and correcting others (in their spiritual journey). They may lead small groups, mentor individuals, or provide wise counsel in challenging situations.

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“Encouragement is
oxygen to the soul.”

George M. Adams



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Why is a shepherd's heart important?

- Psalm 23:1
- Isaiah 40:11

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In the New Testament - Jesus demonstrates His shepherd's heart towards us:-

- *“harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*
Matt 9:36
-
- *“I am the good shepherd;”* John 10:14-15 NIV
- *“shepherd the flock of God among you”* 1 Peter 5:2



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What does this look like in my life as someone
God has gifted with a shepherd's heart?
What does this mean for the will of God in my life?

- Eph 2:10 I am created by God to do good works
- Col 3:23 Work willingly, for the Lord, do my work to God not unto men.



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WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN MY LIFE AS SOMEONE GOD HAS GIFTED WITH A SHEPHERD'S HEART?

MOTIVE –

It's how I am wired for nurturing and getting alongside others, showing empathy, listening, understanding.

WIRED

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WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN MY LIFE AS SOMEONE GOD HAS GIFTED WITH A SHEPHERD'S HEART?

MOTIVE

MINISTRY –

- *It helps me fulfil the ministry of Jesus by acting with compassion.*
- *It is a ministry not a title - but I can still function in that gift;*
- *I am not a Pastor because I studied at college but because God gifted me that way.*

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WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN MY LIFE AS SOMEONE GOD HAS GIFTED WITH A SHEPHERD'S HEART?

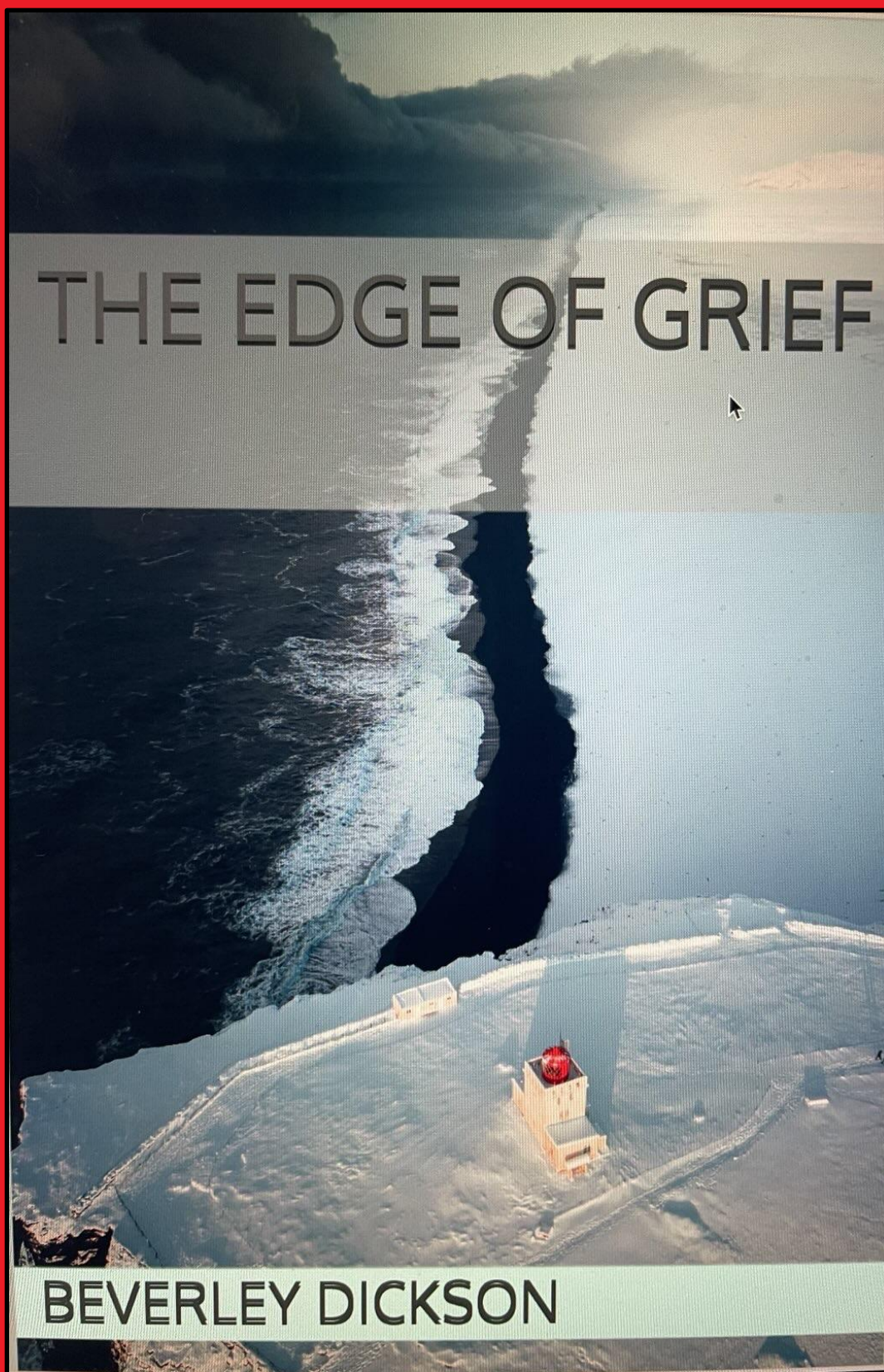
- MOTIVE
- MINISTRY
- METHOD –
 - *Day to day outworking in social work with children with disabilities and their families.*
 - *In church, my natural domain is not upfront – I prefer small groups and 1:1*




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<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ev-dickson-edge-of-grief>

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Pastoral care matters here in church:

- Important for connections through small groups
- For being nurtured
- Feeling cared for



Pastoral Care Team



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ANNOUNCEMENT & PRAYER



»»» MODEL OF CARE

SELF: *Care for body, mind, heart, and soul.*

Offering tools, teachings, and resources to build and strengthen congregants self-care.

COMMUNITY: *Life groups, support groups, and church community*

Life Groups, financial/life-skill, mentoring, elder care, prayer teams

PEER: *Parents, family, friends, spouse, etc.*

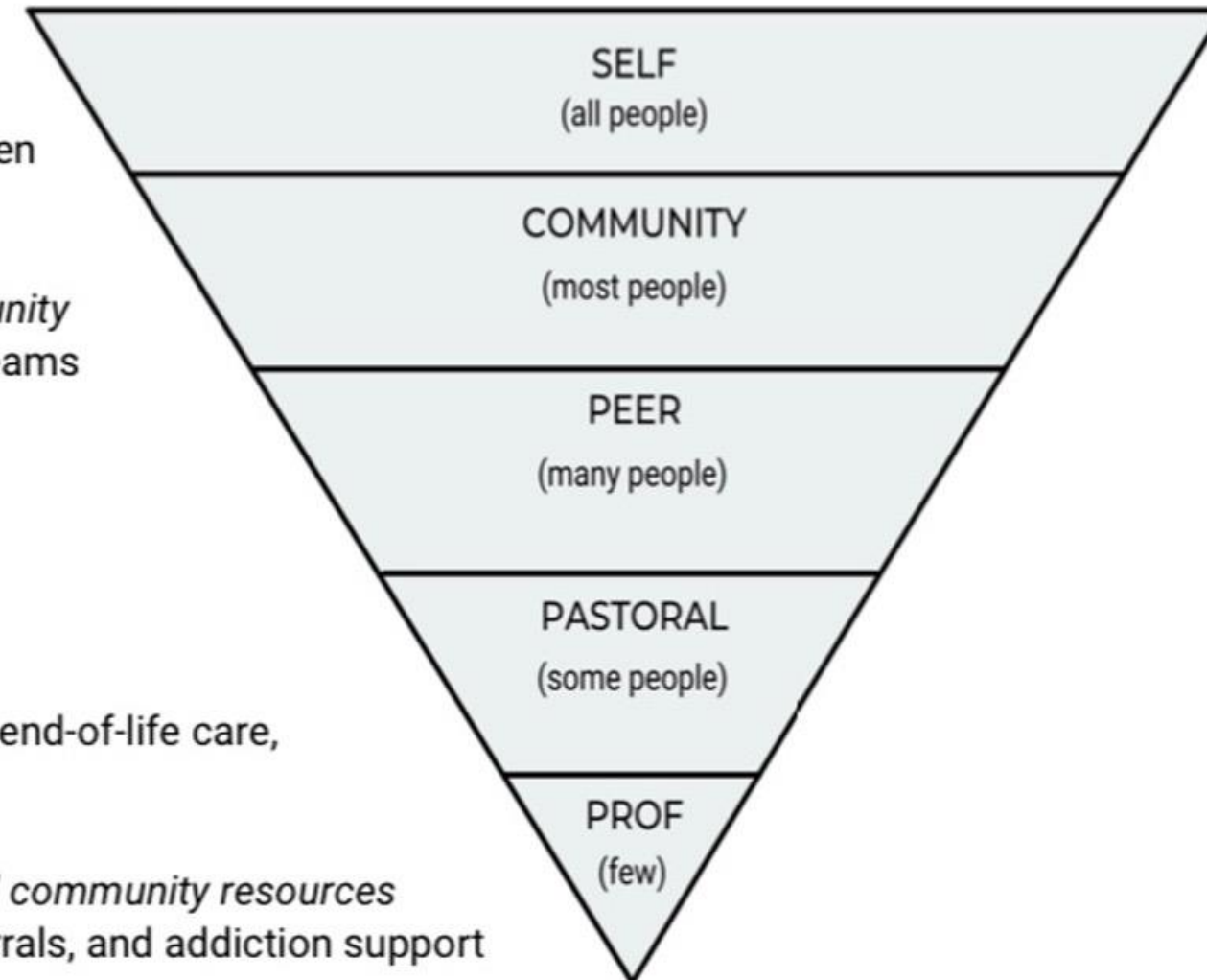
Prayer, 1-1 support, coaching/mentoring, hospital visitation, marriage/relationship mentoring

PASTORAL: *Pastoral staff and volunteer spiritual caregivers*

Family of origin work, grief management, divorce processing, end-of-life care, memorial support, financial support

PROFESSIONAL: *Mental health professionals, counselors, and community resources*

Community resourcing through partnerships, counseling referrals, and addiction support



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SO, WHO IS YOUR FLOCK?

- If you have a nurturing, empathic, caring nature and a compassionate and protective heart, you are most likely a shepherd.
- Who is it that you nurture, care for, love and protect everyday?
- These are the people who are your flock (shepherd well)

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GIFT OF SHEPHERDING

For some further study here are some links exploring the characteristics of the gift of shepherding.

- Dave's Notes
- <https://myspiritualgifts.com/spiritual-gifts/shepherding/>
- <https://spiritualask.com/what-is-shepherding-as-a-spiritual-gift/>

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CONCLUSION:

Key Action Points for Next Steps

1. Do you know what your personal APEST calling is? *(If not, try taking the optional but recommended APEST profile test at: www.5qcentral.com/tests)*
2. Which parts of the role you currently have in church ministry matches your APEST calling and which parts don't?

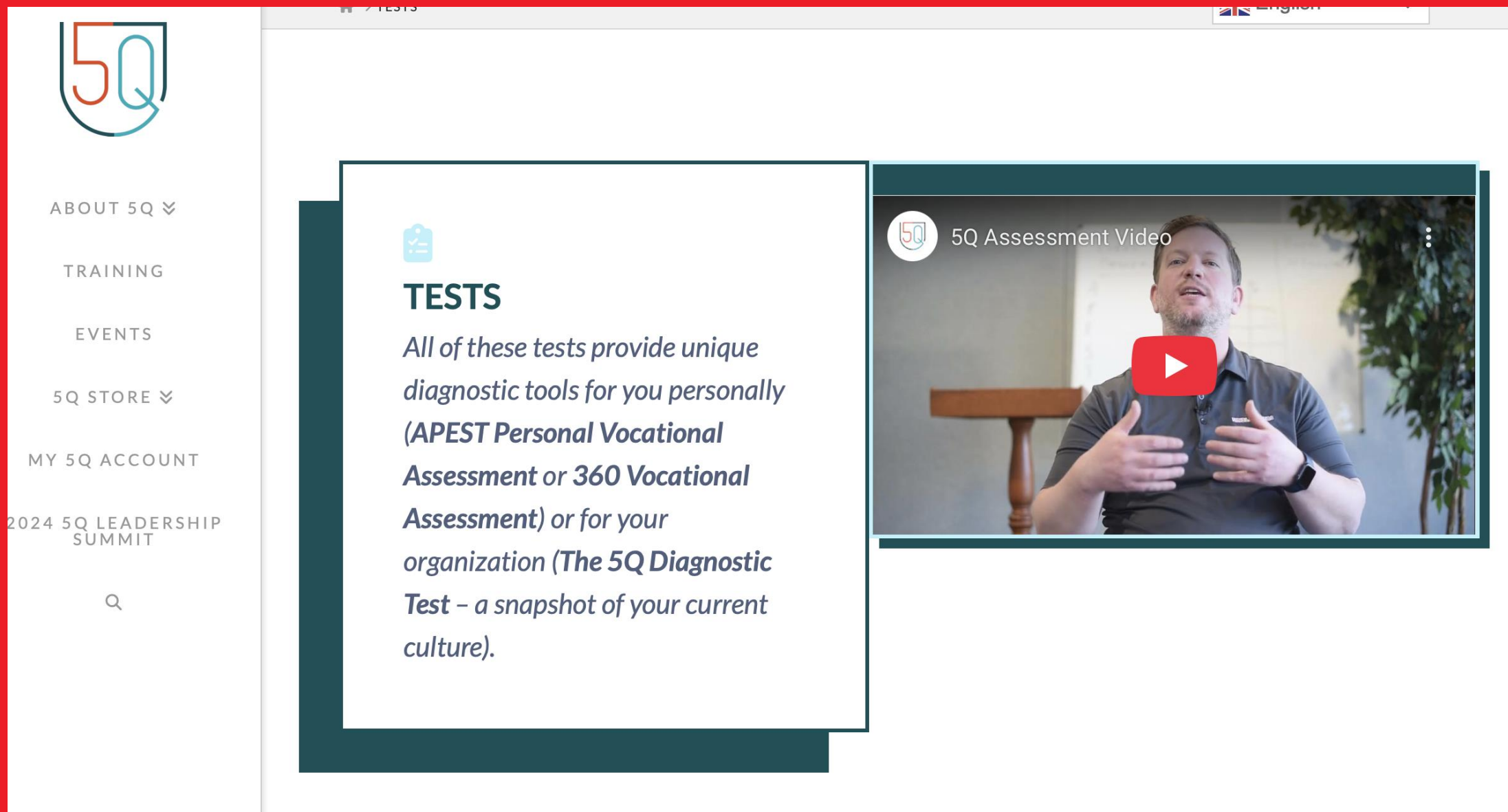
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APEST- Discovery of gifts questionnaire link

<https://5qcentral.com/tests/>



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Key Action Points for Next Steps

3. Identify an area of weakness or deficit in your own fivefold maturity or an area you'd like to grow in.
4. Identify who you could approach to learn from and what practices you could put in place daily or weekly to mature.

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