

## Questions for discussion

### 1. Do you think you are different?

This whole book is about you accepting you. Its about recognizing being different is ok. There are unique things about you. There are combinations of looks, attitudes, and talents. That makes up who you are. Even if you thought you were normal, you're not. You are different, unique, and one of a kind.

*“Is it the character of those mentioned above different? Is it their talents, thought process, or voices? If you were blind in a room what would give you a reason to recognize them. Is it the voice of Madonna? Is it the presence of Trump? How about the words of Jesus? How could you know who those people are? It could be an impostor? It’s astounding to me when I hear stories of movie stars being barred from entering a movie set. The security says they did not recognize them. Could you miss Dr. Phil or Ellen? Maybe, but if they spoke it might give it away. Why are people different?” Chapter 10, p, 2*

### 2. What things define you?

I am defined as a writer, pastor, and strange sense of humor guy. I am good looking but weird at times. What defines you? Are you female? Are you gay? Does that define you? Is a sport or a career define you? The other day a broadcaster said that you will never find a better human being in a person they were describing. What defines you?

*“Yes, you have talents that define you. I knew a kid who could draw amazing pictures. He was just a kid, yet he clearly had artistic talent. I knew another boy who made it his mission to stand out. He had to be different. I think he wanted to be noticed. Talented? Sure, he had some talent, but he did not stand alone with the talent he had. Still, he wanted to be an individual. Both boys are not the sum of their talents. Their character certainly played a role in how we looked at them. It a combination that defines them. That combination also defines you.” Chapter 10, p, 4*

### 3. Pick people who want you to grow?

I know a person who never said one good thing about me in public. People seemed to love the bad stuff. I have lived a life among critical people. It has caused me tons of heartbreak. Still, I want people in my life that care for me. They don't always have to say nice things, but they are more interested in building up than tearing down.

*“Next year I’m going to write a book on relationships. It is my pet peeve. Divorce will do that. In the meantime, I am looking you straight in the face. Look into my eyes, I’m being serious. Pick a person to live with that you want to see develop and grow. Pick a person who is interested in seeing you develop. Be interested in people who know themselves well. Both of you pick someone who wants to explore their talents and embrace yours. Crushed relationships come from stagnant lives. It comes from unfed talents. Your existence will become a restless unfed tiger. Why would you both put yourselves in that type of situation? It comes down to respecting many things about yourself and those you live with.” Chapter 10, p, 7*

### **4. Do you explore and feed your talents?**

Do you know yourself? You like vanilla ice cream but you hate horror movies. Is that you in a nut shell? Yet, what talents do you use? Do you know three talents you have? We have several unexplored talents. There is a program available for hockey players once they retire. Its main goal is to seek out their talents and passions for life past hockey. Gee I thought they were talented hockey players. Yet, there is more to people than money and one talent. Not feeding and exploring your talents is a bad idea. That’s why the NHL has a program for retirees.

*“This is what I know. In my previous marriage, I thought I knew me. On the outside of that relationship I quickly realize I knew very little about me. I began five years of discovery. I am certainly still on that path today fifteen years later. I had little to no interest in discovering me in my first marriage. The same old was comfortable. I equally did not care to discover who my Ex was. In so many ways, after twelve years of marriage, I hardly knew her. It was stunning really. We spent all that time ignoring each other’s talents. I bet we even stifled them from growing for fear of ruining the relationship. Yet, something was clearly wrong in both of us. We ignored the talents we had.” Chapter 10, p, 9*

### **5. Your talents were meant to be used.**

I had a mom who wrote a ton. I did not know that. She kept that talent hidden. I know she tried to get some stuff published. Yet, in her writings were longings for something more. She wanted to share herself more. She wanted people to appreciate her talents. There is a restlessness in each of us. We want to be used and share who we are. Those talents are screaming to get out. Usually we get angry, frustrated, or find a new relationship to satisfy the screams of our talents. Why not just try exploring them, using them, and maybe even abusing them?

## **Talent** Chapter 10 (Dirty)

*“Imagine getting a new vinyl record hot off the press. You keep it in the package because you fear ruining it. It boasts on the cover that it’s in full digital recording. The best sound ever. The artist has won Grammy’s and entertainer of the year. Yet, you never open it. Never listen to it. You keep it closed up to preserve what might be. Yet, here sits talent unheard, unused, and unappreciated. Talents were meant to be opened and displayed for what they are.” Chapter 10, p, 11*

### **6. Do you give your talents the capacity to thrive?**

There is no time. I can’t right now. There is no money. These are some of the excuses we use to not explore our talents. If nothing was in your way, what would you do? Would you travel, the rich do that. Would you buy things, the rich do that. The rich also have the same troubles we all do. It’s called finding our significance. That significance is not found in money. It is not found in relationships. It’s found in you giving your talents the capacity to grow. Make room for them.

*“To be an Olympian means you need to practice. Not just anyone stands on an Olympic podium. There are people who say that the athletes are handpicked and that it’s political. I also have heard stories of athletes pushing their way on the team because of their will to win. I say that wherever you are and however you got there, know who you are and practice winning with your God given talents. In that world, there is no room for I wish, I might, or I could. Give your talents the capacity to thrive. Yes, throw aptitude in your case.” Chapter 10, p, 14*