



Your  
**SOUL**  
PRINT  
& **YOU**



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*Your Soul Print is for Only You*

By  
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# **Your Soul Print and You**

## **Your Soul Print is for Only You**

*You are Special ...*

*“You are very special, there’s no one just like you!  
God has made you special, there’s  
no one just like you!!”  
(quote)*

### **What is Meant by “Your Soul Print”?**

It is said that after our Creator made each human being, He threw away the mould. Everyone person who comes into this world is unique not only in appearances but also in what makes you naturally unique in the way you function daily. The combination of several qualities of your ability to, for example, think, feel and will to do something constitutes your soul print. Just as your finger prints are the physical qualities unique to you, so your soul print is also unique to you. Some call these unique group of giftings temperament. Let me explain ...

A Useful Equation

***Temperament + Character = Personality***<sup>1</sup>

## **Definitions**

### ***Temperament*** ***is***

one's customary frame of mind or natural disposition, basic natural giftedness and weaknesses.

(Webster's Dictionary)

The usage of these gifts is the Unique Basic Creation Gift-Mix of Functions, the expressions of which depend on opportunities for expression e.g. affected by sin, upbringing and/or environment. These functions may also become our strengths or infirmities.

From a personal angle, imagine that when you were born, God gave you gifts. One of these is a tray of seedlings for you to nurture to maturity. Your temperament or soul print is a cluster of four basic functions for you to use in your earthly life as soon as you were born.

**Character**  
**is**

Moral strength or moral constitution (how we use our temperaments depends on His character in us i.e. (in a mature/immature, holy/unholy manner)  
(Webster's Dictionary)

*How we manage our Temperament:*

If manage it according to God's ways  
→ we bear His fruit

If manage it according to the enemy's ways  
→ we bear others' fruits e.g. the enemy's fruit or our own fruit

**Personality**  
**is**

Habitual patterns and qualities of behaviour of any individual as expressed by physical and mental activities and attitudes; it comprises distinctive individual qualities  
(Webster's Dictionary)

The unique individual that result, as we relate with another person, may be changed because of the Holy Spirit's transformation of our character as we renew our minds with His truth.

## Summary

*Temperament* is influenced by imperfect genes and imperfect upbringing

*Character* is influenced by God's word and the Holy Spirit directly or indirectly

*Personality* is what we see in each other. It is a result of your gifts and how you use them.

As we may guess from the above definitions, our personality may undergo continuous transformation, depending on how willing you are to follow God's ways in the usage of your yet imperfect soul print.

Therefore, we cannot assume that ...

*“I am born like this so I will always be like this!*

*When our relationship goes sour,*

*it is not my fault ...*

*I cannot change ...*

*you better adjust to my ways!!”*



## WHAT ARE The FOUR BASIC FUNCTIONS OF YOUR TEMPERAMENT?<sup>2</sup>

Using Myers-Briggs (a mother-daughter team in psychological research) concepts and words:

In our daily life, there are four basic functions that we use all the time without having to be aware of what is actually taking place in ourselves. They are:



**The way we naturally recharge our inner energy emotionally.**

Psychologists describe people with these alternative functions as

*Introverted or Extroverted*

### *Introverts*

Those born with a taller seedling of introversion need to regularly recharge their inner energy away from external stimuli of other people, sound or sight, but especially from other people.

If they cannot or do not withdraw from people to recharge their emotional batteries, especially, when taken to extreme, they may be able to hang on and behave sanely for a while but then may become irritable, irrational or blow up on others around them, even those they care for in the family. (Please note that there are many reasons for such behaviour e.g. deliberate acts of malice with outbursts of anger. Here, we are only considering the soul print factor.) However, given the opportunity to be recharged, most introverts can and do function very well in daily life and work.

They are also more reflective in nature and tend to ponder over issues before making their real desires and thoughts known to others. It is more difficult to get to know the real person who is an extreme introvert since he only reveals his true self to you when he trusts you and that may take a long while, even between spouses. Over the last 12 years of pastoral counseling, about 90% of my counselees are rather extreme introverts. Why? I have concluded that it is because those relating with introverts are unable to know their real thoughts, motivation and feelings easily. Hence, these friends guess as to how to relate with them. Eventually, both sides may misunderstand one another. Small matters of differences

may become "*important principles*" of contention, resulting in emotion sapping personal and relational vicious cycles.

### *Extroverts*

Those born with a taller seedling of extroversion recharge their inner emotional batteries by receiving external stimuli. Hence, the more noise and people to interact with, the merrier! Extroverts thrive on conversations (often dominating with their monologues), and sounds and endless activities. Hence, when they visit you on the way somewhere, you may soon need to hint for them to leave. They are often insensitive to the needs of the introverts around them unless they receive the repercussion of their insensitivity. However, when a live wire is required to spark off a party, the extrovert is usually welcome ... till they talk too much!



### **The way we receive information from the outside world around us**

Psychologists describe people with these alternative functions as

*Sensing or Intuitive*

## *Sensing*

Those born with a taller seedling of the sensing function get their input of information through mainly the five physical senses i.e. seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching. They like tangible proof before taking a piece of information as fact. Sensing individuals may end up sounding judgmental to those who do not receive information the same way they do as they would challenge them of the “*truth*” of an observation. A matter of a different temperament function may end up in a fight over “*principles*” and “*one’s conscience*” *unnecessarily*. Sensing people appreciate details and are mostly neat and tidy in their work.

## *Intuitive*

Those born with a taller seedling of the intuitive function gets information input through mainly their intuition, which is sometimes called one’s 6th sense or hunches. Commonly, only time will tell as to whether what they say is true. Therefore, intuitive people often tend to get into trouble with sensing people who view them as being inaccurate in their recording of information, even when they are not. In marriage and parent-child relationships, especially when one party

is also rather perfectionist and/or dominating, much emotional tension may accumulate to breaking point. Accusations and counter accusations may tear them apart. "Ayohhh ... if only they understand themselves better-lah!". However, when the creative energy of intuitive people are allowed to blossom, they become the natural spices of life!



### **The way we make decisions or let others know what is inside us**

[This is the only function with a significant gender difference, more women being more feeling while more men are more thinking.]

Psychologists describe people with these alternative functions as

#### *Thinking or Feeling*

This function has nothing to do with the degree of intelligence. One having a high I.Q. may be a very feeling person while another having a lower I.Q. may be actually be rather unfeeling.

#### *Thinking*

A more thinking person speaks logically, systematically in arguments and makes

decisions backed up with clear thinking. This function is more easily learned or imitated as it is more easily grasped, seen and admired by the world. However, this function has been somewhat elevated to the constant detriment of its owners or their differently endowed neighbours. They are unable to grasp the fact that decisions may be made and are constantly made another way, with as good results if not better, in situations where identifying with others is concerned. Again, relationships are often torn apart by such narrow views of thinking people.

### *Feeling*

Those with more of the feeling function speak in more round about ways and reflexly make decisions with the heart more than the head. This is because they feel with how the other person will be affected by their words and decisions and so hesitate to make a final stand till they could do it to please all involved. They would rather go to and fro in the process before making up their minds on small or big issues. Of course, such slowness and lack of firmness often drives the more thinking person crazy. Why? This is because the latter view the former as being indecisive and/or wishy-washy when they may not be so.

"Oh ... when will they ever learn!" may well echo many thinking individuals' minds when confronted with feeling hearts in the home or office <sup>3</sup>.



## **The way we run our daily life – our lifestyle**

Psychologists describe people with these alternative functions as

*Judging or Perceptive*

However, I will change these adjectives to "*Rigid and Flexible*" as they seem to describe and differentiate these opposite functions clearer.

### ***Rigid***

Rigid people need to plan in details their daily routines and stick to them. They get easily frustrated if the plans are changed suddenly. Most unhealed extreme perfectionists possess this function. However, they usually make good and conscientious workers.

## *Flexible*

Flexible people also make plans but they are better able to accept unplanned changes and are therefore more relaxed individuals. However, they may be less disciplined when too much change occurs at one go! As perfectionists learn to renew their minds and are healed by a deeper understanding of God's grace, they have been observed to become more flexible and relaxed too.

Changes that affect this pair of functions seem to affect the daily life of every part of a person as it determines how one runs his/her daily life. This daily lifestyle affects his/her inner thoughts, emotions and relationships with those around him/her.

### **Your Specific Brand of Gift-Mix or Soul Print**

Your overall Soul Print depends on the combination of the various functions that you have and the various degrees of each function also.



## Example

*An Introverted-Sensing-Thinking-Rigid* or *Introverted-Sensing-Feeling-Rigid* person is sometimes called a **stabilizer** because he is able to see through a project or steer a committee to completing a mission before a new one is hastily started. This is especially valuable when someone else in the team is an *Extroverted-Intuitive-Feeling-Flexible* or *Extroverted-Intuitive-Thinking-Flexible* person called a **crusader**. This latter person will have much energy to start and push others to run projects but when his passion drops, he may leave the project hanging in the air, to the horror of the stabilizer!

## Where Understanding Our Personal Soul Print Helps

Remember

*Temperament + Character = Personality*

*In Our Personal Relationship with  
God and Self*

We have agreed that God created each person to be unique in personality. Therefore, in certain situations in His

communication with us, we can expect Him to speak to us in ways that only we can understand. In other words, you cannot really listen to God for me or I for you. It sounds scary for we may listen wrongly and no one could help us. Yes, this may happen. Maybe that is why God, in His wisdom, has left us with written records of His word to His people who wrote the contents of the Old and New Testaments. His written word would then act as guidelines for us to check and double check what we hear.

However, what we mean here is that He often speaks to us through the soul print He has given us but we may not be hearing Him. Why? This is often due to unintentional distorted teaching which counsels us to read the bible or pray in a certain manner. But if my antenna is different from yours, even slightly different, I may not be able to decode God's message meant for me if I use your antenna. Therefore, we want to encourage one another to feel free to seek to understand our personalities better so that we will directly receive the love of God's customised personal word for ourselves.<sup>4</sup>

Further, when a child of God begins to know that "*Jesus loves me*", not just anyone else, his whole life will never be

the same again. His growing friendship with Him will carry him through the tribulations of earthly life with the certainty of His presence with Him, as He was with e.g. Abraham and Moses! Yes, he may backslide and stop talking to God for a while but he will know it. He will one day want to come back to Him and will, by His covenant of grace. This friendship with the living God will change his worldview and life for his good and God's glory!

### *In Marriage*

Many marriages have been saved through an understanding of basic human functions. Couples find it easier to forgive one another when they realize that in most occasions of conflicts, the starting point is over trivial matters. However, when these get blown out of proportion or major issues get sidetracked because they do not know what is happening at the beginning of an argument, they do not know how to short circuit the problem to a peaceful solution.

### *In Family Life*

Many children are hurt when parents do not accept them as they are, intentionally or unintentionally. But young children do not rationalize their feelings

or behaviour but just reflexly respond with their feelings. When they are not allowed to reason out with their parents why and how they feel what they felt, they end up acting out their inner traumas through action such as lepak behaviour, addictions and untimely sexual encounters. If they don't act their frustrations out, many would have landed up insane ... and many do suffer from depressions and schizophrenia when under severe stress. Parents, being older, are expected to be leaders and not let their young tender and similarly imperfect lives wander where they naturally will flow.

Children too need to accept parents and vice versa as they are. God does use parents and children to purify and edify one another, just as for husbands and wives.

***In Social/Community Life in Church, at Work, in Neighbourhoods and in the Wider Society***

Many committees and boards waste much time and effort trying to solve relational problems and do not succeed. Much manpower goes down drains. With some understanding of basic temperaments, efficiency could increase tremendously.

## How Do We Help Ourselves?

*“Catch for us the foxes,  
the little foxes that ruin the vineyards,  
our vineyards that are in bloom.”*

Song of Songs 2:15



*Reject a Myth About Yourself*

Confess ... Your sins

*“If I am born like this, I will always be like  
this...So don't expect me to change to suit you”!*



*Accept ... Your Weaknesses*

Those who have already worked out their inner needs by trial and error, as they grow in age through experience, are able to function well in family and society. Those, who have not, need external help to understand themselves so that they may be able to live and blossom as more wholesome persons made in God's image. Hence this little essay.



*Be Open ... For Personal Change*

Are you willing to be Teachable for the renewal of your minds and the control of your emotions? Are you willing to be Proactive for changes in your precious life ... precious because God loves you very much?



## *Decide and Act ... On Your Sublimation*

Nobody can change us if we do not want to be changed. God has given everyone the freedom of choice. If He takes this gift of freedom from us, we will be less than human. He only patiently waits to see how and what we choose ... for or against the image He has given us, even His own. We then face the consequence of our choice accordingly. That is His spiritual law for us. Once we have chosen to become more like Him, He will go all out to make it happen. The guarantee has been provided in history through the birth, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus.

### **Reflective Exercise**

Take your time to Reflect, Journal and Pray during your daily communion with God alone. You may like to share with a confidant later on and pray together.

1.

*What is my God-given soul print  
(combination of basic human functions)?*

2.

*How have I used the gifts of my functions in  
my life so far?*

3.

*What is God, the Creator, saying to me?*

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Dr. Lee Bee Teik (MBBS, Monash University) practised medicine till she turned fulltime homemaker.

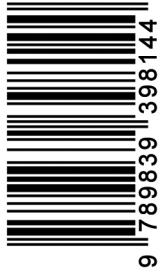
She is married to Dr. Hwa Yung and they have three adult children.

Having heard God's call for her to write in 1992, Bee Teik has penned books on prayer, pastoral counseling and her experiences as a Malaysian Christian woman.

This series of 18 titles, classified under the overall theme, On Being Human, is drawn from the positive feedback from her seminars.

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