

A book...an approach.... about the practical and the transcendent, guiding those of us 55+ to a transformation within that can truly make these....the best years of our lives.

## Talent Assessment

(What do I do best?)

Wondering what your real talents might be?

Confused about where you might best “fit?”

Need a little guidance in looking within?

*Your Second to Last Chapter* Talent Assessment is a perfect way to begin.

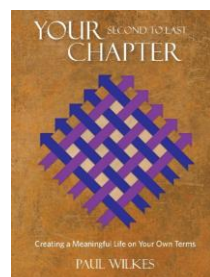
This simple survey may surprise you, finding talents and abilities in you that you may have never known or had the opportunity to use.

This survey will give you a good indication of your strengths...but as importantly, you will be pointed to talents and abilities that are the deepest and most real. Using what you do best will not only make you more effective, but will bring you a deep sense of personal satisfaction and fulfillment.

Let's go...it will take just 10-15 minutes.

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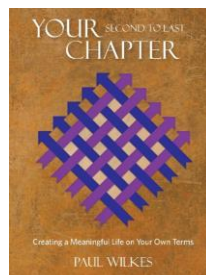
Your Second to Last Chapter  
Talent Assessment – Page 1

Answer: 5= Yes, very much so. 4= Often 3=Somewhat 2= Not usually  
1= On rare occasions 0=Never

- \_\_\_ 1A. When a difficult or confused situation arises, I am a person who others turn to for help with organization.
- \_\_\_ 1B. I would rather use song or dance, rather than words, to express my faith.
- \_\_\_ 1C. I like to think of new ways to demonstrate what spirituality or religious belief can mean in their lives.
- \_\_\_ 1D. Somehow I feel a calling to help those who are troubled.
- \_\_\_ 1E. I am a person who others can confide in.
- \_\_\_ 1F. I feel great satisfaction making things with my hands.
- \_\_\_ 1G. People say I'm the kind of person who gives them hope.
- \_\_\_ 1H. I actually feel a sense of joy when I give.
- \_\_\_ 1I. I like jobs like stuffing envelopes, working in the kitchen, basically helping wherever I'm needed.
- \_\_\_ 1J. I would take a person in need into my home.
- \_\_\_ 1K. When people ask me to pray for them, I remember to do so.
- \_\_\_ 1L. I'm considered a motivator - people like to work with me.
- \_\_\_ 1M. I would feel comfortable leading a small group exploring their future options.
- \_\_\_ 1N. When I see things that are unfair in the world, I want to do something about them.
- \_\_\_ 1O. When I see a need, I like to meet it.
- \_\_\_ 1P. I somehow sense that I would be a good teacher.
- \_\_\_ 1Q. Sometimes I feel civic groups do not do enough to address the many needs of the world.

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Your Second to Last Chapter  
Talent Assessment – Page 2

Answer: 5= Yes, very much so. 4= Often 3=Somewhat 2= Not usually  
1= On rare occasions 0=Never

\_\_\_ 2A. Although I have no trouble leading, I like to delegate responsibility to others.

\_\_\_ 2B. I sense that various volunteer groups I know of have not tapped the artistic capabilities of theirs people.

\_\_\_ 2C. If I have an idea, I know how to communicate it to others.

\_\_\_ 2D. Even before they say it, I can tell when someone else is hurting.

\_\_\_ 2E. Sometimes I can see clearly what is troubling another person.

\_\_\_ 2F. I like to build things and feel a sense of accomplishment.

\_\_\_ 2G. I generally have a positive attitude and try to help others to be positive.

\_\_\_ 2H. I have both the ability to make money and give it away.

\_\_\_ 2I. I am detail oriented and can see little things that need to be done.

\_\_\_ 2J. If no one is talking to a person, I'll try to make him or her feel comfortable.

\_\_\_ 2K. I sometimes feel God's presence when I am alone, silent or praying.

\_\_\_ 2L. I'm aware of other people and I adjust my approach so as to get a task accomplished.

\_\_\_ 2M. I would enjoy visiting and talking with, bringing some sunlight to shut-ins or those in the hospital.

\_\_\_ 2N. I believe there is usually a peaceful way to solve even difficult situations.

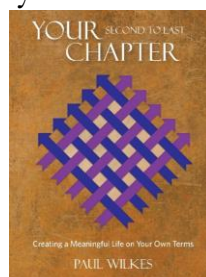
\_\_\_ 2O. Even if a person isn't considered "deserving," I still am ready to help them.

\_\_\_ 2P. I like to find inspirational material or passages and pass them on to others.

\_\_\_ 2Q. If I saw a need, I would not be shy about proposing a new ministry.

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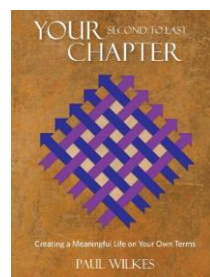
Your Second to Last Chapter  
Talent Assessment – Page 3

Answer: 5= Yes, very much so. 4= Often 3=Somewhat 2= Not usually  
1= On rare occasions 0=Never

- \_\_\_ 3A. I can take available resources and people and organize them to do a job.
- \_\_\_ 3B. When I walk into a place I see ways to beautify it.
- \_\_\_ 3C. I'm not shy about talking about my beliefs, even around others who may not agree.
- \_\_\_ 3D. People say I'm good with people who are down or depressed.
- \_\_\_ 3E. Even when I see what is wrong in a person's life, I am gentle about telling them about it.
- \_\_\_ 3F. I like to work artfully - with wood, paints or other materials.
- \_\_\_ 3G. I have no problem standing with people who are troubled or confused.
- \_\_\_ 3H. I don't have to be acknowledged when I give things or money to others.
- \_\_\_ 3I. I am happy to assist others who can do jobs that I cannot.
- \_\_\_ 3J. I go out of my way to make people feel comfortable, regardless of where I am.
- \_\_\_ 3K. I can see that prayer really does work; prayers are answered.
- \_\_\_ 3L. I like to set goals and see progress being made toward them.
- \_\_\_ 3M. When I encounter people down on themselves, spiritually lost, I like to reach out to them.
- \_\_\_ 3N. I have a great deal of compassion for the poor and needy.
- \_\_\_ 3O. Even when people don't directly ask me for help, I find myself helping them.
- \_\_\_ 3P. I feel I can explain my spiritual or religious truths reasonably well and in an interesting way.
- \_\_\_ 3Q. The idea of new, uncharted mission or challenge excites me.

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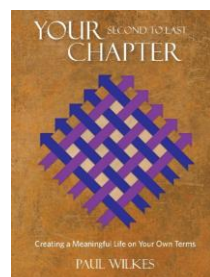
Your Second to Last Chapter  
Talent Assessment – Page 4

Answer: 5= Yes, very much so. 4= Often 3=Somewhat 2= Not usually  
1= On rare occasions 0=Never

- 4A. It's not hard for me to see the “big picture” and to organize a project.
- 4B. When I attend a meetings, gatherings, I can imagine ways to make them it more creative and interesting.
- 4C. People consider me a “good communicator.”
- 4D. If someone is neglected, I'm often the person who tries to help them.
- 4E. When people are in trouble, they seem to turn to me.
- 4F. I easily work with different kinds of tools.
- 4G. I want to help others “be all they can be.”
- 4H. Sometimes I'm stretched by my giving, but I think it is worth it.
- 4I. I'm an “odd jobs” kind of person; I don't mind doing various jobs, even menial ones.
- 4J. I would feel comfortable making my home available for gatherings of people.
- 4K. I don't worry that my prayers are answered exactly as requested; I leave that to whatever anyone calls the “Higher Power.”
- 4L. I can organize well and projects I'm involved with tend to move along smoothly.
- 4M. I am interested in what makes people tick; what the rest of their life is about.
- 4N. Rather than talk about problems in the world, I want to do something about them.
- 4O. I do whatever job needs doing, whether or not I have that skill.
- 4P. When I talk, I'm aware of my audience and I adapt my style and words so they will understand.
- 4Q. I'm the kind of person who people say “thinks outside the box.”

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Your Second to Last Chapter  
Talent Assessment – Page 5

Answer: 5= Yes, very much so. 4= Often 3=Somewhat 2= Not usually  
1= On rare occasions 0=Never

\_\_\_ 5A. I can look ahead to events and figure out an organization plan and possible trouble spots.

\_\_\_ 5B. I think art is a way to show the presence of a “Higher Power”.

\_\_\_ 5C. When I speak, I sense that people listen to me.

\_\_\_ 5D. I have cared for others and don't usually complain about it.

\_\_\_ 5E. Even when I've heard a problem before, I tend to have patience hearing it again.

\_\_\_ 5F. When I look at a construction project, I can see how it was done.

\_\_\_ 5G. I am a person people come to when they are discouraged.

\_\_\_ 5H. I'm happy when I give something that then makes a difference in a person's life.

\_\_\_ 5I. I experience personal satisfaction in doing small, seemingly insignificant jobs well.

\_\_\_ 5J. People think of me as a good host or hostess.

\_\_\_ 5K. My praying is a conversation or dialogue; I enjoy praying as a way to speak to God.

\_\_\_ 5L. I like to organize projects and don't mind being responsible.

\_\_\_ 5M. I like to look at the whole person - and provide whatever is needed, physically, emotionally, spiritually.

\_\_\_ 5N. When I see something wrong, I can organize people to make it right.

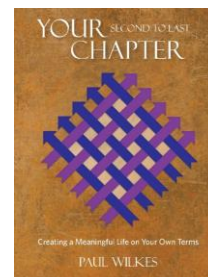
\_\_\_ 5O. I have a hard time saying “no” when called to be of service.

\_\_\_ 5P. People have told me I explain spiritual or religious beliefs in a straightforward, interesting way.

\_\_\_ 5Q. I do not like limitations put on groups for what they can achieve.

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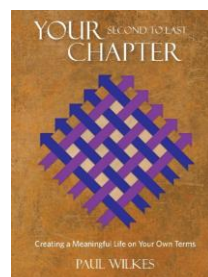
Your Second to Last Chapter  
Talent Assessment – Page 6

Answer: 5= Yes, very much so. 4= Often 3=Somewhat 2= Not usually  
1= On rare occasions 0=Never

- \_\_\_ 6A. I can make a decision and then follow through.
- \_\_\_ 6B. I feel that drama, dance, music can open a soul to experience something beyond themselves.
- \_\_\_ 6C. I sense that people are not put off by me when I talk about my deepest beliefs.
- \_\_\_ 6D. I don't just see a person's problems, even if put off by them; I see the person within.
- \_\_\_ 6E. People have told me I've helped them work through their problems.
- \_\_\_ 6F. My talent to work with my hands is a gift.
- \_\_\_ 6G. I feel a kinship with people who others consider backsliders.
- \_\_\_ 6H. I believe I'm blessed, so I'm happy to be generous with what I have.
- \_\_\_ 6I. You don't have to ask me to do something; I usually pitch in right away.
- \_\_\_ 6J. People tend to drop in at my house and I don't mind.
- \_\_\_ 6K. I meditate, pray or take "silent time" on a regular, daily basis.
- \_\_\_ 6L. I'm not afraid to dream big, even though I might fail.
- \_\_\_ 6M. I have patience and will stick with a person who is having difficulties.
- \_\_\_ 6N. I believe that social injustice is one of our world's biggest issues.
- \_\_\_ 6O. I like volunteering, regardless of the job.
- \_\_\_ 6P. I feel I understand some of the great figures in spiritual and religious life and history and can explain their lives and ways to others.
- \_\_\_ 6Q. I'd rather start something new than work in something established.

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# YOUR SECOND TO LAST CHAPTER

CREATING A MEANINGFUL LIFE ON YOUR OWN TERMS

BY PAUL WILKES

## Your Second to Last Chapter

### Talent Tally Sheet

#### What Are Your Talents?

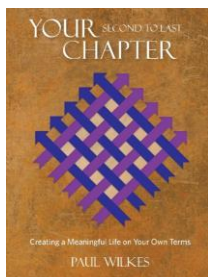
Fill in your answers from 1A, 1B, 1C, etc. then move on to 2A, 2B, 2C, etc. and so on. Then, add up the columns, A, B, C, etc. Look at the table below for a key to the talent signified by each letter. The highest scores indicate the spiritual and natural talents that are most evident in your life.

- A=Administering/Launching a Project
- B=Artistic Expression
- C=Communicating a message
- D=Compassionate Work
- E=Counseling
- F=Craftsmanship, Building
- G=Encouragement
- H=Giving Generously
- I=Helping People Out
- J=Hospitality
- K=Interceding/Helping others
- L=Leadership/Starting a Project
- M="Pastoring"/Being a "Good Shepherd"
- N=Social Action
- O=Service, wherever needed
- P=Teaching
- Q=Uncharted areas, Entrepreneurship

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
1																	
2																	
3																	
4																	
5																	
6																	
<b>Total</b>																	

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### Interpreting Your Second to Last Chapter Talent Survey

*Now, let's go a little further and see what your Talent Survey has told you....about you.*

*Take the three highest tallies and find those talents on this page. They will both give a good idea of what abilities you have...and also areas that really interest you. Every worthy cause needs a variety of people with a variety of talents. This survey will give you a rough idea of where you fit in to a Second to Last Chapter project....one that has begun, one that you are helping to replicate or enhance, one that you are helping to launch.*

*Don't feel limited or constrained by the results of the survey. It is not designed to fit you into a specific "job." If you feel strongly compelled to work in other ways, follow that passion. We are most effective when some combination of our talents and our passion are focused on a specific job or work.*

### **Administering/Launching Project**

You are an organized person. You like to plan and consider all the elements, the possibilities, the pitfalls. You will be great at overseeing a Second to Last Chapter project, gathering resources and others to help. You also have the talent to launch a project, because you'll get the best advice from others, as well as calling on your own skills.

### **Artistic Expression**

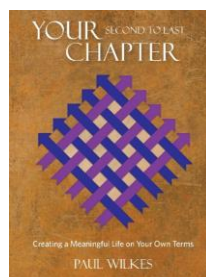
You will bring beauty to a Second to Last Chapter project. You know how to make something out of nothing. Your great value will be in enhancing; it may be in display art or graphics, painting, sculpture, who knows, but one thing is for sure: beauty causes people to want to be a part of the Second to Last project you'll be a part of.

### **Communicating a Message**

You will help your Second to Last Chapter project known and to thrive. You may be an effective speaker or good writer; you know how to get an idea across. You might be good at marketing, because all good causes need someone with the passion and ability to let others know the value of this project.

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## **Compassionate Partner**

You are one of those people who people trust. You are easy to talk to; you know how to listen, not always jumping in with the answer. Second to Last Chapter work is all about compassion, compassion for those you are trying to help as well as the other people involved in your Second to Last Chapter work. You can bring out the best in everyone.

## **Counseling**

You are good at listening and encouraging people to come to good decisions. You may not have all the answers to the issues your Second to Last Chapter work will present, but you are patient enough to hear people (and institutions and bureaucracies) out and come back with solution-based thinking.

## **Craftsmanship, Building**

You are handy and fix things. You can size up a situation (not only physical things, by the way) and figure out a way to make it work, or work better. You get enormous satisfaction from taking something that isn't working well and making it perform the way it should. In your Second to Last Chapter work, you'll have plenty of opportunities.

## **Encouragement**

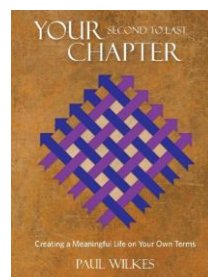
You are the person who is always ready with a pat on the back or to extend a hand to someone who needs a little boost. In your Second to Last Chapter work, you'll be the person who not only does whatever is needed, but you'll be there, cheering on the other members of your team. And the people you'll be helping will always feel a boost in your presence: you believe in them.

## **Giving Generously**

You have always been the generous one. Not only with money, but with your time and whatever else you have. You have never believed you "owned" any of it. It was on loan, yours for the keeping, for now. You always found a way to give back and pay it forward. That spirit of generosity in your Second to Last Chapter work will not only help support your mission, but will encourage others to be generous in turn.

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## Helping People Out

You get an enormous kick out of helping people...and what's best about it, you are not looking for thanks. Just to know that you helped somebody through a difficult situation or provided what they needed in real time is its own reward. And in your Second to Last Chapter work, you'll have plenty of opportunity to help and your spirit will catch on with others.

## Hospitality

You love to put out the welcome mat, making people feel at ease. In your Second to Last Chapter work, you will be the "den mother" or "den father," making sure that people feel a part of the work, meanwhile pitching in yourself. You have real people skills, you can read what people need and you try to meet those needs.

## Interceding

You are that person who just happens to be in the right place at the right time (or you make sure you are), ready to lend a hand, offer a prayer, provide what the situation requires. In your Second to Last Chapter work, you will be called upon plenty of times to be there when spirits are flagging, or when nothing seems to be working right. You are the person to make it right.

## Leadership/Starting a Project

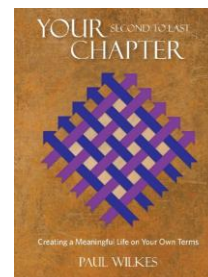
You love the challenge of starting something new. You can see a need and not only figure out how it can be met, but you also are alert to the steps it will take to get something done. You are the person to launch a Second to Last Chapter project...not alone, but with others, because you know you can't do it alone.

## "Pastoring"/Being a Servant-Leader

You may not be in the ministry, but you know what being a servant/leader is about. In your Second to Last Chapter work, you'll be that presence – at once practical and spiritual – because you see that the work of the heart and the work of soul go together. You know how to lead and you know how to serve.

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## Social Action

You are on fire. You see needs that have to be addressed and you are ready to take them on. Once you set your sights on a Second to Last Chapter work, you are the type to work hard to make it a reality. You are ready to face difficulties, conflicts, seemingly intractable situations because of your desire to make this world a better place...for everybody.

## Service, Wherever Needed

You are ready to give of yourself. You don't need to be "on stage," in fact you know that being back stage is where the action really happens. You want to make life better, both for the others in Your Second to Last Chapter group, and for the people or situation you all are trying to help. There is no job too small for you; you will do everything well.

## Teaching

You have a gift of being able to put your thoughts across clearly...and interestingly. You enjoy seeing that "ah ha" moment in the eyes of people as you do your Second to Last Chapter work. You lead both with your words and with your example, pointing people toward a better understanding of the work you are doing, usually showing even more than telling. As you teach, you are working to solve the problems you have found.

## Uncharted Areas/Entrepreneurship

You don't quite understand such terms as "That's impossible" or "Nobody ever did that before" or "You're getting in over your head." You love the challenge of a Second to Last Chapter work. It stimulates you and it keeps you up at night, but you are not going to let little roadblocks slow you down. You're a self-starter...and finisher.

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