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# Strengths Paper

This strength test fits me very well and lines up perfectly with other personality tests that I have previously taken! My strengths, in order, are Learner, Responsibility, Relator, Restorative, and Achiever. My initial response I agreed with, all except for Achiever, I don’t perceive myself as craving attention or needing that “good Job”. But after reflection, I can easily see why this is located in my strengths because even though I don’t like it, I strive for approval from others, especially those in authority around me.

For this paper, I will be talking about my vocation right now, and then (hopefully) my vocation in the future!

Currently, I work in Digital Marketing, my job is typical website repairs, updates, and integration of new software. I was specifically hired onto the team because of my training in different coding languages, I have multiple certifications through Microsoft in Javascript, Java, CSS, HTML, and PHP! Because of this and my experience launching, I am basically an “IT” guy! I help with everything, and if anything crashes it is my job to go in and fix it. The Learner aspect of this ties in super well, I am constantly watching new videos, doing more research, and I am currently in 10+ groups of programmers, developers, etc.! My desire to learn is what propels me into many different things, my desire to learn is why I listen to so many podcasts, why I am so set on reading books, and why I use any and every opportunity to talk with someone wiser than me!

Learning is what gets me through almost any event that some would perceive as boring, I attend a monthly programmer meeting with others from Springfield, and each meeting we learn about new and upcoming software or program. Many others that I have talked to think this is super boring but I am excited every week for it! Learning is one of the greatest things of being at James River College and Digital Marketing. In both, I get experiences that I would otherwise never go through, learn things that I would never think of, and develop skills I otherwise would never have! One of the biggest flaws of learning being a top strength is I often have trouble with the follow-through, learning a new software excites me and I will learn everything I can about it, but following through and completing the task is not nearly as exciting, but because of my responsibility I do it anyways!

That transitions me into my next strength, responsibility. I personally don’t see myself as a responsible person, at least when it comes to some things. Laundry, I always wash it but rarely put it away, I lose personal things all the time, and often working on assignments takes me time to get started. But in other aspects such as a job, I will happily and effectively follow through! This caused a little struggle for me during the DFL season, not only were we working extremely hard pulling very late nights and early mornings, but people were also requesting non-DFL related tasks that we could not get to until after the conference. The responsible part of me wanted that task is done right then and there but I knew it wasn’t practical, so I learned how to set that aside and come back to it. It wasn’t easy to do, but eventually, I was able to! If someone asks me to do a task, if it is a priority I will get it done right then and there, effectively and as thorough as I can. I will always take ownership of my actions or things I say if they negatively affect someone, but if it is positive, I make it a mission to always redirect it to people around me! That way people around me can always relate to the “praise” and won't feel left out.

Speaking of relate that brings me to my next strength the Relator! This one caused some more thinking and pondering than the other ones, I am not a social person and often work alone because of that. But for one of the first times, I recently did homework with other people, a small group, and it was less efficient but so much more enjoyable. When working in Digital Marketing, I have developed a great relationship with my co-workers. We often joke and have fun while getting work done, this is so much more enjoyable than my usually sitting at a coffee shop for 7+ hours by myself and working on a website. I have a big dislike for big groups, but adore small groups! Working alongside people that you have a great relationship with, not only helps develop that relationship but also is one of the most enjoyable things! Especially when you are doing something you love such as website building! I love storing up these fun and enjoyable memories!

Speaking of storing, my next strength is restorative! This fits so closely with programming! Having a problem-solving mindset is so necessary when working with hundreds of lines of code, it is crucial to have that ability physically and emotionally to scroll through hundreds of lines of code, read each semi-colon, each apostrophe, read each character and word and find that error. Because of the software we are working within digital marketing, you don’t have access to a great editor to look at code. Because of this, you have to use an editor through Google that is helpful sometimes but often really annoying. When stuff gets sent through the web it often gets tangled and you have to find that error. Sometimes it is really obvious and red-underlined. But mostly there is no error because of the bad editor. So you have to sift through many files and lines just to find that value. This is when the Restorative strength is key to either persist and find an error or find a workaround that ignores the error! This was extremely helpful during DFL when we were encountering things not working properly, but thankfully we were able to achieve the goal and find the error.

While we are on the topic of achieving that is my final strength! Like I said in the intro, achieving was hard for me to wrap my head around, being an achiever is something I would never identify myself as. I don’t (consciously) strive for attention or recognition. But I realized recently that I do crave that un-consciously. This is what I mean by that, I am not an extremely competitive person, I am when it comes to friendly competition, but rarely do I “chase” that gold medal or that winners platform. I am content with second, third or maybe not even placing. But what I do crave and strive for is that “good job” or “you’re killing it”. I have been learning recently how crucial it is to not really on other people but the approval of God. Having that crave for those words could be deadly when I don’t get it, having that self-doubt that festers and eventually leads me back into depression that I am fighting so hard to get out of.

Being an achiever in Digital Marketing can often be hard, I don’t do much front-end work, few people realize what I am doing, all they know is that I am getting it to work. Being a backend developer is hard in this aspect because of the lack of recognition. I often strive for positions that I will get recognition, but quickly realize this requires being social! Over the past two months after taking this test I have rapidly cut this thought process and desires out, so this does not have much effect on me anymore but still whenever I hear that “good job” makes my entire week! I am still praying through this to no longer be reliant on this and it will be a constant journey but I am excited to know that I am not reliant on how I am perceived!

In conclusion, my vocation as working in Digital Marketing has extreme plusses, and a few negatives. I believe that this job suits me and I cannot wait to see where this job leads! Reflecting on this paper has made it easier to see all that God has prepared me for and why. Overall I am super happy with my position and excited to see where this leads me!

Thanks!  
Koleman Parsley

Learner  
People who are especially talented in the learner theme have a great desire to learn and continuously improve, in particular, the process of learning, rather than the outcome excites them.

Responsibility  
People who are especially talented in the Responsibility theme take psychological ownership of what they say they will do. They are committed to stable values such as honesty and loyalty.

Relator  
People who are especially talented in the relator theme enjoy close relationships with others. They find deep satisfaction in working hard with friends to achieve a goal.

Restorative  
People who are especially talented in the restorative theme are adapt at dealing with problems. They are good at figuring out what is wrong and resolving it.

Achiever  
People who are especially talented in the achiever theme have a great deal of stamina and work hard. They take great satisfaction from being busy and productive.