

Fulfilling Christ's Calling

"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Eph. 4:1

Introduction: Up to this point, the DTS has primarily focused on how to **"be"** in Christ, Christ's Body-Family, Christ's Character. From righteous **"being"** flows kingdom-advancing **"doing"**. Who we **are**, especially on the inside, determines what we **do**. We live and minister from who we are, out of the purity of our hearts. High quality loving, i.e. **intimacy** (which is described in the Word of God as **"covenant"**) is the basis for high level **impact** in the kingdom of God. We were created for BOTH **intimacy** and **impact, covenant** and **kingdom**. Now we will learn about how to fulfill Christ's calling for our lives. (5-C's: Christ, Christ's Body-Family, Christ's Character, Christ's **Calling**, Christ's Competency) During this DTS session, we want to focus on the overall way we look at life and God's calling. We want to embrace God's eternal perspective and purpose, so that we do everything in our power to fulfill His will for our lives. (1 Tim. 6:11-16; Lk 13:24; Phil 2:12)

"Calling" Defined: The word "call" comes from the root word "voice". God's voice, through His Words (logos & rhema), proceed from Him to His sons and daughters commissioning them to fulfill certain responsibilities and to accomplish certain "works" in their lifetime on earth. 1 Co. 7:20; Eph. 4:4 Every son/daughter of God has a calling. Your "calling" is the purpose God has ordained for your life. Generally speaking, every disciple of Christ is a missionary (on mission) with a general and specific calling, accompanied by the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit to successfully accomplish their mission in partnership with their spiritual family-army. All vision from God is too big for one person to achieve alone. Therefore, all "callings" are contextualized within a larger spiritual family-army, never to be expressed in isolation.

Difference Between Occupation and Vocation:

1. Vocation – Comes from the root word "voice". It involves the outward activities of service that come from God's inward motivations of love and concern. Our vocation is a strong impulse or inclination to serve others in a particular way.
2. Occupation – The work we do in order to provide a living for ourselves and/or others.

Ruling & Reigning With Christ: We must understand God's overall purpose for creation, if we are to have perspective as it pertains to our calling. Seeing God's larger intention for humanity enables us to enthusiastically commit our lives to doing His will, His way, by His Spirit, for His glory! Not viewing life from God's vantage point, can tempt us to grow discouraged in our day to day struggles and even squander our lives by living beneath God's high calling. Everything we do in life matters to God.

1. God's larger purpose is for His "sons/daughters" to come into His family for BOTH fellowship AND to rule and reign with Him into eternity. (Dan. 7:27-28; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:6, 22:5)
2. The original mandate given to Adam & Eve to be fruitful and multiply, to rule over creation under Jesus Christ, is still in effect. (Genesis 1:26-31)
3. We are to rule and reign, provide governance in the kingdom, and bring judgments (make wise decisions) in both this age and the age to come. (Rev. 20:4)
4. Faithfully carrying out our responsibilities here and now, even in the smallest details, has significant implications for our level of governance into eternity. (Matt. 25:14-30; Lk 19:11-27)

5. God's agenda is not to get us to escape into heaven where we blissfully float around in clouds with harps having no responsibilities. God is bringing heaven to earth. Those who have evidenced faithfulness in their current assignments will be promoted to higher levels of rule under Christ in the future. There will be a new heaven and a new earth and we will be given ongoing governance in all the "practical" areas of life. (Matt. 6:10; Rev. 21:1-8)

Created For Good Works:

1. God has a purpose and plan for every one of His "sons/daughters". Father is preparing you inside and out, in every area of life, to bear weight in this life and in the age to come. Very specific "good works" have been assigned for you to successfully achieve in your lifetime. (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:11-15)
2. These "works" are all-inclusive, involving responsible stewardship in every area of our lives: a.) body, b.) soul, c.) spirit, d.) time, e.) energy & affections, d.) resources and finances, e.) relationships, f.) marriage, g.) family & children, h.) work, i.) ministries, etc.
3. What may seem like insignificant responsibilities are actually very important to God.

Two Essential Identities:

1. Son – primary emphasis on "being". Ro. 8:14-17
2. Soldier- primary emphasis on "doing".....advancing the kingdom of God on earth in tangible ways. 2 Tim. 2:3; Rev. 19:12-16

Viewing Your Calling As A Military Commissioning

1. General calling for every son-soldier of God. We all need to obtain competency in the foundational and general areas of "Calling".
 - a. Spiritual warfare praise & prayer...worship & intercession...with fasting. The most essential "calling" for every son-soldier is prayer. Matt. 6:10; James 4:2-3
 - b. Seek & save the lost – proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. Lk. 19:10
 - c. Make disciples who make disciples. Matt. 28:18-20
 - d. Plant multiplying small "family-platoons" i.e. micro-churches (Missional Kingdom Families). Lk. 10:2-20
 - e. Heal the sick and cast out demons. Matt. 10:8
 - f. Compassion towards children-youth, poor, unreached people groups. Matt. 25:31-46
 - g. Rule & Reign in the kingdom: Increasing levels of responsibility (leadership & management, i.e. "ruling & reigning") in all five governmental jurisdictions in the kingdom: 1.) self-government, 2.) marriage & family, 3.) church, 4.) marketplace, 5.) social & civil service/government.
2. Geographic will of God – the exact territory where you are called to advance the kingdom of God. Acts 17:26-28
3. Identifying your specific "family-army" along with your commanding officers. 1 Tim. 1:2, 1:18; 2 Tim 2:1-7
4. Coming into strategic unity with your "family-army". Eph. 4:1-16

Specific Callings Given To Each Son-soldier

1. Identify the areas in your heart in which you have greatest concerns or burdens.
2. Identify your passions for serving. When you are focused on God and others, what needs do find yourself wanting to meet in the lives of others.

3. Start with faithful serving in small areas. Pick up your cross and selflessly care for others.
4. Identify and practice your “motivational gifts”. The motivational gifts serve to reveal the personality of God. These gifts are practical in nature. They describe the inner motivations of the Christian servant. (See “What are the seven motivational gifts?”)

Eternal Judgment & Reward:

1. How well we fulfill our dominion mandate in this age, will determine the level of our reward and responsibilities in the age to come. (Lk 19:11-27)
2. God wants us to live our lives in light of eternity. We are in eternity now. There will come a time when the awareness of eternity and the consequences of our choices will come into the full light of God’s truth.
3. Life on this earth, in light of eternity, is extremely short. In just a brief minute, a blink of an eye, we will be standing before Jesus Christ at the judgment seat. Evaluation for the saints (sons of God) will not be about whether we are allowed to live eternally in heaven. Because we have received God’s mercy and grace by placing our faith in Christ and His crucifixion, repented for our sins, our sin(s) are forgiven and we are right with God through Christ. The assessment will be to determine whether we obeyed God and achieved our mission in life. (1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:9-10)
4. Fire is the impartial purifying reality of God. It reveals what is real and eternal and what isn’t.
5. Wood hay straw refers to spending our lives on that which is temporal and superficial.
6. There will be both positive and negative emotions at the judgment seat. There will also be a strong sense of loss at the judgment seat when we discover how much we squandered our lives relative to the calling Christ had for us. Words like “suffer loss”, “ashamed”, “good or bad” are in the Word and are referring to believers that are forgiven and going to heaven. (1 John 2:28; 1 Cor. 3:15; 2 Cor. 5:9-10)
7. We can consciously determine to walk out our lives in perfect obedience to God’s will, fulfilling His calling in our lives. (Phil. 2:12)
8. Let us not waste one day living beneath God’s calling.