

Biblical Perspectives from God's Word

Discovering and Capturing Your Destiny – Pt. 2

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I. Introductory Remarks.

Every believer needs to discern their calling, because every believer is a minister. Your maturity and leadership skills are developed over the course of your lifetime along with your character and skills.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 4:12-13 *for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

Ephesians 4:16 *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

Everyone who has been created and designed by God (that's all of us) has a unique purpose and calling that has been placed within us by God. It is something that is latent within each of us – a vision that reflects our passion and uniqueness. Our part is to discover what that is. Our discovery began with the time line and then proceeds to your personal calling statement.

II. Building Your Personal Calling Statement.

A personal Calling Statement is your best understanding to date of what God has called you to be and to do. It represents an intentional effort to embrace what Ephesians 2:10 would look like lived out. It is a tool that helps you live a purposed and intentional life of influence by providing a constant yardstick by which you can measure your behavior and your plans.

■ Question #1: Where Do You Start?

The key to creating an effective calling statement is to pull the three critical components apart and clarify each one separately. Like a rope of three strands, each strand must be created separately and then they can be woven together.

Those strands are:

1. **Biblical Purpose**: The reason you exist.
2. **Life-Ministry Values**: The way God has wired you to live life and influence others.
3. **Vision**: What God wants to accomplish through the influence of your life, as you live out your purpose.

■ Question #2: Where Am I Going?

1. Biblical Purpose.

Living a life of destiny and purpose with kingdom influence begins with a sure foundation. A study of key scriptures helps reveal our reason for existence as individuals. The Biblical foundation of your life is like true north, the point of reference by which all things are measured.

1. Declares the **reason you exist**
→ A being Statement
2. Reflects the **heart of God**
→ Kingdom perspective
3. Clarifies what is **non-negotiable**
→ True North

■ Biblical Examples

■ **Joshua** - As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord - *Joshua 24:15*

■ **Apostle Paul** - I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so somehow to attain to the resurrection from the dead - *Philippians 3:10-11*.

2. Values.

Values are those underlying assumptions, those core-convictions that shape our actions and decisions. They are usually born out of the lessons we learn and then forged into our DNA through times of difficulty and testing.

While some have mistaken beliefs for values, actual values will always be observed in behavior. A mature Christian's core values represent their unique

wiring, the unique ways God has shaped his or her views and approaches on life. Therefore, a focused Christian understands how God has shaped them and intentionally lives, ministers, and works according to those values.

■ Life - Ministry Values.

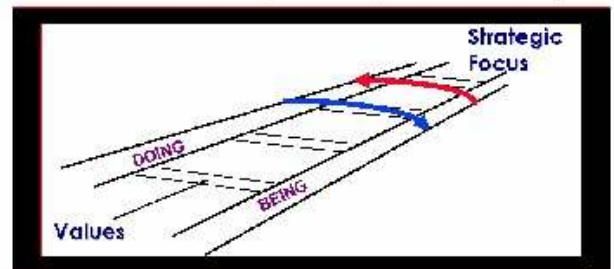
Values are present whether we recognize them or not. Core values are those few, deep seated convictions that guide your life and behavior.

They are:

- What you "pound the table" for?
- What cannot be sacrificed without dissonance?
- What best reflects both life and ministry.
- They are your life messages.
- Decision-making tools and guidelines.

Two-Track Formation

1. **DOING...** *skills, work, ministry*
2. **BEING...** *character, relationship with Jesus/ People*



3. Personal Vision - What is God Calling You to Accomplish?

Vision is the ability to see God's preferable future. It captures in a word picture what God wants to accomplish through the unique contribution of our lives. Vision is the heartbeat of the personal mission statement. God designs it. We discover it.

• Vision ignites passion!

It motivates and captures you as a child of God. It describes what the heart yearns to see accomplished and drives you to sacrificial living and obedience. Personal vision answers the question: *If you knew that you would not fail, what would you do in your lifetime for the glory of God?*

- **Where might God be leading you in the future?**
- **What contribution to the kingdom has God created you to make?**

If Biblical PURPOSE describes the road we were created to travel on. VALUES describe the unique vehicle we use to travel down that road. And VISION describes the destination we are called to travel to.

• Five Facets of Vision.

1. First facet - Vision Defined.

A. **A Word Picture** of the future from God's perspective. "A picture of the future that produces passion in you." *Bill Hybels*

B. **Motivating** - What you would mortgage the farm for. Specific enough to elicit emotion, even apprehension. It will engage your passion.

C. **Not Purpose Restated** - Vision describes destination. Purpose = general intent. Vision a = specific result. Vision requires faith and faith is spelled risk.

Notice, vision is not a restatement of purpose!

D. **Dynamic** - It unfolds over time. God reveals more in response to our obedience. Look for destiny pointers in your time line.

2. Second Facet - The Characteristics of Vision.

True vision focuses on the future.

True vision captures reality from God's perspective

True vision seeks God's specific call

It involves passion

3. Third Facet - Vision Is Dynamic

Like a Polaroid Picture – Vision begins to come into focus with time

4. Fourth Facet - Vision Is Personal

This is about you and what God wants to do in and through you!

Unfortunately, when expectations in the past were met with disappointment, we have a tendency to squash or deny any dreams for the future.

5. Fifth Facet - Vision Is Destiny Expressed

It is God's destiny for me, not for you.

Vision must be anchored in God's work in our past. If it is invented out of the blue, you will be headed in the wrong direction.

Discovering vision is not dreaming up your biggest dream. It is discovering the good works God has prepared you for.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

IV. Concluding Remarks.

As you endeavor to put the three strands of purpose, values and vision together you will have a personal calling statement that will help you to stay on track as you navigate through the many changes and curves that life throws at you. It will truly help you to discover and capture the wonderful destiny God has written for your life.