

Crafted *for a* **PURPOSE**

**Discovering and Fulfilling
Your God-Given Calling**



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Crafted for a Purpose

This guide is crafted to help you explore how God has uniquely designed and gifted you to fulfill a specific purpose within His grand plan. By engaging with this study, you will uncover the spiritual gifts you possess and learn how to apply them in ways that honor God and contribute meaningfully to the world around you.

The cornerstone of our study is rooted in Ephesians 2:10, which reminds us that we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand for us to walk in. This scripture will guide our exploration and understanding as we delve into what it means to be called by God, how to identify your spiritual gifts, and the ways you can apply these gifts in everyday life and ministry.

Through scriptural insights, personal reflection, and community interaction, this guide aims to equip you with the knowledge and tools to step confidently into the calling God has for your life, fully utilizing the gifts He has given you.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of life and the unique design You have crafted in me. As I embark on this journey to understand and embrace the calling You have placed on my life, I ask for Your wisdom and guidance. Help me to recognize and nurture the gifts You have given me, that I might use them to glorify Your name and serve others in love. Open my heart to the teachings of Your Word, and strengthen my resolve to follow the path You have set before me. May I find joy and purpose in Your plan, confident in the knowledge that I am fulfilling Your will for my life. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

Understanding Your Identity in Christ

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Psalm 139:13-16

- 13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Understanding Your Identity in Christ

How does knowing that you were uniquely created by God for a purpose influence your view of your daily activities and long-term goals?

Reflect on the statement, "You are new creation in Christ." 2 *Corinthians 5:17* How does this truth affect your self-esteem and your interactions with others?

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Understanding and utilizing your spiritual gifts is essential for fulfilling God's purpose for your life. This section helps you identify and embrace these gifts.

What Are Spiritual Gifts? Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit to every believer, intended for the common good of the church and effective ministry. They are tools God provides to help His people fulfill their callings.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues.^[b] 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Romans 12:6-8

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

What spiritual gifts have you identified in yourself, and how do you feel about these gifts?

Consider how your identified spiritual gifts can complement your interests and passions. How can you start using these gifts more effectively within your community, church, home, workplace, etc.?

Community in Discerning Your Calling

Understanding and embracing your calling is not a journey you must undertake alone. The Christian community plays a crucial role in affirming and sharpening our understanding of how God has designed us to serve.

Acts 13:1-3

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

This passage shows the early church in Antioch fasting, praying, and then laying hands on Barnabas and Saul, affirming their call to missionary work.

2 Timothy 1:6

6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Paul reminds Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God," a gift that was affirmed through the laying on of hands by Paul and the elders.

How can the insights and encouragements from other believers help clarify and confirm your own sense of calling?

Community in Discerning Your Calling

Who in your life has provided encouragement or affirmation of your spiritual gifts? How has their input influenced your understanding of your calling?

Think of a time when community feedback led you to reconsider or adjust the way you were using your gifts. What did you learn from that experience?

Aligning Your Calling with God's Will

As we continue to discern our calling, it's essential to align our desires and activities with God's will. This alignment ensures that our pursuit of a calling is not just fulfilling personally but also obedient to God's overall plan for our lives.

Practical Steps to Align With God's Will

- **Prayer:** Constantly seek God's guidance in prayer, asking Him to clarify and direct your path.
- **Scripture:** Regularly immerse yourself in Scripture. The Bible not only provides general guidance but often speaks directly into our circumstances.
- **Wise Counsel:** Seek the advice of godly mentors who can provide biblical insight and objective advice on your perceived calling.

Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

James 1:5

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Develop a personal mission statement based on your spiritual gifts and how you believe God is calling you to serve. This statement should reflect your understanding of God's will and how you aim to fulfill it.

Aligning Your Calling with God's Will

How have you sought God's guidance in discerning your calling, and what has been the outcome?

What steps can you take to ensure that your daily activities and long-term goals are in alignment with God's will?

Living Out Your Calling

Once you have a clearer understanding of your calling and have taken steps to align it with God's will, the next step is to live out this calling in practical, everyday ways.

Implementing Your Gifts in Daily Life and Ministry:

- Look for opportunities in your current job, church, and community where you can apply your gifts.
- Start small, perhaps by volunteering for tasks that can benefit from your unique abilities and gradually increase your involvement as you become more confident in your role.

Colossians 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Peter 4:10

10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Review real-life examples of individuals who are effectively using their gifts in various aspects of life. Discuss how their faith influences their approach and the impact they have in their spheres of influence.

Living Out Your Calling

What are some practical steps you can take to begin using your gifts more effectively in your current environment?

How can you serve others and glorify God through your calling, and what obstacles might you need to overcome to do this?

Reflecting on Spiritual Gifts

Write about the spiritual gifts you believe God has given you. How did you come to recognize these gifts? Describe instances where you have used these gifts and the impact it had on others and yourself. How do you feel God is calling you to use these gifts more effectively in your community or church?

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Vision for the Future

Envision where you see yourself in five years if you fully embrace and act on your God-given calling. What specific steps can you take starting today that will help you move towards this vision? How can your current activities, both in your personal and professional life, be aligned to this calling?

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