

FULL LIFE ESSENTIALS

The Ministry of Spiritual Growth

CALLING

Understanding your calling as a Christian is an important step that can accelerate your spiritual growth.

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED

All God's people are called to bear God's image.

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. ²⁹ For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. ³⁰ And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

2 Cor. 3:16-17

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

- **Called to Holiness**

Romans 1:7

I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are **called** to be his own **holy** people.

1 Cor 1:2

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and **called** to be his **holy** people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours

1 Thessalonians 4:7

God has **called** us to live **holy** lives, not impure lives.

2 Timothy 1:9

For God saved us and **called** us to live a **holy** life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 2:9

You are royal priests, a **holy** nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he **called** you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

- **Called to Freedom**

Galatians 5:8

⁷You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? ⁸It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom.

Galatians 5:13

For you have been **called** to live in **freedom**, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your **freedom** to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your **freedom** to serve one another in love.

- **Called to Endurance**

1 Peter 2: 20-22

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹To this you were called, because

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 3:9

Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has **called** you to do, and he will grant you his blessing.

- **Called to Servanthood**

Mark 9:35

Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the **servant of all.**"

Matthew 20:25-28

"You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. ²⁸ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

All God's people are called to and fulfill God's **mission**.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Matthew 28:18-19

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Mark 16:15

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

One reason God wants you to grow in your faith is so that you will be able to maximize your calling, both for your **joy** and fulfillment and for His glory.

God has given every believer the gift of “a calling”.

GOD’S CALL IS GOOD

God’s call on our lives is ultimately for our **good**.

Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

GOD CALLS AND ENABLES

1 Corinthians 12:7, 11

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

There is one mission with many assignments.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Rom 12:6a (NLT)

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

Your assignment comes with a supernatural capacity to help accomplish it (spiritual gift).

Rom 12:6b-8

So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

God calls and enables His children for ministry.

GOD USES THE CHURCH

The church cultivates the calling

Ephesians 4:11-16

¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. ¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. ¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. ¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

The church confirms the calling

2 Timothy 1:5-6

⁵ I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you. ⁶ This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.

The church commissions the called

Acts 13:1-2 (NIV)

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."

God will clarify and confirm your calling as you work together with the family of God. The church will give evidence and confirmation of God's call upon your life.

The church covers the called

As a fellow elder, I appeal to you: ² Care for the flock that God has entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ³ Don't lord it over the people assigned to your care, but lead them by your own good example. ⁴ And when the Great Shepherd appears, you will receive a crown of never-ending glory and honor. ⁵ In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

THE FIRST STEP IS SURRENDER

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Our first step in discovering God's will for our lives, including our calling and purpose, is consecration.

When we dedicate our lives completely to God and begin to do whatever He asks us to do, we will discover His "good, pleasing and perfect will".