

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:1-2
Sermon Title: Burning Bushes: The Step
Tim Wolfe

The Step:

We now move from The Voice to The Step. Understanding the work of God from eternity to eternity, identifying the moment where we find ourselves, thoughtfully exploring and owning God's craftsmanship in our lives, and contemplating and articulating God's vision for our lives will bring us to the point of action, stepping into it. Stepping into the call of God is moving from the sidelines into the action. On the sidelines, we can cheer on or critique others, but to step into the action and join God at work entails significant faith (risk).

Key Idea: Stepping into the call of God is moving from the sidelines into the action, which is always a leap of faith. The initial leap should be followed with ongoing steps of courage, strategy, and alignment around God's word, prayer, and constant alignment with godly community.

Recap of our Series:

Calling and Purpose

To BE with Jesus, BECOME like Jesus, CHANGE the World!

"To Move Every single person imageable to meaningful, participation in the purposes of God with the entirety of their life" – Pastor Muche Ukegbu

The calling of God is His invitation to be & partner with God in the fulfillment of his purposes in everyday, extraordinary, unique, & Collaborative ways.

We Discern it, We Receive it and We Respond to it.

General, Specific, Immediate

A Calling from God, Comes from God!!

The calling of God is His invitation to **be & partner with Him** in the fulfillment of His purposes in everyday, extraordinary, unique, & collaborative ways.

Specific:

A vocation that is unique to each person—**an individual's mission in the world.**

*"Vocation represents a call of God to serve him in the world."
-Gordon Smith. Courage & Calling*

A simple framework for calling:

The Story
The Stage
The Signature
The Voice
The Step
The Dash

The Step is our Response to God's calling on our life, his purpose for our life for now, this season or in the future.

So Let's Get to Work

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Two main goals of the writer of Hebrews:

- 1. Elevate Jesus as Superior**
- 2. Challenge the Readers to stay Faithful despite persecution - with a strong warning not to abandon Jesus**

Vs. 1 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses . . . "

Hebrews 11

Vs. 4 Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.

Vs. 6 Enoch walked with God and one day gets invited to walk home with him

Vs. 7 Noah is the boat builder for a future flood and is the first zoo keeper

Vs. 8 Abraham "And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

Vs. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

Pastor David Guzik in his Enduring Word Commentary: "The author thought of many more than just the 18 specifically mentioned in Hebrews 11. The ancient Greek word translated cloud was a figure of speech indicating a large group, and this is so great a cloud of witnesses. That cloud probably includes great men and women of God who have come since those Hebrews 11 saints, known and unknown to history. We are also under

angelic observation (Ephesians 3:10-11) and the world watches our faith and conduct. We are surrounded by them, as spectators in a stadium surround and observe the players.”

Vs1 b “. . . let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,”

Matthew 13:7

“Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.”

Vs. 2 “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Dr. Tony Evans

“Abraham was immoral. Moses disobeyed God when he killed the Egyptian, and later when he struck the stone with his staff. Rahab was a harlot. Each has a mark on his or her resume. It is dangerous to become so intent on the illustrations that we miss the point they are intended to illustrate. That’s why our passage reminds us to “fix our eyes on Jesus...”

The Step is our Response to God’s calling on our life, his purpose for our life for now, this season or in the future.

- *Be encouraged you are not alone.*

- *Keep running your race.*

Ruth 1

16 But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” 18 And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

- *Trust God’s calling on your life over your own desires.*

- *Keep your eyes on Jesus (keep praying, keep in the word, keep yourself in community).*

Timothy Keller Quote: “If God exists then every good endeavor, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God’s calling can matter forever.” - The Book - “Every Good Endeavor”

Be with Jesus, Become like Jesus, and Change the World.