

# Understanding the Important Steps to Your Calling



As Christians, we can often feel timid about stepping into our callings for various reasons, including fear of failure, uncertainty about hearing God's voice, feelings of inadequacy, and self-doubt. However, overcoming these barriers is essential to fulfilling God's purpose. Here are seven steps that have helped me to receive and accept the callings God has placed in my life:

## 1. Seek Clarity in Prayer

Prayer is the foundational step in discerning God's calling. Through it, we align our hearts with God's will and open ourselves to hearing His voice. James 1:5 encourages us, *"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."* Clarity comes when we earnestly seek His guidance, trusting that He will answer. Jesus modeled this in Luke 6:12, where He spent the night in prayer before choosing His disciples. Persistent prayer not only provides direction but also strengthens our trust in His perfect plan. As we learn to talk with God as our closest friend, we discover that He speaks to us as well.

## 2. Align with Scripture

God's Word is the ultimate authority, and His calling will never contradict scripture. By regularly studying the Bible, we can discern whether what we feel led to do aligns with His truth. Psalm 119:105 states, *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* God's Word brings clarity and confirmation. As you meditate on verses like Jeremiah 29:11, where God promises, *"For I know the plans I have for you,"* you gain confidence in His direction for your life. Scripture helps you remain rooted in God's promises, keeping you on the right path. When we witness that God is true to His word and promises, we become more confident in continuing to read and seek guidance.

## 3. Overcome Fear with Faith

Fear of failure or inadequacy can hinder us from pursuing God's calling, but scripture reminds us that God equips and strengthens those He calls. In 2 Timothy 1:7, we are told, *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."* Faith replaces fear when we trust in God's strength rather than our own. When Moses doubted his ability to lead Israel, God reassured him in Exodus 4:12, saying, *"Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."* Relying on God's power allows us to confidently embrace our calling, knowing that it is His strength at work within us, rather than our own abilities.

#### **4. Be Open to God's Timing**

We may feel impatient or unsure about God's timing, but scripture teaches that waiting on the Lord brings renewed strength and clarity. Isaiah 40:31 promises, *"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles."* Waiting is not passive but an active trust in God's perfect timing. Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."* While we wait, God works in us, preparing us for His purpose and aligning circumstances for His glory.

#### **5. Surround Yourself with Godly Counsel**

Proverbs 15:22 teaches, *"Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed."* Seeking wise counsel from godly mentors or peers helps provide perspective and confirmation as you discern your calling. God often uses others to speak into our lives, offering guidance and encouragement. In Acts 13:2, Paul and Barnabas received confirmation of their calling through prayer and fasting with others in the church. Surrounding yourself with spiritually mature believers who support you in prayer and offer godly wisdom helps to ensure you are walking in alignment with God's will. While a calling may feel very personal, discussing it with a person you trust can aid you in processing it.

#### **6. Take Small Steps of Faith**

God often reveals His plan step by step. Proverbs 16:9 says, *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."* Taking small, obedient steps demonstrates faith and allows God to guide us. In Matthew 25:21, Jesus praises the servant who was faithful with little, saying, *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."* When we act in faith with what God places before us, He expands our path and reveals more of His purpose. Taking minor steps of faith under His guidance prepares us for more significant steps when our calling materializes.

#### **7. Trust God's Equipping**

Feelings of inadequacy often accompany God's calling, but scripture reminds us that He equips those He calls. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called. In 1 Corinthians 1:27, we read, *"God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise."* Trust that He will provide everything you need, as He did for Gideon, David, and countless others. When we trust in His equipping, we fulfill His purpose confidently. If you are new to experiencing a calling, seek advice from those around you about how the Lord prepared them for their callings. This can help you build confidence.

#### **Conclusion**

When we hear His voice deep within, confirming His call, the leap of faith becomes much easier. Romans 8:16 affirms, *"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children,"* giving us boldness to act in faith.

I vividly recall the early days of my Christian journey when I felt a calling to go to Florida. Although the Lord had set this calling before me, He guided me through various simple steps of obedience to prepare for that moment. One night, after work, He directed me to drive to a nearby church and park there. It seemed like an easy task, but I found myself arguing with Him, saying it was too late at night and that the neighbors might suspect I was up to no good. Reluctantly, I parked at the church and then inquired what He wanted me to do next. He replied, "Nothing, you already did what I asked you. All I want is your obedience."

On another occasion, He instructed me to attend a different church instead of my usual one. This time, I didn't argue but asked why He wanted me to go there. He remained silent at first, only to later reiterate, "All I want is your obedience." Another instruction involved purchasing a desk and typewriter (back when computers weren't widespread) for someone who felt called to write letters to local churches about participating in a March for Jesus in her town. By the time I received this request, I was eager and ready to fulfill His purpose. Not long after, the moment arrived for me to go to Florida, and I was more than prepared. Through these simple acts of obedience, I learned to recognize His voice and understand more of His heart.

When our hearts are rooted in God's Word and guided by Holy Spirit, fear diminishes, and trust grows, allowing us to move forward confidently in His will. Ultimately, the purpose of any calling is to lift Jesus up. If we pursue a desire or perceived calling for any reason other than that, it's essential to pause and reassess through prayer and attentiveness to Holy Spirit.