

## Dedication to Your Calling 2

Dedication is one of three attributes or hallmarks of worker engagement, the other two being vigour and absorption (Absorption is flow. You are engrossed in the activity). Engaged employees are what every employer wants. Feeling engaged at work is what every employee wants. (Bakker et al, 2008). Work engagement is a predictor of performance and client satisfaction. If that is true for our jobs then it is also true of our gifts and calling. How engaged are you in what God has called you to do? It's interesting that 2 of these 3 are opposites of the hallmarks of burnout which are exhaustion and cynicism. Throughout the Gospels when Jesus speaks of true disciples He seems to measure them based on engagement factors to a large extent. He also warns against disengagement. We see this when He talks about those who look back not being worthy of being His disciples.

Dedication is the commitment piece of employee engagement. You want to do more because you are enthused about the organization, its mission, and your ability to make a contribution to the team and larger goal. It's the opposite of the cynicism that comes from burnout, which sees any self-initiative as futile and naïve. Burnout can't coexist with the passion and loyalty of dedication.

Absorption: The more attention you have on what you're doing, the more you like it, remember it, and derive intrinsic pleasure from it, say researchers. Detachment and withdrawal are some of the hallmarks of burnout.

What is stopping me from getting into burnout? There is still a sense of meaning in what I do. I am not cynical about it. The enemy's strategy is to lie to you that what you are doing does not make a difference. What social ills is your calling addressing? Teen suicides? Depression? Abuse?

**We will now use 2 Timothy to examine the traits of someone who is dedicated to their calling. Remember that these principles will work if you have the foundation of having truly received your calling.**

### 2 Timothy 2

You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

- 1. We are called to be strong in His grace and not in our own strength.**
  - Dedication to your calling means you are dedicated also to God's resources to fulfil the calling.**

<sup>2</sup>And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

- 2. We are called to entrust to others specific things**
  - Preaching to people and entrusting people with something are two different things.**
  - Are you entrusting things to RELIABLE people?**
  - Your calling requires you to multiply yourself.**
  - Do you care about what you delegate?**
  - Do you have a multigenerational vision for your calling?**
  - Do you aim to leave a legacy?**
  - All of this requires some degree of dedication.**
  - I don't want to just coach and counsel, I want to raise up coaches and counsellors.**

<sup>3</sup>Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup>No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. <sup>5</sup>Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules.

- 3. Beware of getting distracted from your calling.**
  - What do civilian affairs represent in your life?**
  - Don't treat everything in your life as primary soldier duties. Some are not primary. 1<sup>st</sup> Things 1<sup>st</sup>. Keep the main thing the main thing.**
  - What are soldier things and what are civilian things in your life? Distinguish between them.**

- **What tends to get you entangled?**
- **Whom else are you trying to please above God?**
- **Are you going by the rules?**

<sup>6</sup>The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. <sup>7</sup>Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this. <sup>8</sup>Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, <sup>9</sup>for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

<sup>11</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him.

If we disown him, he will also disown us; <sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

#### **4. Grit is needed in order to fulfil one's calling**

- **Grit is commitment to long-term goals despite the obstacles.**
- **How much Grit do you have?**
- **There is a reward for dedication and endurance.**
- **Dedication is often seen in longevity.**
- **Often what we call boredom is discouragement or lack of dedication.**
- **Grit is an aptitude of entrepreneurship – stick-to-it-ness**

Omer Shai CMO (Chief Marketing Officer) of Wix.com said "Starting something isn't enough. The ability to persevere and be resilient after that something has been started is the true stamp of an entrepreneur. It's the people who stay the course and continue to invest in developing their enterprise beyond the starting point that should be the model for successful entrepreneurship." Grit is an outlier quality because it's the one that can predict failure despite having other aptitudes of entrepreneurship and success.

<sup>14</sup>Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarrelling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. <sup>15</sup>Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. <sup>16</sup>Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. <sup>17</sup>Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup>who have departed from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

#### **5. Dedication to your calling involves presenting yourself to God.**

- **To whom are you presenting yourself?**
- **Are you presenting yourself to Him as one approved?**
- **Are you more concerned about presenting yourself to man than God?**
- **What you say can defile you.**
- **What is the value of what you say?**
- **How are your words contributing?**
- **How are your words contaminating yourself and others?**

<sup>19</sup>Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness.' <sup>20</sup>In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. <sup>21</sup>Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

<sup>22</sup>Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. <sup>23</sup>Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they

produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

**6. Dedication to your calling will require turning away from certain things.**

- **Turning way sometimes looks like actively fleeing.**
  - **What are the evil desires of youth in your environment?**
  - **What does fleeing the evil desires of youth look like in your life? If I recorded a young person fleeing on video what does it look like?**
  - **How will this make you look?**
- **Turning away sometimes looks like avoiding certain things and people.**
  - **Avoiding quarrels**
  - **Avoiding stupid arguments**
  - **Avoiding being resentful**

**7. You can determine whether you will be used for special purposes or not.**

- **Dedication to your calling results in you being used for special purposes.**
- **Dedication to your calling results in God being able to use you for ANY good work.**
- **What's the best gift? Whatever is needed at the time.**
- **God doesn't raise you up only based on your gifting. He examines your level of consecration.**
- **How useful are you to God?**
- **Cleansing yourself will determine what purposes you are used for.**
- **God can call people but not use them for certain purposes because they did not cleanse themselves. They were not useful and prepared for ANY GOOD WORK.**
- **Dedication to your calling makes you agile in God's hands.**
- **Are there things God wants to use me in but is unable because I am not prepared and available for ANY GOOD WORK.**

**8. Dedication to your calling will require you to pursue certain things.**

- **We are called to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace**
- **We are called to companionship with those seeking God with pure hearts**
- **What will this look like in your life?**

<sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

**To be truly dedicated to our calling we cannot be taken captive to do the enemy's will.**

What is the enemy's will for your life? It's not always explicit like going around murdering people. It's often more subtle. Has your will been taken captive in any way? Part of the restoration of the Christian soul is the restoration of the will.