

Maximizing Your Gifts and Calling (Part 1)

It's one thing to know your calling; it's another thing to maximize it.

2 Timothy 1

Vs 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, in keeping with the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

1. **You are called by God's will and command.**
 - **Your calling is not a suggestion**
 - **Your calling is something in God's mind**
 - **Your calling is not something you fabricated**

When God calls you it's not a secret in heaven. When He calls you He also instructs heavens resources to be released on your behalf. The angels have to know about your calling if they are assigned to assist you in it.

Two people can have the same gift but it manifests differently. Some people have received their calling but are using the incorrect platform.

There is a difference between natural talents and Supernaturally endowed gifts. Your natural talent is something you are good at but that does not mean it always energizes you. Some people are good at things that they hate. Sometimes your natural talent can open doors for you to use your gift. You can be called to help business people as an encourager and not as a teacher. It's important to use your gifts appropriately. You will be known globally not for what you can do but for what God has supernaturally endowed you to do. When you function in your gift the people around you are blessed and so are you.

Mark Twain "The two greatest days in a person's life are the day they were born and the day they found out why."

At some point you realise your life must be lived for a higher purpose. We see this in scripture.

2 To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. **Your calling is never isolated from relational connection.**

3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.

- **Let love be the bridge through which your gifts flow.**
Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

How many men do you know that can speak to each other like this?

To whom are you called? What's the relational dynamic between you? Do you constantly remember them in prayers? Do you long to see them? Does that fill you with joy? This is the joy of walking in your calling.

3. Spiritual resources can be passed down generationally.

- **You are a partaker of their grace**

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

- Paul identifies a spiritual quality of faith that was passed down generationally.
- For some it is a heart to intercede or an ability with money and investments.
- What has been passed down to you by your natural and spiritual parents?
- Mentorship and spiritual parenting will fast track you in maximizing your gifts and calling.
- I am sure Timothy's mother and grandmother believed in him, hence mentoring him. Timothy's father was apparently not a believer.
- Find people around you who believe in what God has placed in you. They will help to draw it out. They will remind you of your destiny.
- There are caps people place on you (E.g. Jesse by-passing David when Samuel was picking a king)
- There are caps you also place on yourself.
- Today I am being thanked by people who have stepped into business as a result of a prophetic word and continued belief in them. Do you know what I carry for you? Do you know what you carry for others around you?

4. You are responsible to stir up your gifts.

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.

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- **He needed to be reminded of this fact because it's easy to forget about your gift.**
- **Someone can seem like they are not gifted but often they are just not fanning into flame the gift.**
- **Life is like a 24 speed bicycle, many people don't use all gears.**
- **A boy threw back a huge bass into the water because he only had a nine inch frying pan. How is your thinking making you settle?**
- **Your capacity isn't set. Benny Hinn shifted gears in his ministry where he started performing creative miracles. Do you have a set idea of the extent that God will use you?**
- **Don't define yourself based on your limitations rather define yourself based on possibilities.**
- **"When you think you're done you're just at 40% of what your body is capable of."**
SEAL
- **So do you think you are successful? What happens if I tell you that you actually have 60% more in your tank?**
- **What can't you change? Genes (eye colour, height), Age, place of birth. Now focus on what you can change; attitude, friends, capacity etc**

5. Gifts can be imparted through the laying on of hands.

- Are you open to this or are you too proud?
- Do you acknowledge that some things in you were imparted?
- How much faith do you have when we lay hands for impartation?

6. There are things that hinder the gifts of God in us.

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. **8** So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner.

- Passivity is a hindrance
- Timidity is a hindrance
- Being ashamed of the Gospel is a hindrance
- Money or the lack thereof is often a hindrance to our calling
- Laziness
- Comparison
- Unbelief
- Procrastination
- Limited exposure (causing you to aim low) e.g. lady fearing freedom
- Lack of focus – “Chase two rabbits and you’ll catch neither”
- Blind spots – you are not aware that you are good at this thing
- Lack of appreciation from others
- Belief that it won’t make a difference
- Fear of being judged unfairly

7. There are things that stir up the gifts of God in us.

- Relying on His power
- Walking in love
- Maintaining Safe Thinking (That’s what is meant by a sound mind)

Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. **9** He has saved us and called us to a holy life –

8. You are called not just to DO but to a lifestyle.

- We have been set apart for a purpose
- For what have you been set apart?
- Your lifestyle has to match your calling (Eph 4:1)
 - You can’t be a kingdom entrepreneur and not be generous.