

INTRODUCTION

We're so glad you've picked up this workbook. It's a tool intended to help clarify your calling from God. Having clarity about your calling is key to living out the unique purpose for which God created you and placed you in your context. Having a clear sense of one's own calling is incredibly helpful when it comes to making major decisions in life. If you have a clear sense of calling, it becomes much easier to evaluate whether or not to take that new job, move to a new neighborhood, or say yes to a new opportunity to serve.

CALLING

Your calling comes from God. It's His plan for your unique contribution in His story. He hasn't called you into relationship with Him to passively wait until you go to Heaven. He calls you into relationship in the here and now. He also calls you into His service as servant and Steward of all He has entrusted to you. Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 2. He writes,

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Ephesians 2:8-10

In these verses, Paul first summarizes the heart of the Christian faith. We are saved by grace through faith. But there is more. The grateful response of being brought into a saving relationship with God is a life focused on serving Him through good works. You are His workmanship. You were handcrafted for accomplishing His will. Part of knowing and living out your unique calling is understanding His intentional DESIGN of you.

For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made... Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. Psalm 139: 13-16

DESIGN

This book uses the acronym DESIGN to talk about the unique attributes God has placed in you to fulfill your calling. DESIGN stands for Desire, Experience, Spiritual Gifts, Individual Style, Growth, and Natural Abilities. This workbook and the corresponding assessments and activities are meant to serve as a guide to help you understand your unique DESIGN and gain clarity about your calling. The more insight you have about your unique DESIGN, the more insight you gain about the purpose for which you were created.

LIFE MISSION STATEMENT

One way to succinctly express your calling is to develop a Life Mission Statement. It is a one or two sentence summary of your calling. It takes into account your DESIGN, the needs of the world and God's priorities. After you have completed all six parts of DESIGN, you will have the raw material needed to do the work of coming up with a Life Mission Statement that serves as a summary of the calling God has given you.

We pray that this journey through the DESIGN process leads to greater clarity about your unique calling from God.