

12 STEPS TO HELP FULFILL GOD'S CALLING IN YOUR LIFE:

By Dr. Paul R. Shockley

www.prshockley.org

Flowing from one's identity in Jesus Christ, the greater the development (optimization) & harmonization of these four areas of your life, namely, divine enablement, personal integrity, divine design, & inculcation of virtue, the more likely you will personally know & fulfill God's calling in your life. Overall goal is to be well-pleasing to Christ, while trusting Him with your circumstances. Inward rest; outward victory. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10.

Are you serving God on His terms & not yours?

Is Jesus your first love? Serve God not merely out of orthodoxy, but out of fervent love? Rev 2:1-7

TOP OF PLUM LINE:

Living Word (Jesus Christ) is your Master, Lord, Exemplar, King, & God: Mark 8:34-36; Philippians 2:5-11. Always ask yourself the following question: **What attitude, choice, desire, habit, & decision will bring God the most glory?**
The exaltation of Christ is to be your vision!

Be Holistic!

Do not rely on your own resources; depend upon Him: Phil. 4:10-13
Do not divide yourself; focus on God's calling!
Forgive others.

Be Faithful!

Actively Mortify Selfishness; Always seek to decrease so that others may increase.
Do not merely think short-term, but also long-term. How will this particular action best fulfill your calling?

Be Patient!

Do not "spin" the truth; be honest, not selective; always be authentic, real, & transparent with gentleness & clear conscience.

Be Skilled !

Avoid the intimate company of those who will compromise your character: Psalm 1.
Deplore duplicity.

Be Observant of your surroundings

Do not let the good become the enemy of what is best.
Avoid places & situations that will inflame your sinful appetites, tendencies, & propensities.
Do not pursue the gratification of the senses.

Avoid self-pity, victimization mindset.

Do not seek significance & value in that which is temporal for it was never designed to last.

Be Very Careful!

Do not be led by enchanting sirens who appeal to the dark side of your nature.
Refuse to be manipulated by those who do not have your best interests at heart.

Embrace Godly, Seasoned Counsel!

Are you pursuing what matters most to God?

DIVINE ENABLEMENT:

Proactively (1) walk by means of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:16), being controlled by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), & yielding to the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6; 12:1-2; Col. 3:12-18; Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 4:13); (2) Accurate knowledge & obedience to Scripture (Rom. 12:2; 1 Pet. 2:2); (3) Pro-actively & sincerely confess sins (1 John 1:9); (4) Do not quench nor grieve the Holy Spirit in your life; (5) proactively mortify sinful appetites, tendencies, & deeds (Col. 3:5-11; cf. Rom. 6:11; 8:13); (6) Consistently bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

PERSONAL INTEGRITY:

Consistent in terms of character: (1) accuracy, (2) commitments, (3) honesty, (4) truthfulness, & (5) wholeness. One is free from duplicity & hypocrisy; promises are honored; One is beyond approach, that is, free from any legitimate accusation (e.g., moral obliquity): 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:22; Titus 1:6; 2:2. See also Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Cor. 3:18. Associate yourself with excellence. Know that certain sinful choices may last a lifetime. Thus, love God passionately from out of your whole heart, soul, mind, & strength (Mark 12:28-34).

IDENTITY:

My Identity is in Jesus Christ & He is in me: "I am in Christ in terms of position, possessions, safe-keeping, & association; Christ is in me giving me life, character, and dynamic for conduct."
Dr. Lewis S. Chafer
John 15; Romans 6:5.

DIVINE DESIGN:

God has uniquely made you with a certain divine design: (1) gift cluster (spiritual and natural);(2) temperament/personality; (3) leadership ability; (4) certain intellectual & (5) physical abilities
You are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 9:6); you have inherent value no matter background, or experiences (whether the good, bad, or ugly). In fact, your life's experiences, resources, can become tools or resources to help you engage the present while anticipating the future. Thus, Know thyself! Also, know that you are frail; no one is immune to sin & its deadly consequences. Follow the Lord, at all costs, or certain things may be denied you. 2 Corinthians 3:18.

INCULCATION OF VIRTUE:

Education, actions translated into habits, wisdom gained from life's experiences, & the cultivation of virtues such as prudence, self-control, wisdom, humility, & courage. Precepts & principles in the Scriptures are translated into habits. Virtue (*arete*) = habits of excellence (both intellectual & moral); character is the sum-total of one's habits. Be beyond approach in every possible way: 1 Timothy 3:2. Always choose to do that which will free you from unnecessary negative consequences. Redirect all your resources to further your long-term goals without negating qualitative nourishing experiences in the present.

Do not allow yourself to be immobilized by doubt or the unknown. Trust God! At all costs, avoid that altogether which may inhibit or disqualify your ministry. You may be gifted, but you also need to be faithful.

Do not allow yourself to become your own worst enemy; be godwardly ambitious!

At all costs protect God's calling on your life; pursue what will advance & promote what matters most to God. Realize that certain things may be legitimate for others, but not for you.

Proactively develop habits of excellence.

Be a lover of what is good, honorable & trustworthy: Phil. 4:8

BASE OF PLUM LINE:

Written Word is your Supreme & Final Authority: Psalm 19:6-11; John 17:17; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-2.

Examine every truth-claim; proclaim nothing less & nothing more than what the whole Bible teaches.

A "calling is simply God's shaping of your burden and His beckoning you to your service to him the place and pursuit of His choosing" [Ravi Zacharias, The Grand Weaver (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2007), 186]. 12 Integrative Steps to fulfilling God's calling in your Life: (1) Learn what God likes & dislikes; (2) Intimately & rightly know God's Word (Psalm 19:6-11; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17); (3) Earnestly confess your sins (1 John 1:9); (4) Pray earnestly; (5) Wait on God; (6) Stand firm against pressure (external pressures such as friends & internal pressure such as impatience); (7) Realize that the closer you are to God in terms of intimacy, the more obedient you will be to do God's will His way; (8) Live for what is most important & avoid that which is evil, trivial, &/or sensational); (9) Experimentation in ministry is the proving ground, thus, experiment with different ministries... look for the hand-in-glove sensation where you flourish, are maximized, & are satisfied; (10) Do what you already know to be God's will. "God reinforces His call as you respond to His nod" [Idem]; (11) Truly trust God with each step you take in moment-by-moment Christian living! He is sovereign & has your best interests at heart; (12) Be faithful in the little decisions you make; not merely the big ones. ~ Dr. Paul R. Shockley, www.prshockley.org. 03 March 2013.