

CHRISTIANS @ WORK: Finding Your Calling, Making A Difference

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&

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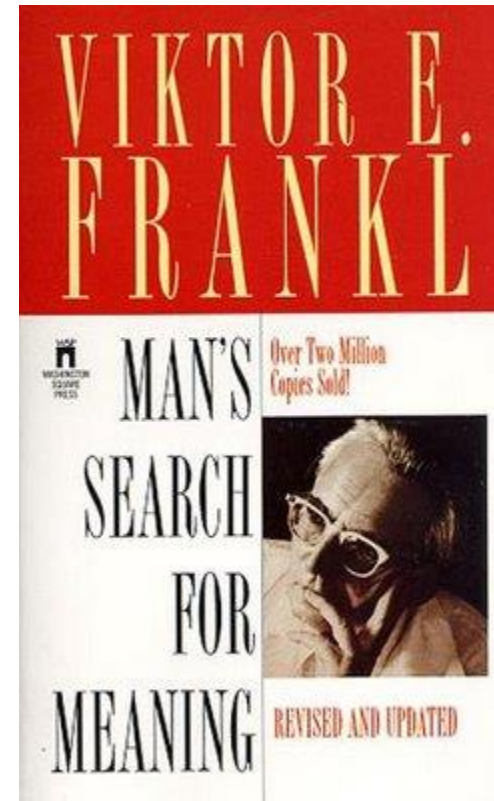
Introduction: What is the Meaning of Your Life?

- To have a good career?
- To be successful?
- To be happy?
- To meet some one else's expectations?

I. Introduction: The Pursuit of Meaning (Calling)

“Man’s search for meaning is the primary motivation in his life....This meaning is unique and specific in that it must and can only be fulfilled by him alone...”

Viktor Frankl



I. Introduction: The Pursuit of Meaning (Calling)

“The quest for happiness has become nothing short of a cultural obsession...the concept of happiness has become so hallowed that it is beginning to resemble a cult or religious surrogate.”

John Schumaker



Presentation Outline

- I. Introduction: The Pursuit of Meaning (Calling)
- II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: Traditional, Humanist & Christian
- III. Finding Your Calling: What it is & is not!
- IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities
- V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

Introduction: Research

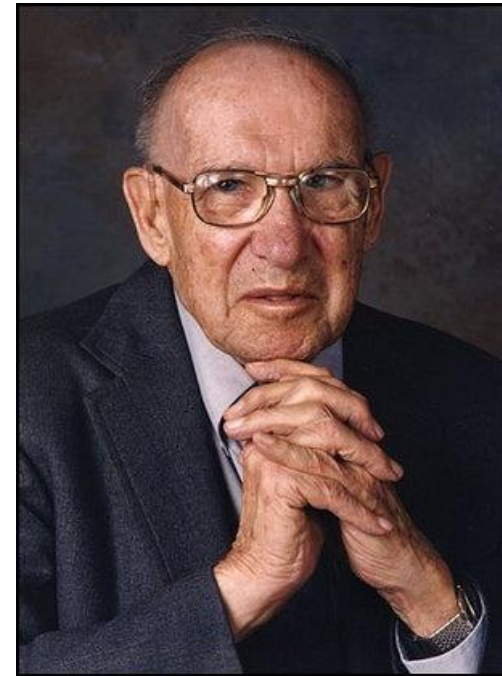
- I interviewed 300 Christian businesspeople / entrepreneurs worldwide over an 10-year period
- Covenant has a network of 100s of Christian family / business owners
- The lessons largely apply to Christians @ work generally



II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Traditional Model

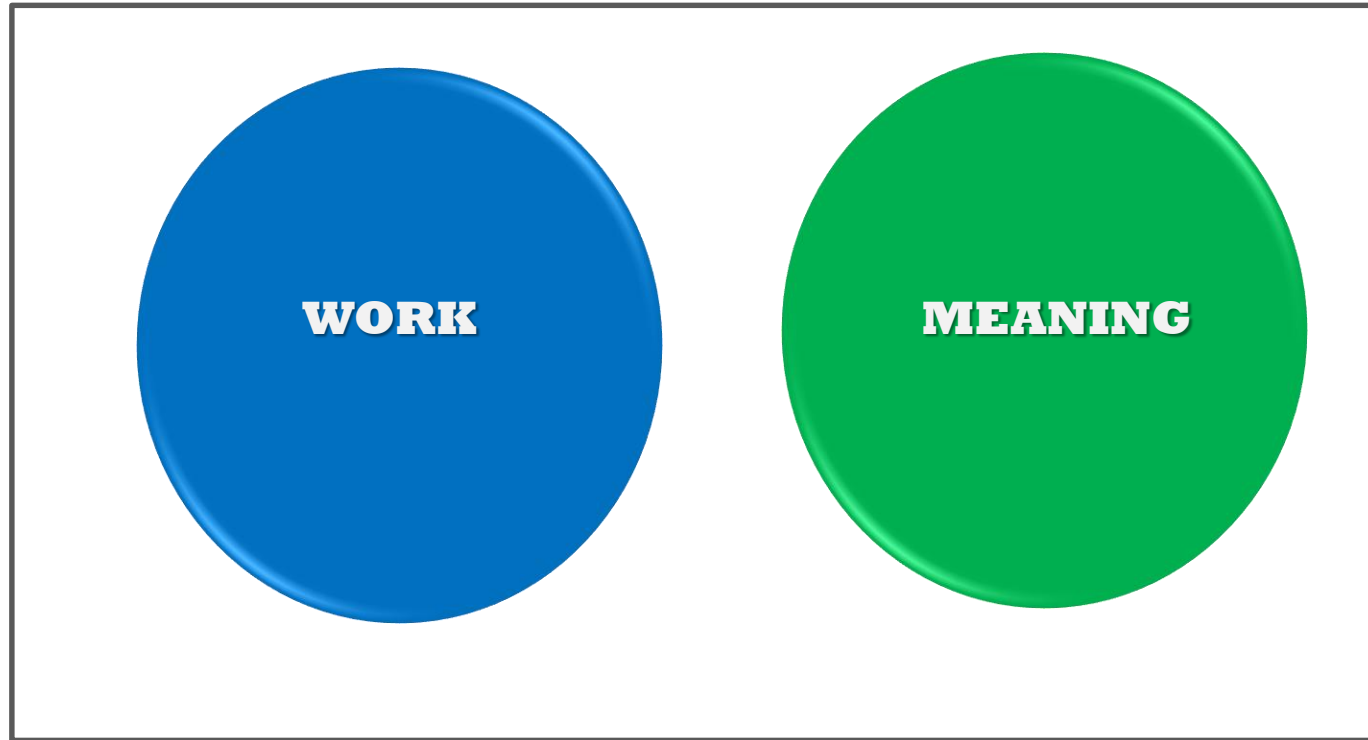
- Innovative
- Resourceful
- Opportunistic

“this book represents innovation and entrepreneurship as purposeful tasks that can be organized—are in need of being organized—and as systematic work.”



Peter Drucker, Innovation & Entrepreneurship

II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Traditional Model



II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Humanist Model

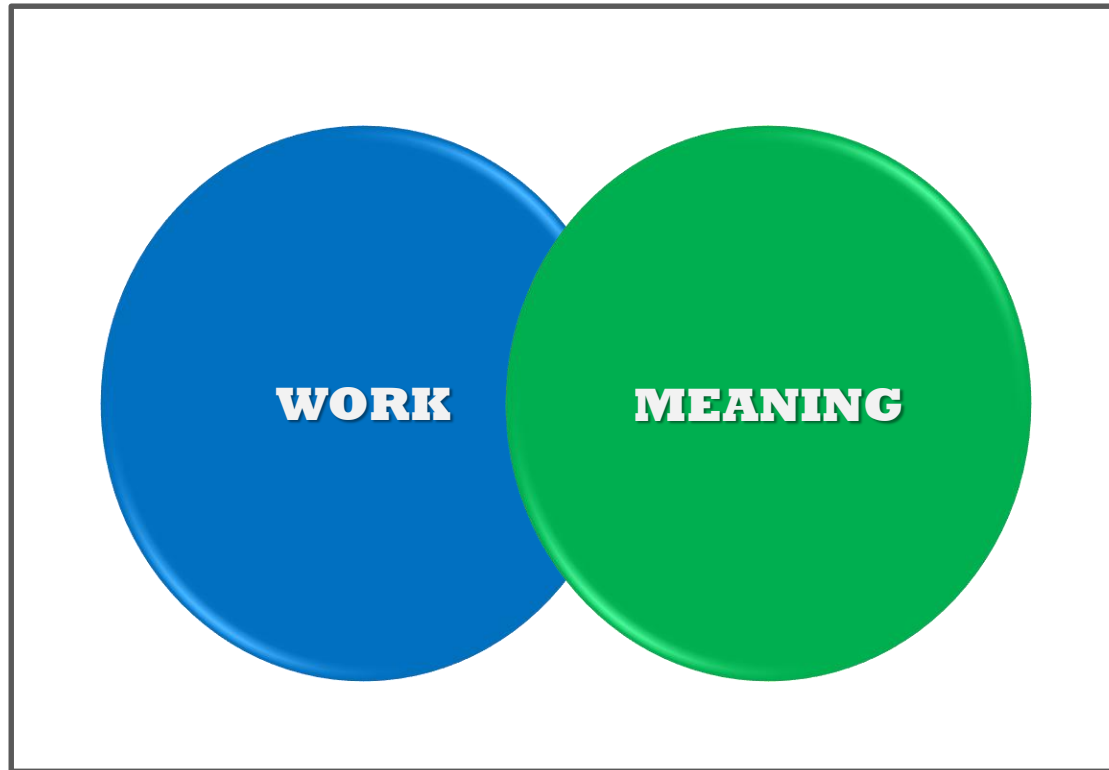
Societal Trends:

- De-institutionalization
- Post-modernism
- New Age
- Human Potential Movement

Defining “Humanist” Spirituality



II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Humanist Model



II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: Example of the Humanist Model

“But before you can determine what your role [you in your business] will be, you must ask yourself...What do I value most? What kind of life do I want? What do I want my life to look like? Who do I wish to be? Your Primary Aim is your answer to all these questions.”



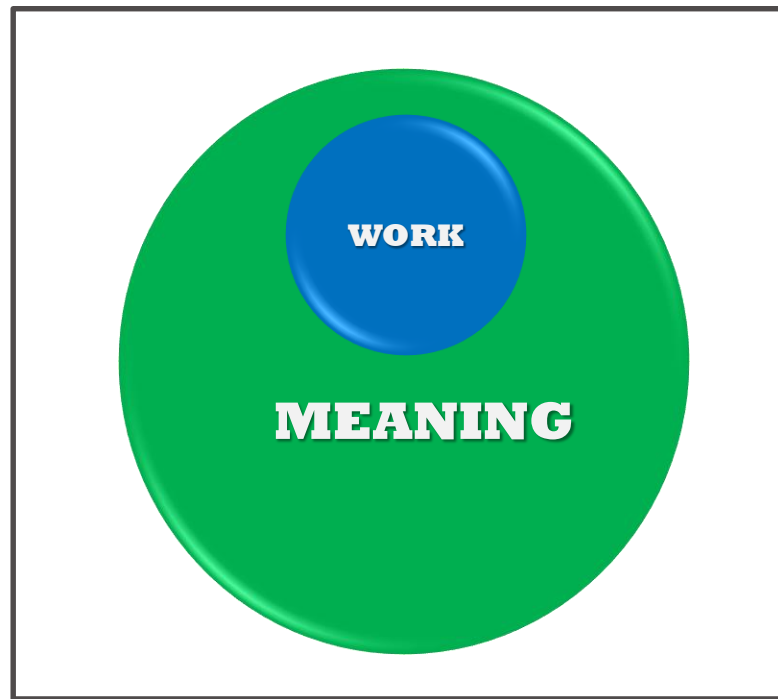
Michael Gerber, The E-Myth

II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Humanist Model

#	Tenet
1	<u>Self-narrative</u> : core beliefs and values to serve a personalized quest in the context of today's environment
2	<u>Horizontal laws</u> : mechanistic view of the universe (following laws or principles will lead to a focus on treasures on earth)
3	<u>Attributes</u> - proper behaviour (i.e. Ethics) is a matter of following rules or dictated principles, with a focus on the useful effect
4	<u>Purpose & Meaning through work</u> : an assumption of the need for a purpose in life which is found through work
5	<u>Self-Oriented Niche</u> : self-discovery and self-development of niche or unique ability which is what you are good at doing
6	<u>Self-Help</u> : Human-centered focus is on the power and resources to achieve come from within the person

II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Christian Model

You don't find meaning at work; you bring meaning to work



II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Christian Model

#	Tenet
1	<u>God-narrative</u> : a doctrine applicable to all focused on the life, death and resurrection of Christ – the basis of salvation
2	<u>Vertical laws</u> : God-controlled view of the universe (following laws or principles will lead to a focus on treasures in heaven)
3	<u>Virtues</u> – an ethics of character, not of duty, rooted in a deontological system (belief in absolutes)
4	<u>Calling & Meaning through a whole life offering</u> : a broad notion of calling to discipleship in all facets of life, including the cost of discipleship
5	<u>Community-Oriented Gifts</u> : acknowledgement and use of gifts for the use of the whole community
6	<u>Divine Help</u> : a God-centered focus that I can do all things through Christ

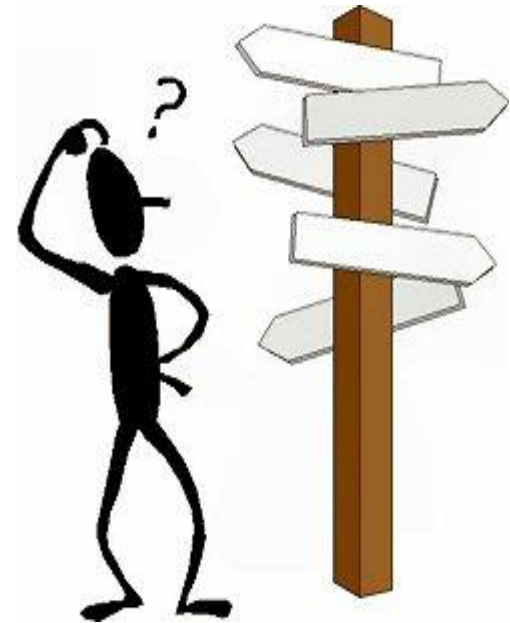
II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: Humanist & Christian Models

#	Humanist Model	Christian Model
1	Self Narrative	God Narrative
2	Horizontal Laws	Vertical Laws
3	Attributes	Virtues
4	Meaning at Work	Meaning to Work
5	Self-Oriented Niche	Communal Gift
6	Self Help	Divine Help

III. Finding Your Calling: What it is & is not!

Top Five Misunderstandings:

1. Terminology
2. Sacred / Secular
3. Must be Audible
4. Calling is your job
5. One-time Event



III. Finding Your Calling: What is it & is not!

R. Paul Stevens, Regent College:

- For there to be a callee there must be a **CALLER**
- Before we are called to do something we are called to **SOMEONE** (calling is primarily to do with salvation)
- The call of God is **COMPREHENSIVE**
– to the whole of life



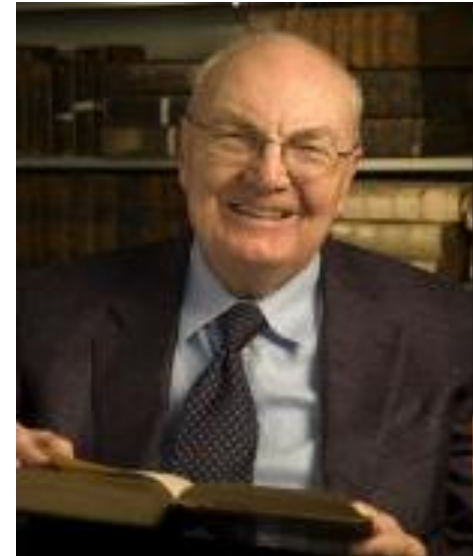
A Comprehensive Calling: Belonging, Being and Doing



III. Finding Your Calling: What it is & is not!

Calling & The Will of God

- Read Your Bible
- Develop a Heart for God
- Seek Wise Counsel
- Does this make sense?
- Divine Intervention

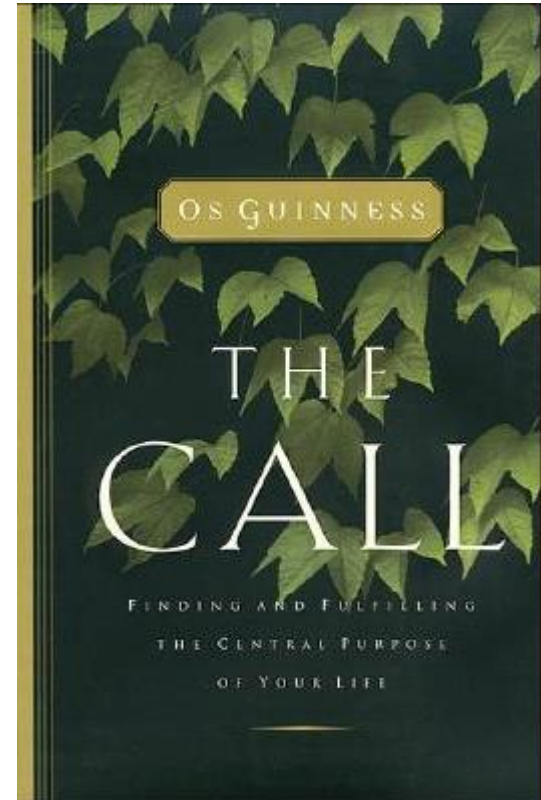


Bruce Waltke

III. Finding Your Calling: What it is & is not!

Os Guinness – Calling & Life's Challenges

- Purposeful Journey
- Calling v Vocation
- In God's Hands



III. Finding Your Calling: What it is & is not!

“Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service.”



Os Guinness

The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the
Central Purpose of Your Life

IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

P1 = Passion

“Calling goes beyond just having a gift; it enters the area of passion. I think each person is uniquely called because people have different passions.”

Allon Lefever (Vol. 2)



IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

P1 = Passion

“I believe the most important thing in business is to follow through on your passions. Align your dream with your passions. Be persistent and never quit.”

Steve Casey (Vol. 4)



IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

P2 = Purpose

“I believe God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast. And when I run I feel his pleasure.”

Eric Liddell,
Chariots of Fire (1981)

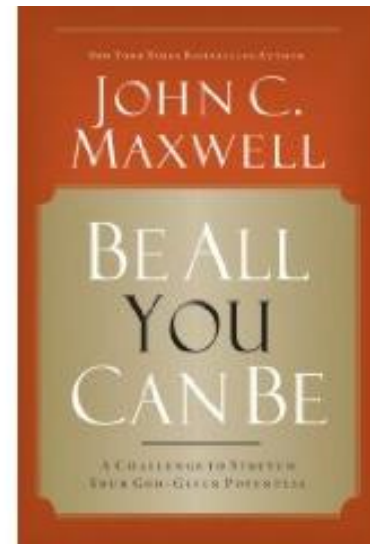


IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

P2 = Purpose

“What makes a person extraordinary is purpose—the consuming desire to accomplish something in life.”

John Maxwell



IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

P3 = Priorities

“Our Company exists to glorify God. We seek to do so by providing exceptional service to our customers, by Creating wealth for those who labour in Remdal and by fostering growth and maturity in the lives of others.”

Ken Ewert (Vol. I) - Remdal's Mission Statement



IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

P3 - Priorities

“I have had a lot of bad moments...There have been low days where I felt I had nowhere to turn. Absolutely, no question, the single most important thing in my life has been my faith.”

Jim Pattison,
The Jim Pattison Group (Vol. II)

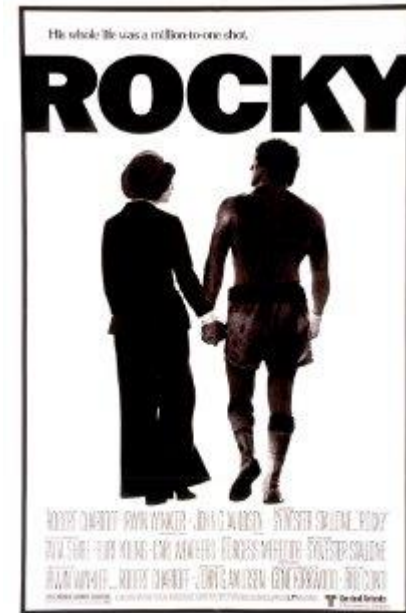


IV. Finding Your Calling: Passion, Purpose & Priorities

BONUS!!! P4 - Persistence

“When everyone is telling me to throw in the towel...I want to be like Rocky in the 15th round. He looks like his face has been put through the meat grinder, yet he gets up and wins. Without that sense of calling I would not be able to get up off the mat”

Allan Burnett, The Chapels



V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

Based on our research, the “self-declared” thinking and motivation of Christian entrepreneurs:

- They find meaning in work due to faith
- They view business as a mission field
- They want to make a difference

V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

Based on our research, there are 4 types of responses of entrepreneurs in relation to the church:

1. Disengage / remove from church
2. Remain in church / but be passive
3. Remain in church / focus on para-church organizations
4. Remain in church / active through church

V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

Four Action Steps for the Church:

1. Recognize the different views of business
2. Understand the Whole Entrepreneur
3. Creating a church culture that welcomes entrepreneurs (& others)
4. Become a place where all members can utilize their gifts, exercise their calling, within a community of fellowship

V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

Four Action Steps for Entrepreneurs:

1. Focus on “transferable skills”
2. Recognize that commercial success does not / should not translate to spiritual influence
3. Focus on collaboration
4. Be discreet, but not invisible

V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

- “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...” (Eph. 4:1)
- “With this in mind [God’s final judgment and glory], we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.” (2 Thess. 1:11)


V. Conclusion: Making A Difference

“Let each man find out what God wants him to do, and then let him do it, or die in the attempt.”

Charles Spurgeon



Contact Information....

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