

Christians @ Work: Finding Your Calling, Making A Difference

Biola University,
La Mirada, CA
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Chairman,
Entrepreneurial Leaders
Organization

Introduction: What is the Meaning of Your Life?

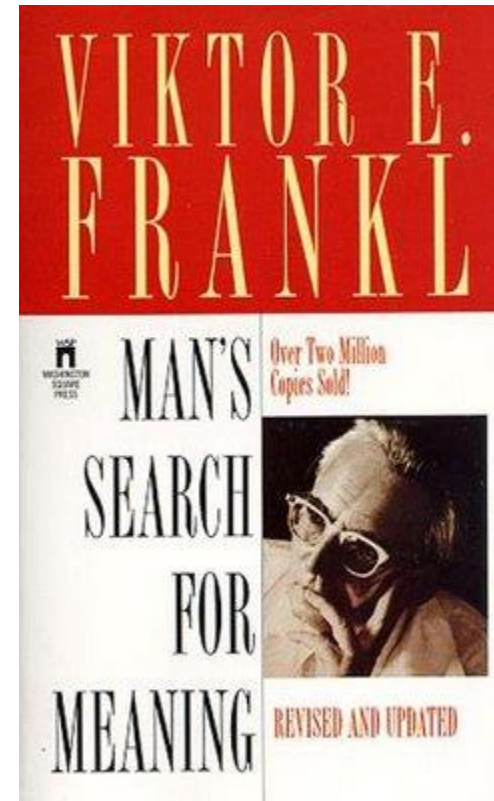
- To have a good career?
- To be successful?
- To be happy?
- To meet some one else's expectations?



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



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



Introduction: The Pursuit of Meaning (Calling)

“Neither money nor ambition nor serendipity is good enough as a work / life principle. We have to find a better answer to the question: Why do I do what I do? The answer matters.



We have only one life.”

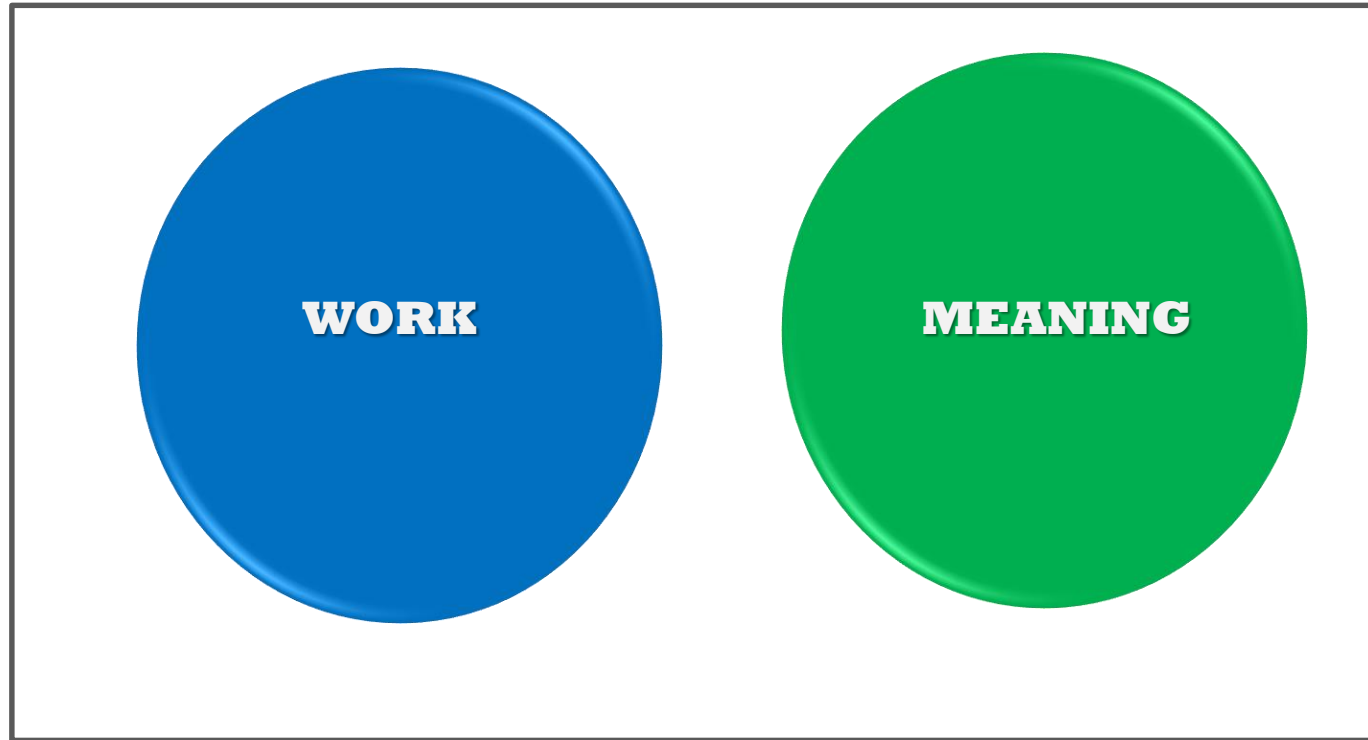
Lord Stephen Green, Former CEO and Chairman, HSBC & Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneurial Leaders Conference, Toronto, 2016

Introduction: Outline

- I. Meaning at Work: Traditional & Humanist Approaches
- II. Meaning at Work: Christian Approach
- III. Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling
- IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling
- V. Christian Approach: Making A Difference



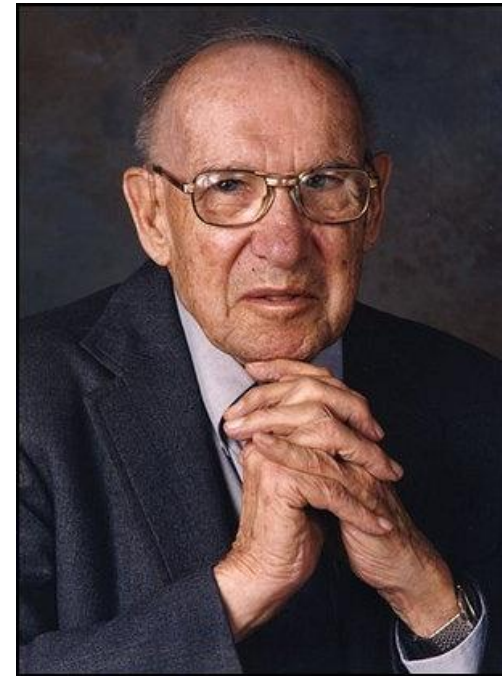
I. Meaning at Work: The Traditional Approach



I. 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

I. Meaning at Work: The Rise of The Humanist Approach

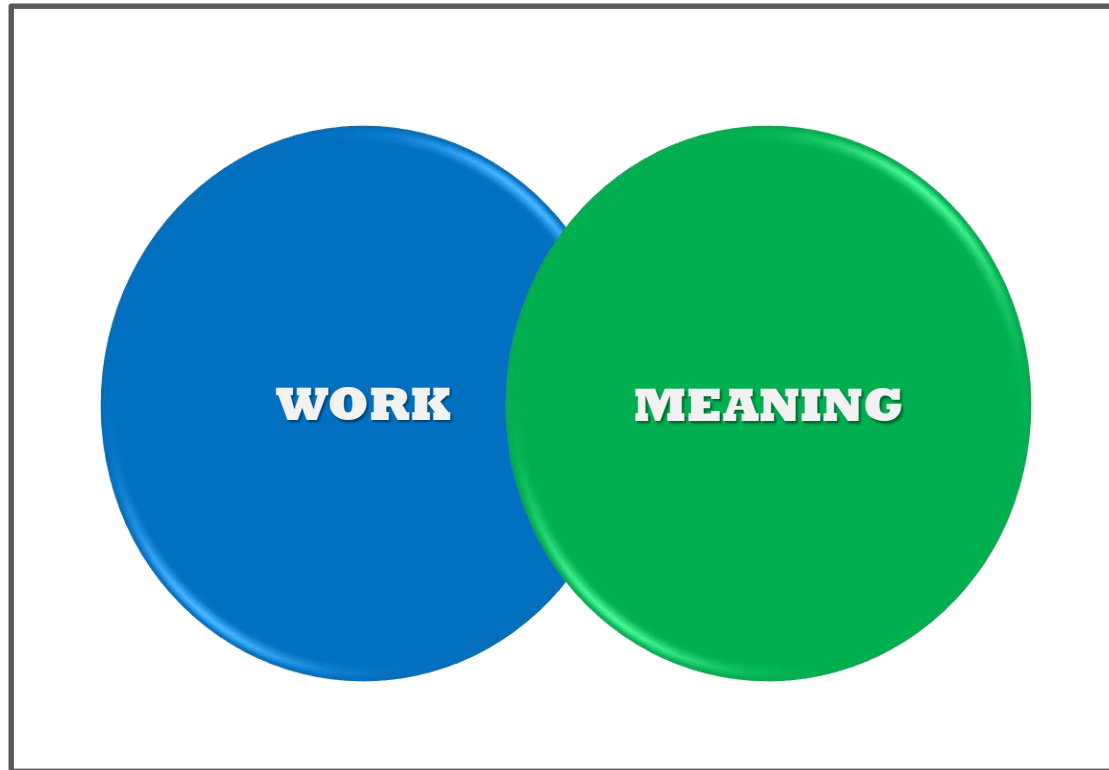
Societal Trends:

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

Self-crafted “Spirituality”



I. Meaning at Work: The Humanist Approach



I. Meaning at Work: The Humanist Approach

“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

I. Meaning At Work: The Humanist Approach

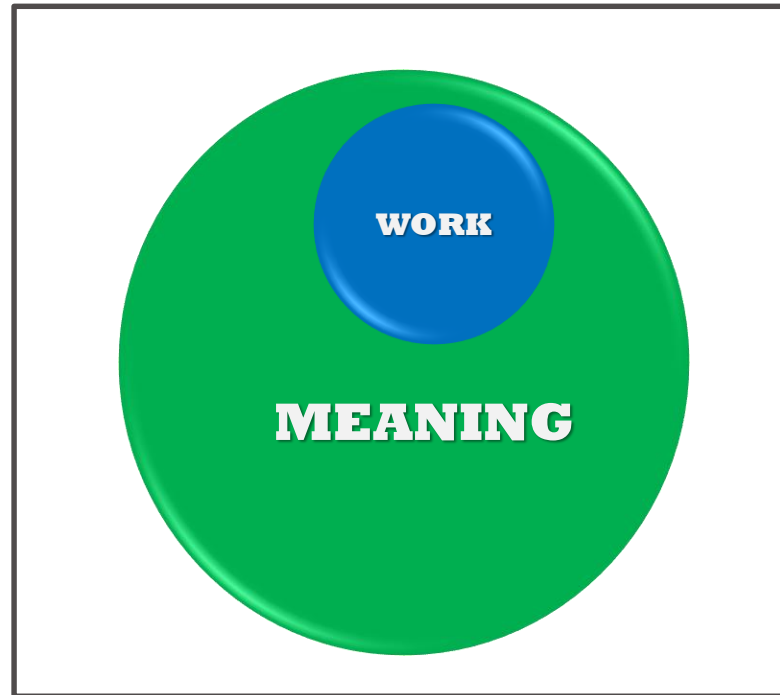
#	Humanist Approach
1	Self Narrative
2	Horizontal Laws
3	Attributes
4	Purpose and Meaning Through Work
5	Self-Oriented Niche
6	Self Help



I. 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 at Work: The Christian Approach



II. Meaning At Work: The Christian Approach

#	Humanist Approach	Christian Approach
1	Self Narrative	God Narrative
2	Horizontal Laws	Vertical Laws
3	Attributes	Virtues
4	Purpose and Meaning Through Work	Calling and Meaning Through A Whole Life Offering
5	Self-Oriented Niche	Communal Gift
6	Self Help	Divine Help



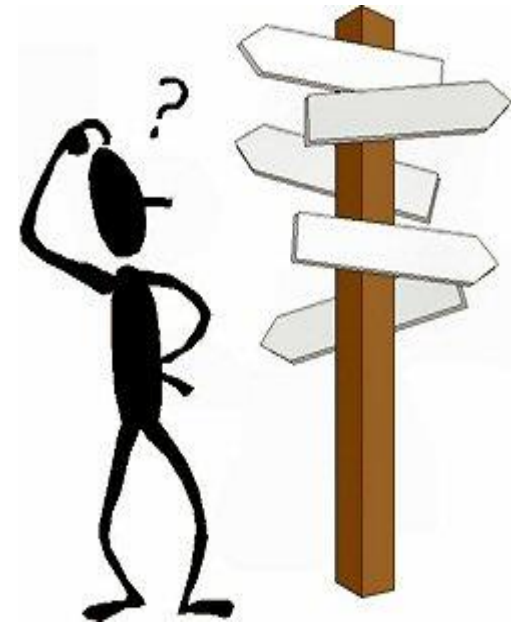
II. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Christian Approach

#	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

III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

Top Five Misunderstandings
Around “Calling”:

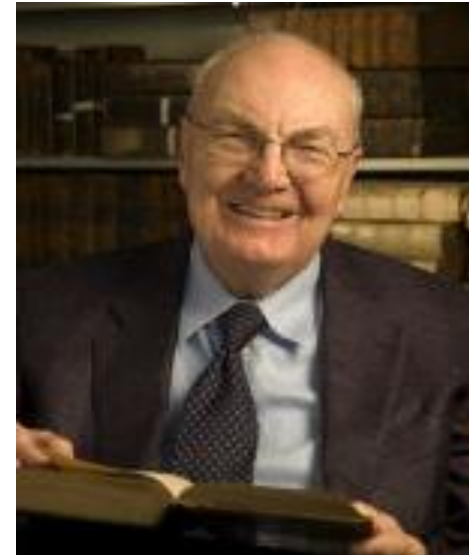
1. Sacred / Secular
2. One-time event
3. Must be Audible
4. Calling is your job
5. Individual Pursuit



III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

Calling & The Will of God

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



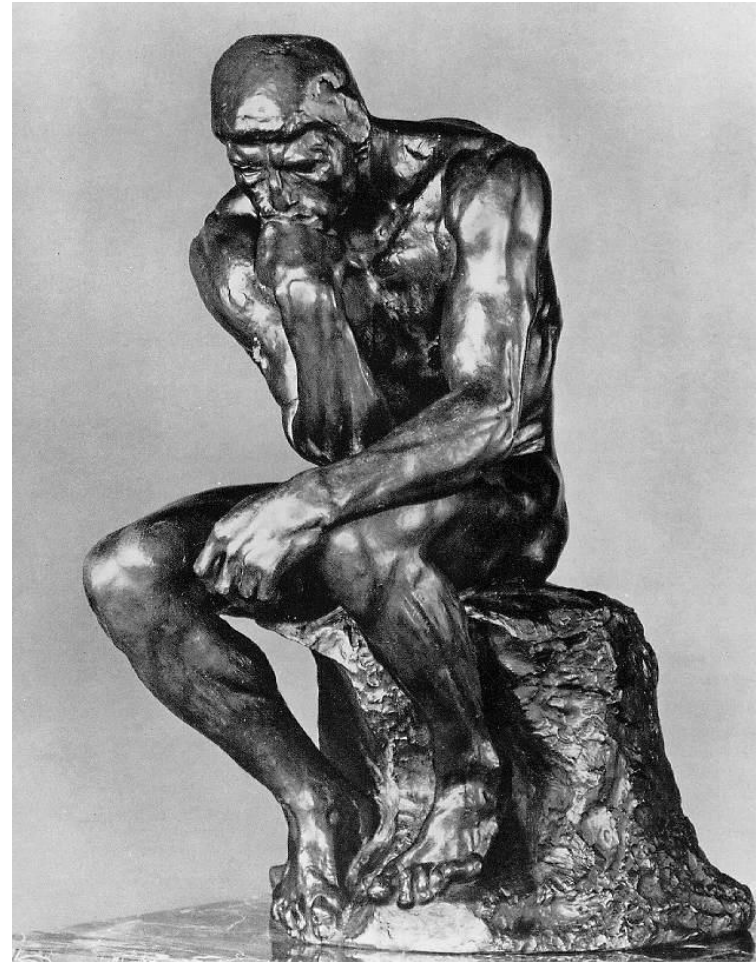
Bruce Waltke



III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

Two Dimensions of Calling

- General
- Personal



III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

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



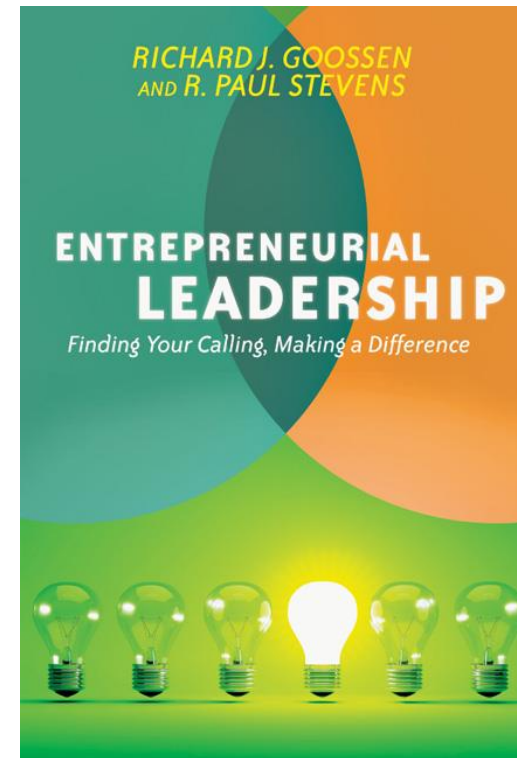
A Comprehensive Calling: Belonging, Being and Doing



III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

Core Aspects of Calling:

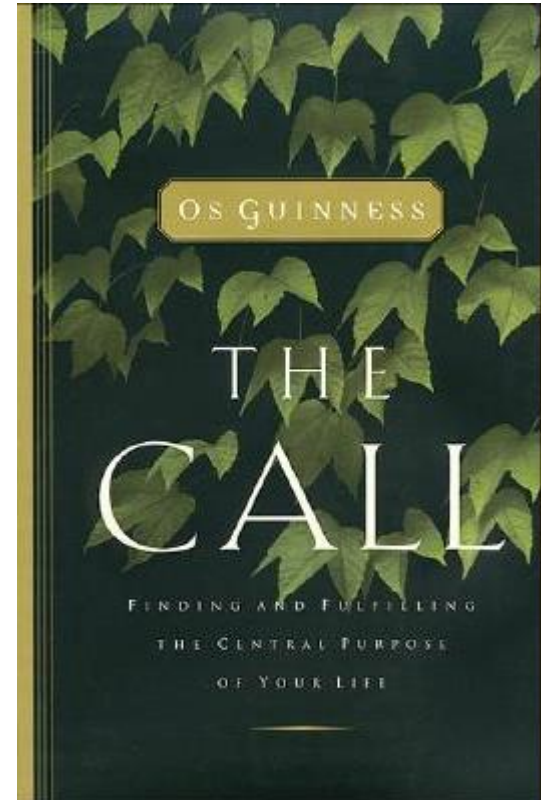
1. Belonging to God
2. Being Godlike people in behaviour
3. Doing God's work in the world
4. Experiencing Life Purpose



III. Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

Os Guinness – Calling & Life's Challenges

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



III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

“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. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P1 = Passion

“I want to be a noisy Christian. I am passionate about telling biblical stories through mass media. Christians are presently the largest and most ineffective tribe in the world. The world will be won, when we are one!”



Mark Burnett, Hollywood Producer &
Entrepreneurial Leaders Award Recipient 2013

IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P2 = Purpose

“the world of business has become a channel of distribution for fulfilling and living my faith....to embrace and engage those who do not believe as I do”



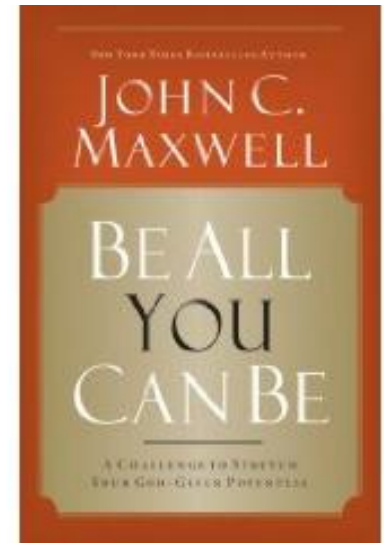
Bill Pollard, Ex-Chairman, Service Master Corp & Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneurial Leaders Conference, Vancouver, 2014

IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P2 = Purpose

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

John C. Maxwell, Keynote Speaker,
Entrepreneurial Leaders Conference,
Toronto 2016



IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P3 - Priorities

“We plan to keep growing our business as good stewards. Why keep growing? My father [David Green, Founder] always says that every extra bit of profit means greater Kingdom impact.”



Mart Green, Chairman

Hobby Lobby Group, Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneurial Leaders Conference, Toronto, 2014



Entrepreneurial Leaders
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IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P4 - Process

“I would encourage people to think about calling in a way that appreciates the process and recognizes that God reveals himself in a step by step process without the clarity of what the destination is and being comfortable with that process .”

Bobby Gruenewald, Keynote Speaker & Entrepreneurial Leaders Award Recipient, Toronto, 2015



IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P5 - Perspective

“I have always been aware of my own mortality. I have often thought on my death bed am I going to think about the last million dollars that I have made, or the person in the prison who is dying of AIDS in Mozambique who I spoke to and became a Christian?”



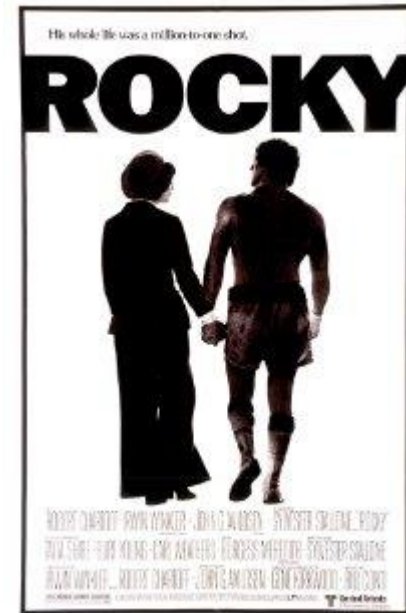
Lord Robert Edmiston, IM Group, London, UK, Keynote Speaker & Entrepreneurial Leaders Award Recipient, Vancouver, 2015

IV. Christian Approach: 6 P's of Calling

P6 - 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

- “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

- 6 P's:
 1. Purpose
 2. Priorities
 3. Passion
 4. Process
 5. Perspective
 6. Persistence
- To have an impact in church, at work and throughout the world



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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Application Questions for Discussion

1. What is your calling?
2. How does work fit into your meaning in life?
3. What do you do on a daily basis that reflects your calling?
4. What do you do from a strategic perspective (long term) that reflects your calling?
5. Are you prepared to take risks to pursue your calling?
6. How do you want to make a difference in the world?

