

# Christians At Work: Finding Your Calling, Making A Difference

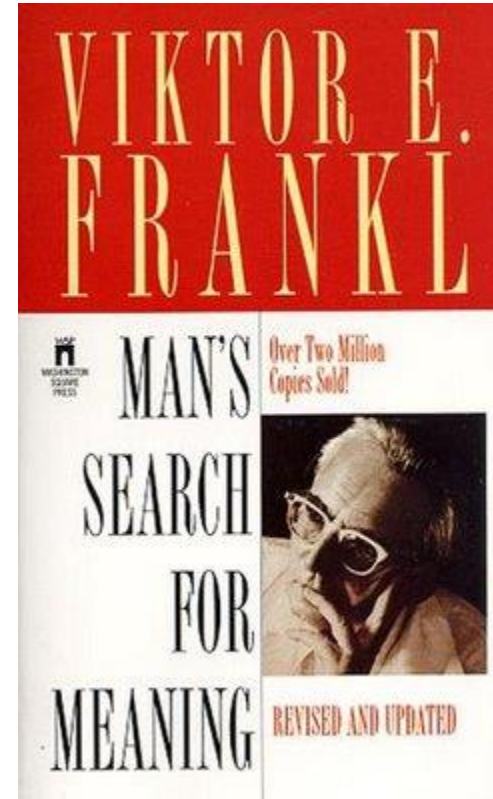
Mt. Carmel Bible Presbyterian  
Church, Singapore  
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*Chairman,*  
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*Organization*

# 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.”

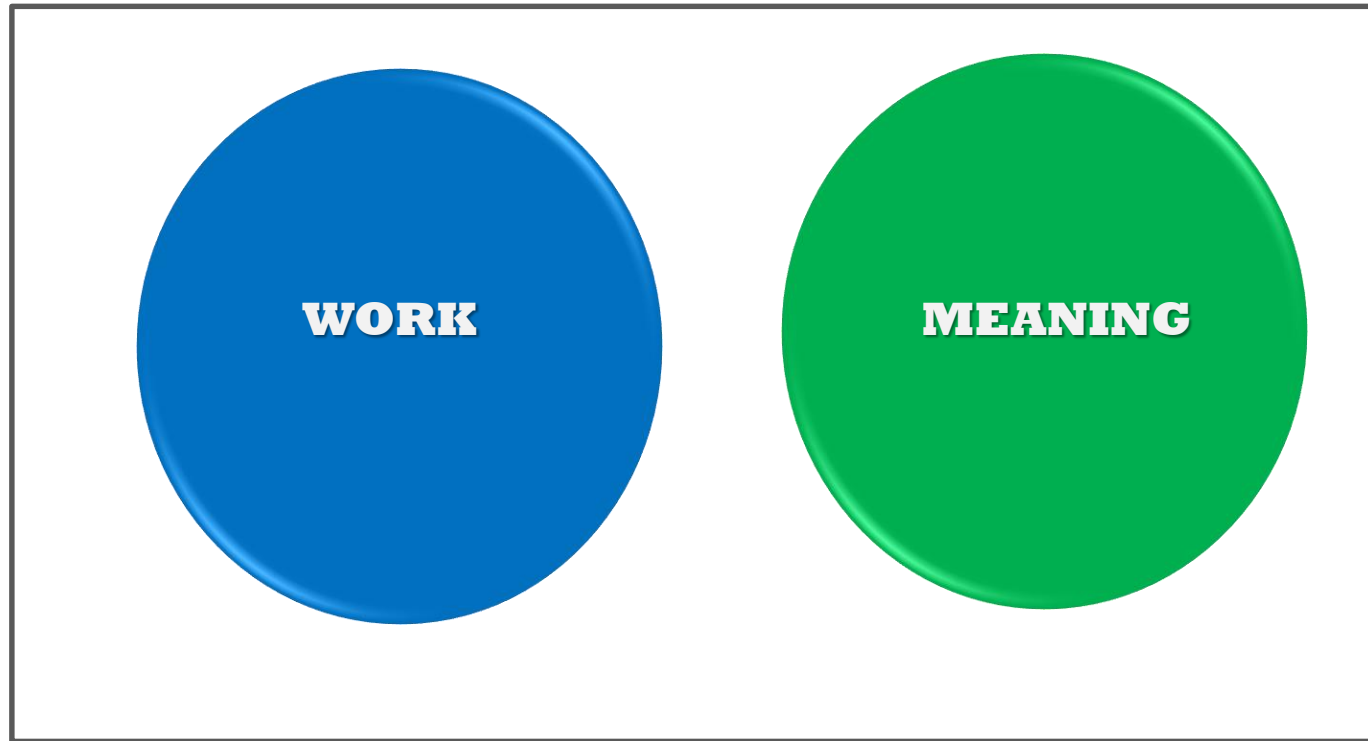
Lord Stephen Green, Former CEO and Chairman, HSBC & Keynote Speaker, Entrepreneurial Leaders Conference, Toronto, 2016

# Introduction: Outline

- I. Meaning at Work: Traditional & Secular Approaches
- II. Meaning at Work: Christian Approach
- III. Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling
- IV. Christian Approach: 3 P's of Calling
- V. Christian Approach: Making A Difference

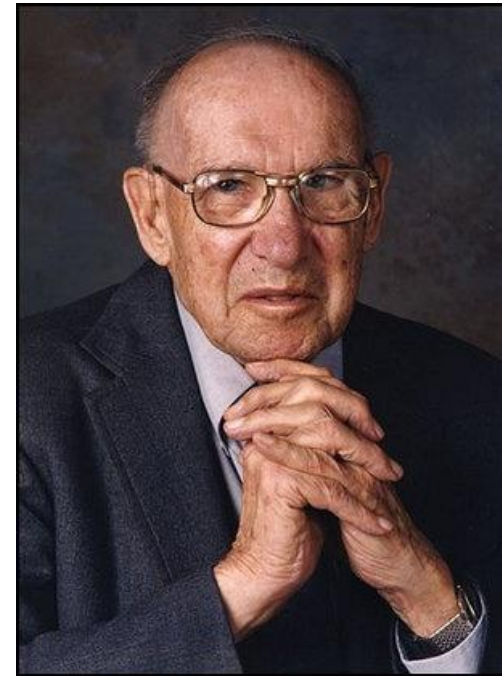


# I. Meaning at Work: The Traditional Approach



# I. Meaning (Calling) & Work: The Traditional Model

- Job well done
- excellence
- Important, not significant



# I. Meaning at Work: Evolution of The Secular Approach

## Societal Trends:

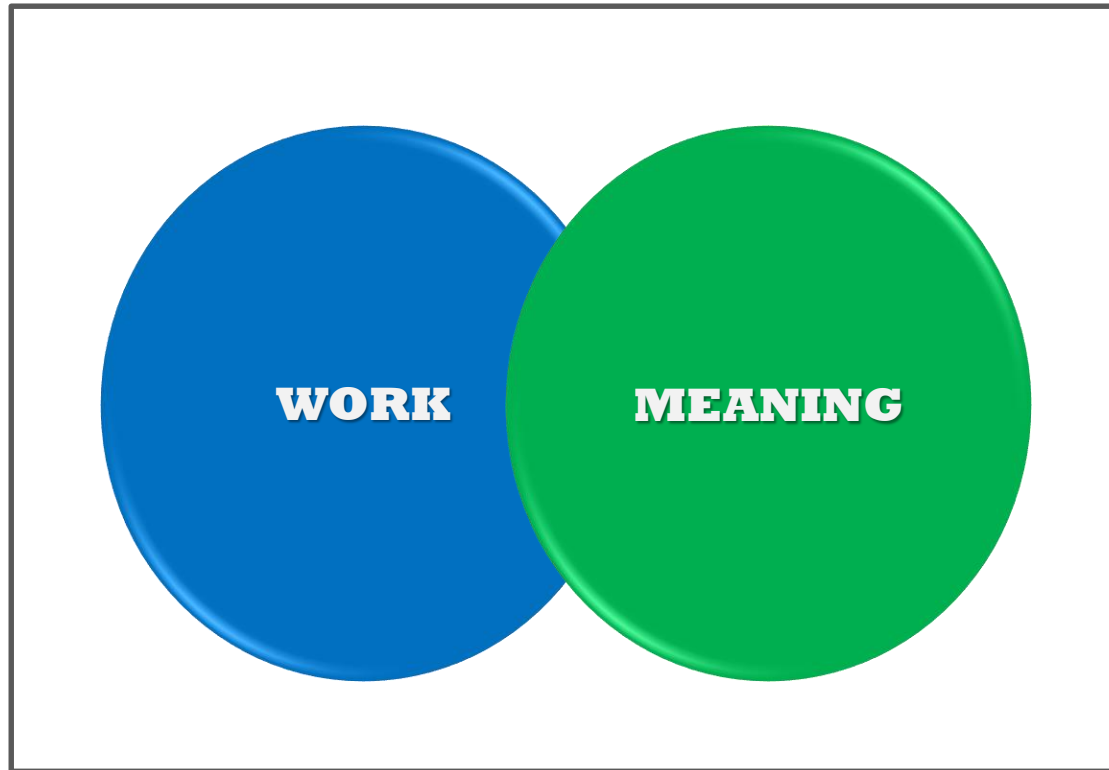
- De-institutionalization
- Relativism
- Human Potential  
Movement

Self-crafted “Spirituality”





# I. Meaning at Work: The Secular Approach

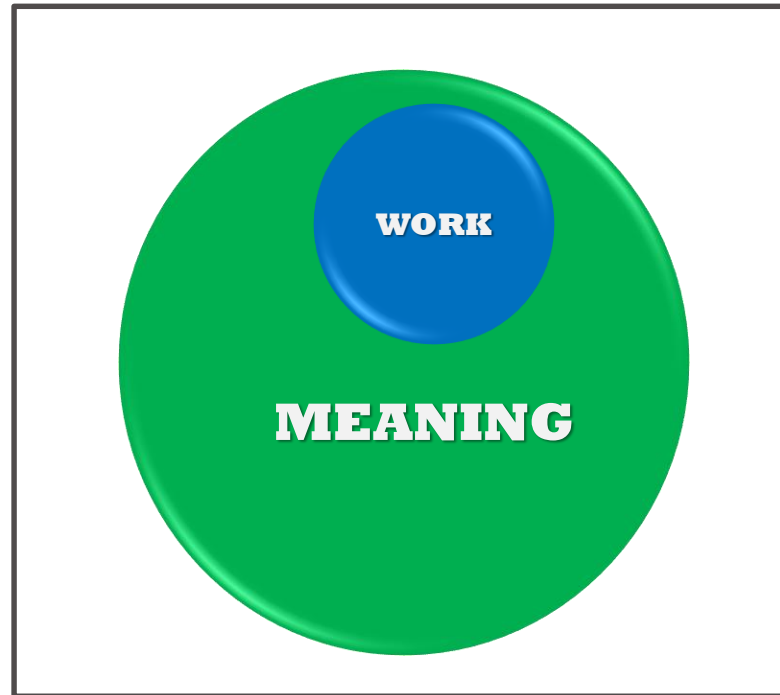


# I. Meaning at Work: The Secular Approach

“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.”



## II. Meaning at Work: The Christian Approach



## II. Meaning At Work: The Christian Approach

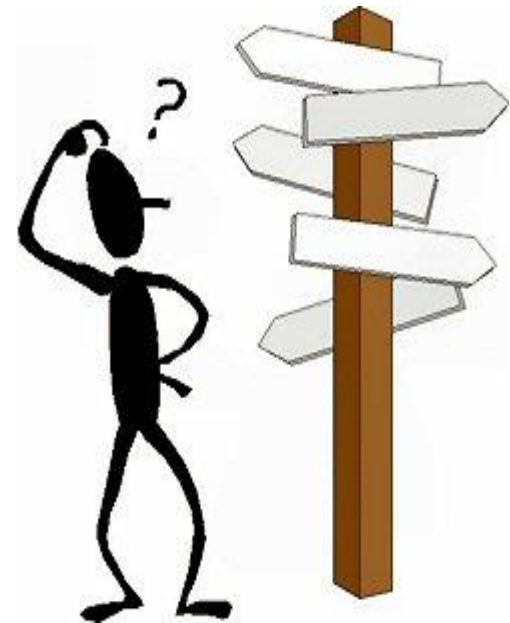
#	Secular Approach	Christian Approach
1	Self Narrative	God Narrative
2	Horizontal Laws	Vertical Laws
3	Attributes	Virtues
4	Purpose and Meaning Through Work	Calling and Meaning Through A Whole Life Offering
5	Self-Oriented Niche	Communal Gift
6	Self Help	Divine Help



# 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 is at the Core of Our Faith:

- Called in one hope (Eph 4:3)
- Called me heavenward (Phil 3:14)
- Called to eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)
- Called to His Purpose (Rom 8:28)
- Worthy of your calling (2 Thes 1:11)



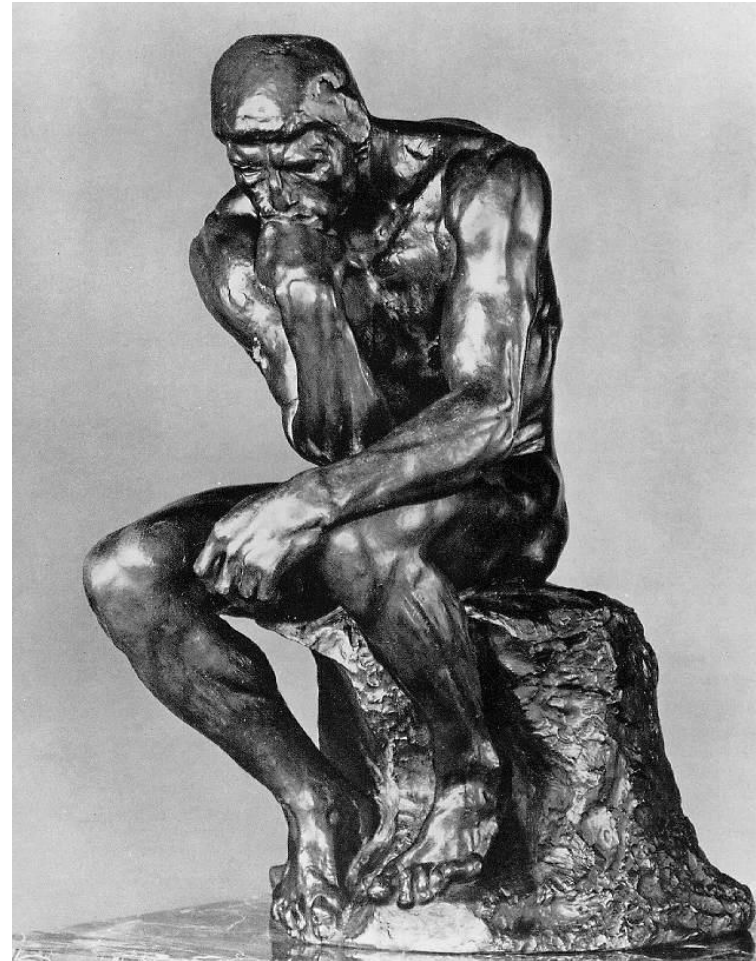
# III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

## Dimensions of Calling

- General
- Personal

## Application of Calling

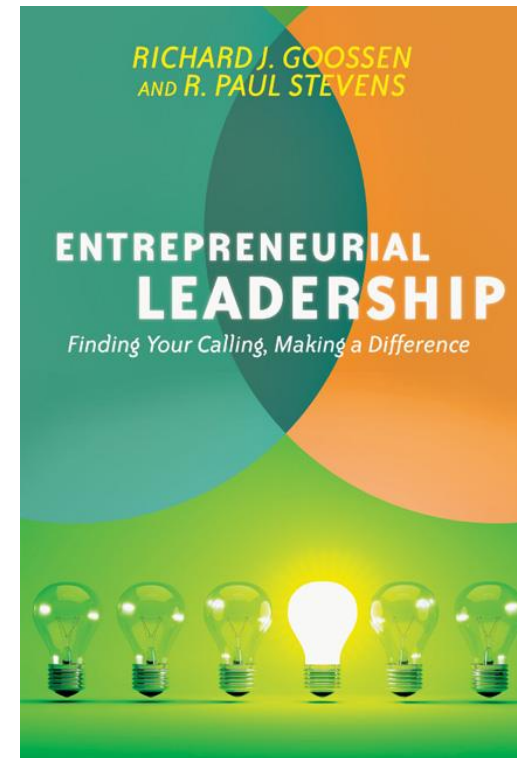
- Relationships



# III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

## General Aspects of Calling:

1. Belonging to God (1 Cor 1:9)
2. Being Godlike people in behavior (Gal 5:13)
3. Doing God's work in the world (1 Pet 4:10)
4. Experiencing Life Purpose (2 Thess 1:11)



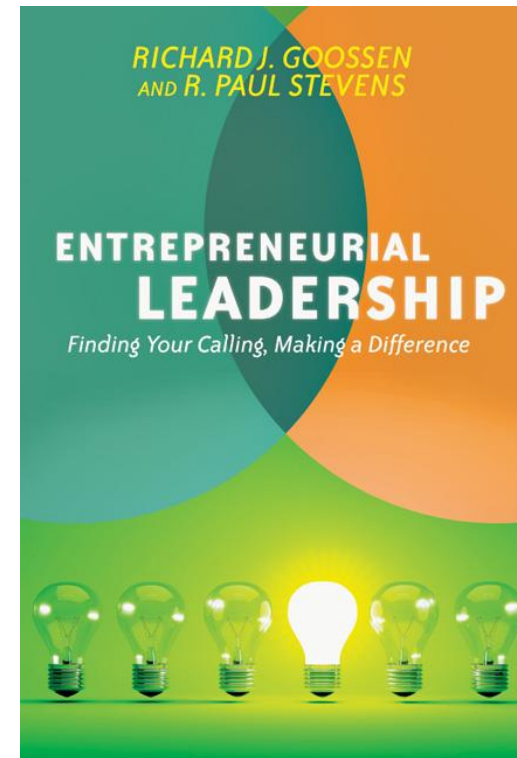
[pp 110-113]



# III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

## Personal Aspects of Calling:

1. Passion
2. Gifts / Talents
3. Providential Circumstances
4. Direct Leading of God

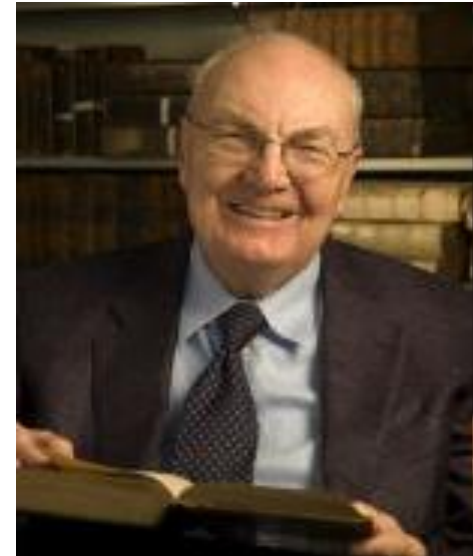


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### III. The Christian Approach: Finding Your Calling

#### Pursuit of Personal Calling:

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

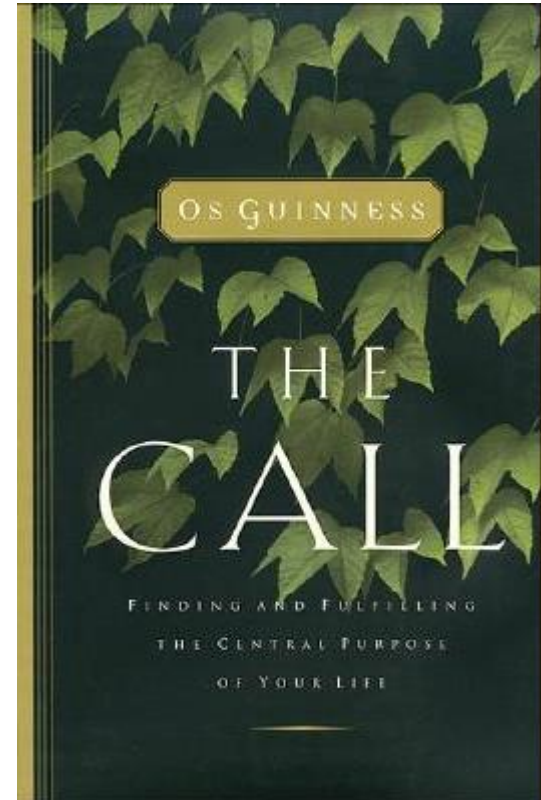


Bruce Waltke

### 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: 3 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.”

Mark Burnett, Hollywood Producer &  
Entrepreneurial Leaders Award Recipient 2013



# IV. Christian Approach: 3 P's of Calling

## P2 – Purpose

“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



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# IV. Christian Approach: 3 P's of Calling

## P3 - Priorities

“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?”



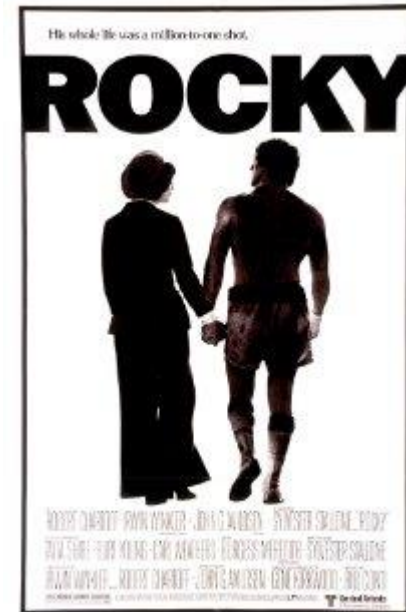
Lord Robert Edmiston, IM Group, London, UK, Keynote Speaker & Entrepreneurial Leaders Award Recipient, Vancouver, 2015

# IV. Christian Approach: 3 P's of Calling

## "Bonus" P!

"When everyone is telling me to throw in the towel...I want to be like Rocky in the 15<sup>th</sup> 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. Making A Difference

- Calling Applied To Work
- Excellence
- Building Relationships
- Sharing Faith Responsibly
- Dealing With Hypocrisy



# 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

- Difference Making is Rooted in Calling
- 3 P's:
  1. Passion
  2. Purpose
  3. Priorities



# 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



# Application Questions for Discussion

## A - QUESTIONS:

1. What is my passion?
2. What are my gifts?
3. How does work fit into my meaning in life?
4. What are my priorities on a daily basis that reflect my calling (at work and at home)?



# Application Questions for Discussion

## A - QUESTIONS:

5. What do I do from a strategic perspective (long term) that reflects my calling?
6. How can I have an impact in my spheres of influence (family, work, church, NPOs, etc.)?
7. In light of my calling, how can I approach work differently?

# Application Questions for Discussion

## B - YOUR SUMMARY

After the above reflection, here are three questions to ponder:

1. What is my epitaph?
2. What is my calling?
3. What is my life verse?



# Application Questions for Discussion

## C - YOUR NEXT STEPS

What are the three specific steps that I can take this week in order to start making a difference?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_