

CALLING AND VOCATION

**Foundations for Life in Christ and
Leadership in the Church**

David Platt
McLean Bible Church

The Mission of MBC

We glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations,
beginning in greater Washington, D.C.

The Mission of Our Lives

- To enjoy God's grace in a relationship with Him.
- To exalt God's glory to the ends of the earth.

How Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- We glorify God by growing as disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by making disciples of Jesus.
- We glorify God by multiplying churches that reflect Jesus.

Where Do We Accomplish This Mission?

- Among all nations.

One Conclusion...

- To be a disciple of Jesus is to let His global cause dictate everything you think, desire, and do.

One Question...

- Do we really believe the Bible?
 - What the Bible says about the church?
 - What the Bible says about the lost?

The Story of Scripture...

- The Bible is the story of how God redeems His people for His kingdom.
- God is bringing His people to His place for His purpose.

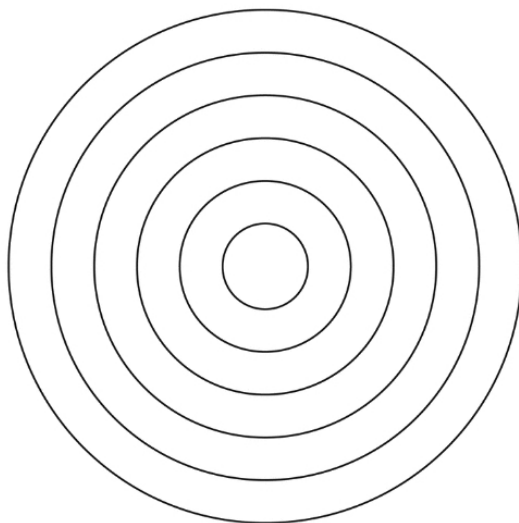
Walking with God...

- Praise: Worship God for who He is.
- Repent: Confess your sin to God and acknowledge your need for Jesus.
- Ask: Petition for specific needs in your life and others' lives.
- Yield: Surrender your life to following Jesus wherever and however He leads you.

- Focus on God.
- Abstain from food.
- Substitute the time with prayer and meditation on God's Word.
- Taste and see that God is good.

- Meditate and Memorize.
- Apply.
- Pray.
- Share.

Concentric Circles of Discipleship



Gospel Threads

- G: God's Character
- O: Offense of Sin
- S: Sufficiency of Christ
- P: Personal Response
- E: Eternal Urgency
- L: Life Transformation

CALLING

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 13:2

Four Facets of Calling

1. The call to salvation.

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

- Calling is the gracious act of God by which He draws people to become disciples of Jesus and members of His church.
- The call to salvation comes through the proclamation of God's Word in the power of God's Spirit.
- Accompanying the call to salvation in Christ is a call to freedom, holiness, and suffering in Christ.

For you were called to freedom, brothers.

Galatians 5:13

For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called...

1 Peter 2:20-21

- The call to salvation forms the unshakeable foundation of a Christian's primary identity now and forever.

2. The call to mission.

- The call to salvation includes a call to mission, for every person who responds to God's call as a disciple of Jesus receives His command to make disciples of Jesus.

- Disciple-making among the nations is the God-given, Christ-enabled, Spirit-empowered duty of every disciple whatever his or her station, location, or vocation.
- Every disciple of Jesus has an integral part to play in the eternal purpose of God to glorify His name through disciples made in every nation.

3. The call to _____ station _____.

- Jesus calls disciples to specific stations in and through which they exalt Him on mission.
- One such station is the family, where Christians are called to be faithful sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers for the spread of God's gospel and display of God's glory.
- The Bible also speaks of a divine call to singleness for the sake of mission, either for a period or the entirety of one's life in this world.
- Other calls to specific stations include the call to meaningful membership in His church and responsible citizenship in a community.

4. The call to _____ service _____.

²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:22-24

- Calling is the gracious act of God by which He directs disciples to make disciples in a certain way, at a certain time, among a certain people, in a certain location, or through a certain vocation.

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:6-10

- Calls to service may be fluid, operating at varying levels and open to varying assignments from God.

- What must be constant in a disciple's life is faithfulness to God's call until God calls the disciple to different service.
- Calls to service are discerned and affirmed not just individually, but as a member of the church on mission in the world through Spirit-led, Word-driven, prayer-focused examination of a disciple's desires, gifts, abilities, and opportunities.

VOCATION

²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

- G: God's Character...
 - God _____ delights _____ in work (Gen. 1-2; Ps. 104:10-30; Prov. 8:27-31; Jn. 16:8-11).
 - He works for us and He works through us.
 - God _____ designed _____ our work (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:15-17; Ex. 20:9).
 - By His grace, for our good, and for His glory.

- O: Offense of Sin...
 - Work is a mark of human _____ dignity _____ (Gen. 1:26-30; Ps. 8).
 - We are stewards of creation.
 - We are developers of culture.
 - Work has been marred by human _____ depravity _____ (Gen. 3:16-19).
 - Work was designed to be fulfilling, but it is _____ frustrating _____ (Rom. 8:20-22).
 - Work was designed to be purposeful, but it feels _____ pointless _____. (Eccl. 1:2-3; 2:18-26).
 - Work was designed to be selfless, but it becomes _____ selfish _____ (Gen. 11:1-4).
 - Two primary distortions of work:
 - The _____ idolatry _____ of work... (Ex. 20:3-5; Ez. 14:3-7; Prov. 23:4; Mk. 10:17-31)
 - We overvalue work, thinking that it provides ultimate meaning.
 - We fail to see God's limits for our work.
 - We resist rest.
 - _____ Idleness _____ in work... (Prov. 6:6-11; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:6-15)
 - We undervalue work, thinking that it has little to no meaning.
 - We fail to see God's purposes for our work.
 - We prioritize retirement.

- S: Sufficiency of Christ... (Mat. 11:28-30; Rom. 3:21-30; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:3-14)
 - Christ's work has secured our salvation (freeing us to rest in His work as the only superior work).
 - Christ's work has secured our satisfaction (freeing us from the idolatry of work).
 - Christ's work has secured our significance (freeing us from idleness in work).

- P and L: Personal Response and Life Transformation...
 - We are free to worship God wholeheartedly as we work (Mat. 22:37-38; Eph. 6:5-9; Col. 3:22-24).
 - Work competently (with excellence).
 - Work honorably (with integrity).
 - Work humbly (with respect).
 - Work eagerly (with joy).
 - We are free to love others selflessly in our work (Mat. 22:39-40; 1 Thess. 4:9-11).
 - Provide for your family.
 - Serve your co-workers and customers.
 - Better our world.
 - Care for the needy.
 - We are free to trust God completely with our work (Prov. 16; Rom. 8:28-30).
 - Be confident in His reign.
 - Be responsible with your rest.
 - Be focused on His reward.

- E: Eternal Urgency...
 - We are looking forward to a new earth...
 - Where everyone and everything will work perfectly (1 Cor. 15; Rev. 21).

- We are living now for the sake of eternity...
 - Work hard to adorn the gospel of God (Titus 2:9-10).
 - Work strategically to advance the mission of God (Mat. 28:18-20).
 - Build meaningful relationships.
 - Weave gospel threads.
 - Engage unreached peoples.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Practical Takeaway

- On one page, write out your plan to glorify God by growing as a disciple of Jesus and making disciples of Jesus among the nations.