

Doing Work... or Celebrating a Call?

BY DR. BOB RECCORD

Something I read the other day stopped me in my tracks:

“There is nothing more exhilarating as getting out of bed in the morning, going back into the world, and knowing why. Enthusiasm is derived from the certainty that for this I was born, and I am doing it! It is a thrilling knowledge that I am fulfilling God’s intended purpose for me.”

I don’t know who wrote it. It was just on a card someone gave me. But my question is... Do You Feel That Way?

For the people I’ve discovered who do, there is a commonality. They have not been willing to settle for a career... they have discovered a calling. And that makes all the difference!

For far too long the idea of having a “calling” by God in your life has been relegated almost exclusively to those in vocational ministry and missions. But why? Is that fully biblical? Is it accurate with the way God works?

The answer requires that we take a closer look at the issue of calling. Biblically, the call of God is PRIMARILY to a person - Jesus Christ. It is a call by God, from God and to God. Far more than where we live, work, socialize or contribute to the common good, God focused on our relationship to Him through Christ. His central desire is that we become Christ followers who are reflecting that relationship where we live, work, socialize and contribute. Os Guinness in his book *The Call* says that answering the call of God is the chief reason for existing.



So, if we have responded to God’s call to a personal relationship with Him, does He have a call as to what we do with our lives on a daily basis? Yes! It has been referred to as God’s “secondary call” by John Calvin and God’s “particular call” by our Puritan forefathers. Regardless of the terminology, God guides and directs His people to places of impact day in and day out... just like being a financial advisor! And that means your focus in life and work is not merely to help people with financial decisions and planning, but to also be a reference and resource to them in spiritually related issues in their journey as well. After all, you cannot get to the core of people’s lives much more directly than via the avenue of a person’s finances.

continues on page 12

Doing Work... or Celebrating a Call?

continued from page 11

Without question, God clearly indicates that He indeed calls some to vocational ministry and missions. And for that, we all are most grateful. But look around... that is only a small percentage of us who have decided to be Christ-followers. What about the rest of us?

Take a minute and read Hebrews 11. Those in the faith community have often referred to this passage as “the Hall of Fame of Faith” of those God chose to use powerfully throughout the Old Testament to change their world. Take a few moments to scan the chapter, read the names and think about the people. Here’s the key question: How many were priests or prophets (the acknowledged “clergy” of their day)? The answer is shocking to the system, isn’t it? Only one - Samuel. (Granted it does say “and the prophets” but we are talking about those listed by name). Now, look at the background of some of the others!!

- Abel - We would call him a rancher
- Noah - A pretty fair designer/builder
- Abraham - A wealthy land manager and livestock owner
- Joseph - The Prime Minister of an empire
- Moses - Strategist, leader of a movement, foreign affairs specialist
- Gideon - Farmer turned military leader

Add to these people like David and Daniel who were governmental leaders, Debra as a female military leader, Josiah as a head of state and Bazalel, a craftsman God called to help build the sanctuary, and you have men and women God embedded in the culture whom He used to change their world, right where they were.

So what about you? You are a financial advisor who God has placed exactly where you are for eternal reasons. Who will be able to reach into the depths of people’s lives better than you? After all, it was Jesus who said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6: 21). Because He understood

that in many ways, finances are “liquid personality.” And when you have a person’s trust relating to finances, you have their deep trust. So don’t be surprised, as your integrity and performance prove over and over that you can be trusted, that people will open up all types of areas of their lives to you. You, in many ways, may become a “pastor” figure to them. Not because of theological training, or a title/position, but because of a relationship you create and a life of faith you demonstrate.

And as that happens, you will discover that everyone has a common fear - that life could end and they haven’t made their life count. They surely want their money in order... and no one is better equipped to help them with that than you. But they also want their life and family to be in order. And that opens a huge door to you! And here’s the great news, you have the joy of assuring them that it’s never too late to live a life that matters.

So the question becomes, how do you best do that? A first step is to be absolutely sure of your own calling... and that you haven’t just settled for a career. My wife and I have taught on that issue to people in the work place across the nation. We are pleased to partner with Kingdom Advisors to offer a new course on how to maximize call of God available next year. We’ll also deal with principles that will aid you in general counsel as you deal with your clients regarding their life direction, decision making and desired destiny. We look forward to sharing the journey with you and helping you be the very best you can be! ☺



Bob Reccord serves as the Chairman of Total Life Impact, Inc., an organization providing cutting edge Communication, Consulting and Coaching services to businesses, ministry organizations and individuals. He also served as the leader for the third largest Disaster Relief ministry in the nation, overseeing their growth from 13,000 FEMA trained volunteers to over 52,000 in 9 years and donations from \$2 million to over \$24 million. Heading one of the world’s largest mission agencies, Bob oversaw 5,300 mission personnel in North America and celebrated 14,350 churches launched between 1997 through 2006.

He has authored eight books including *Beneath the Surface* with over 200,000 in distribution and *Made to Count*, focused on taking your faith to work. Bob states above all that his most prized accomplishments are being a husband and a dad. For more information about his ministry, please visit www.bobreccord.com.



I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:8-9

CHIEF OF GENEROUS GIVERS

The Bible is not easy on us when it comes to this business of generosity. We are instinctively selfish people. At first God set the bar low when it came to mandatory giving: a tithe, ten percent of one’s holdings. However, generous giving is another story. Generous giving starts when it hurts to give. When one moves in the direction of “poverty” in order to make someone else “rich.”

By richness we are not talking about adding to someone else’s net worth. Rather we are talking about spiritual richness or the richness that comes from living the life that God intended for all (not just the privileged) to live. Jesus set the pace in his incarnation and his atonement at the cross. He went from wealth to poverty that we might go from poverty to wealth. That is our model. That is our call.

Genuine Christianity compels the true Christian to become a generous person because the central act of our faith is an act of

generosity. “He became poor that we might become rich.” It cost Christ to transfer wealth-of-spirit to us.

The generous giver knows and understands that giving does not begin until there is sacrifice in alignment with the sacrifice of Christ. Christ was indeed the chief of generous givers.

From best-selling author Gordon McDonald. For more generosity writings by Gordon, visit www.generousbook.com.