

# Knowing Your Unique Calling and Purpose

## Finding Your Place

The term calling can refer to vocation or profession, can be a sense of being summoned or invited, or indicate an area of passion or inclination. In the Bible, the word “call” and its variations is used over 700 times (754 in the New International Version). Knowing your unique calling and purpose can help you find your place inside and outside the church and see how your spiritual gifts fit and enable that calling.

## The Ultimate Call

Read 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 1 John 1:12-13.

What do these verses say is our ultimate call?

## Our Universal Call

Read the following verses and identify what each one says about our call as believers in Jesus:

- 1 Peter 1:15-16.
- Galatians 5:13.
- Ephesians 1:18.
- Colossians 3:15.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-20.

What others would you add to the above list?

## You are Unique

Read

- Psalm 139:13-18.
- Ephesians 2:10.

What do these verses say about God’s creation of you?

## Understanding your unique calling involves:

- Listening to God.
- Prayer.
- Your receptivity.
- Your response.
- Seeking His leading in the context of community.
- Looking at the roles you play in life.
- Paying attention to life experiences that might speak preparation for something specific.

## Selected Biblical Examples

Read each of the following stories. See what you discover about God’s call upon each of their lives. How does this help you understand God, listening/hearing, your receptivity and response?

- Abraham and Sarah: Genesis 12:1-9.

- Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:1-11.
- Moses: Exodus 3-4.
- Deborah: Judges 4-5.
- Esther: the Book of Esther.
- John the Baptist: Luke 1:11-17; Mark 1:1-8.
- Mary: Luke 1:26-38.
- Barnabas and Paul: Acts 13:1-3.

**Questions for reflection as you think about your call and purpose:**

- Do you sense God’s invitation to something?
- Do you feel summoned away from something?
- Is there a life pattern that points to the theme of your calling? If yes, what is it?
- Where are you hearing God, but your excuse for delaying sounds a lot like “Lord, I’m afraid”?
- Where might you need to confess your shortcomings, guilt, or sins—things that are separating you from God and from hearing Him or seeing Him more clearly?
- Where are you willing to say to God “Here I am! Send me”?
- Where does it seem that God is at work in the roles you play?
- Where are you in a significant position of leadership or influence? How can you be God’s person in that situation?
- Where do you have a sense that you are where you are “for such a time as this”?
- Where are you facing opposition to pursuing or completing something God is calling you to do?

For an in-depth study on calling, purpose, and gifts, see [God. Gifts. You. Your Unique Calling and Design](#)—a six-week study guide with accompanying video teaching lessons.

Check out the Knowing Your Calling and Purpose blog entry at [Gifts-Calling-Purpose](#) and other additional resources at [GodGiftsYou.com](#).

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