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DEFINING YOUR CALLING

The World Is Waiting on You to Show Up

For the most part, I grew up in a spirit filled, non-denominational church. I had no idea someone could be called to make an impact for the kingdom of God outside a pulpit or without being sent overseas as a missionary. Such a thought was foreign to me. I believed you either served in the church or you worked outside the church in the secular world, and never the two shall meet!

The prevailing thought as I was growing up, in most main line churches and amongst my close circle of Christian friends, was that the world was evil. You were supposed to stay out of the world or it would get on you. I believe as a result of that thinking, our culture has rapidly declined over the past forty years in every area. Could it be because there was no influence of the kingdom of God present in society?

Our light was hidden under a bushel and the bushel in which we were hiding was the church!

As believers, we have grown very skilled at functioning in our church services and inside the walls of the church. However, a lack of understanding about how to influence the world while functioning in it has led us into a type of darkness of our own. Consequently, the world we've been given charge of has paid the price and now, so have we. Much has been taught about those who predominantly function behind pulpits. Those gifts are visible to us on our church platforms. But there has been little taught about the callings and anointings that function outside of the church, yet the church is filled with hard working believers who serve in the marketplace. Their vocational calling is functioning outside the walls of the church in the secular world where the hurting, wounded and lost are found.

What exactly are those callings? How do they operate? I have had the privilege of enjoying personal relationships with a few extremely talented musicians. They were raised in church and worked hard at fine-tuning their talent. When they got their big break, they headed into the mainstream music business and found skyrocketing acclaim. They performed on award shows and toured on high grossing concert tours. They have entertained thousands, some millions. In the end, they got their

clocks cleaned, so to speak, spiritually and emotionally. Those very talented and anointed musicians walked straight into the lion's den without proper spiritual training. They weren't prepared to function in that environment, let alone influence it. They did not go out with the crucial support and prayer backing of a local church. Thankfully, those talented friends of mine found restoration. They found pastors who would minister to them as ordinary people, unaffected by their fame or stardom.

It seems some believers have excused themselves from the everyday sense of mission, assuming the task was placed only upon those standing in one of the fivefold offices to make "the kingdoms of this world ... the kingdoms of our Lord" (Revelation 11:15 KJV). My own assumption as a young believer was that as a Christian, my purpose was to live a godly life, pay tithes, attend church every time the doors were open and plod faithfully. In fact, I remember thinking to myself, "Thank God I know I am called to the ministry because there is no way I could live a life that boring!"

*"What is the activity of God in your generation
and how is He inviting you to join?"*

Dr. Lance Wallnau

As a ten-year-old girl, I remember reluctantly attending a church camp at my parents' insistence.

The location was four hours away from my home in the middle of nowhere in the cornfields of Indiana. The kids in our church joined kids from many other churches in our region, and it was apparent there was no way I was getting out of it. Little did I know at the time, destiny was waiting for me there and would change my life forever.

That week while at camp, I had been having a fairly good time enjoying lots of activities during the day and services at night. However, towards the end of the week, the directors of the camp came to address us. We gathered in a huge barn that had been remodeled and converted into a sanctuary. That night, the speaker taught us about the call of God. He went through the Bible giving examples of how God called Moses, David, Esther and the twelve disciples. He explained how each of these people gave their lives to the call. Something the man said ignited my heart and I could feel the presence of God so intensely that tears ran down my face. I remember my little heart pounding so strongly in my chest that I was embarrassed to think other kids around me might hear it. I had never encountered God speaking to me so strongly. I could feel something like electricity running through my hands.

At the end of the message, the speaker gave an altar call for those who felt God was calling them into the ministry. I shot out of my chair and joined the

others up front. I encountered God that night in a way I never had before. It seemed the person God created me to be was ignited on the inside of me. That night I realized God had marked me, although I didn't understand exactly what that meant. As a ten-year-old little girl, I had no idea what ministry was. However, I was very clear about one thing: My life was not my own! God created me with purpose, and I was to use my life to fulfill it. That was one of the first moments in my life where time and destiny met and I was never going to be the same.