

**CHOSEN
BY GOD;**

AND

**BEING
OBEDIENT
TO THE
CALL**

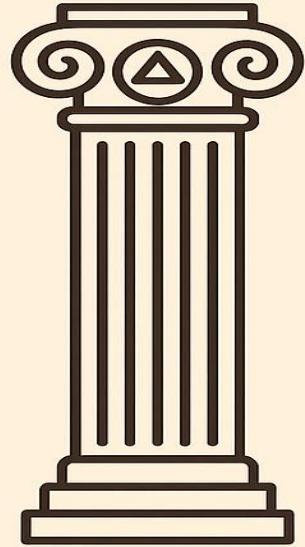
I have glorified
You on the earth;
I have finished the
work which You
have given Me to do.

John 17:4

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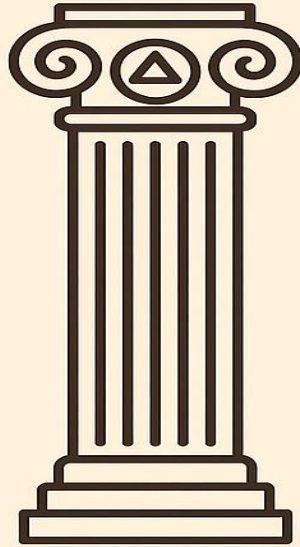
How Do We Know What God Has Called Us To Do?

Discovering our calling is a journey of



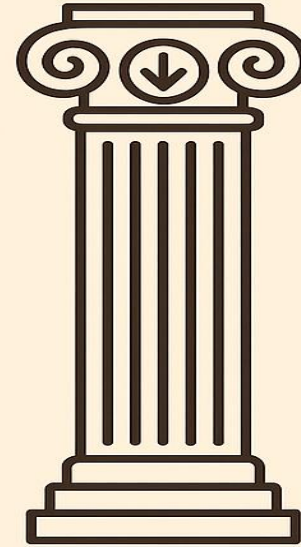
RELATIONSHIP

Abiding with God
and surrendering
our will to His



REFINEMENT

Being shaped
through tests,
trials, and perse-
verance



REVELATION

Receiving insight
and direction
from the Holy Spirit

Discovering our calling is a journey of:

Abiding with God and surrendersing our will to
Being shaped through tests, trials, and perseverance

Pillar	Definition	What God Develops	Biblical Examples	How It Reveals Your Calling
Relationship <i>(The Call Begins With Knowing Him)</i>	Walking closely with God; hearing His voice through intimacy.	Sensitivity to God’s voice, identity, trust, discernment.	John 10:27, Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38–42), Samuel (1 Samuel 3).	You recognize God’s leading, feel His burdens, and align your desires with His heart.
Refinement <i>(The Call Is Strengthened in the Fire)</i>	The process where God shapes your character through trials, stretching, and hidden seasons.	Patience, humility, endurance, purity, obedience, emotional maturity, spiritual strength.	Joseph (Genesis 37–50), David (1 Samuel 16–31), Moses (Exodus 2–3), Paul (Galatians 1:17).	You become the type of person who can carry the weight of the assignment without collapsing.
Revelation <i>(The Call Unfolds in Stages)</i>	God progressively unveiling your assignment, steps, timing, and strategy.	Clarity, direction, timing, strategy, spiritual sight, confidence.	Abraham (Genesis 12), Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1–2), Peter (Acts 10), Paul (Acts 16:6–10).	You receive step-by-step instructions, open doors, confirmation, and supernatural alignment.



7 Areas Of Spiritual Discernment

Framework To Help Us Understand Our Divine Calling

A Framework for Understanding Our Divine Calling

God uses these 7 areas to highlight where He is leading us.



#	Category	Scripture	Guiding Question
1	Holy Burden — What Breaks Your Heart	Nehemiah 1:4	What issue, group of people, or situation moves you so deeply that you can't ignore it?
2	Joy Flow — What Makes Your Spirit Come Alive	Nehemiah 8:10	What activities or roles make you feel alive, fulfilled, or deeply aligned with who you are in Christ?
3	Spiritual Gifts and Anointing	Romans 12:6	What spiritual gifts do others recognize in you, or where have you seen consistent fruit when you step out in faith?
4	Training and Experience	Psalms 18:34	What life experiences, education, or career paths has God used to shape you spiritually and practically?
5	Confirmations and Patterns	Deuteronomy 19:15	What repeated confirmations, prophetic words, dreams, or divine patterns have pointed you toward your calling?
6	Seasons and Transitions	Ecclesiastes 3:1	Where has God shifted you recently—in work, geography, relationships, or ministry?
7	Peace and Resistance	Colossians 3:15	What direction currently brings inner peace, holy excitement, or spiritual resistance?

VISION

חזון

Chazon



שמע

Shema

PROVISION

יראה

Yir'eh

Obedience is the bridge between
divine revelation and divine manifestation

Term	Meaning	Hebrew Root	Function
Chazon (חֲזוֹן)	Vision, prophetic revelation	חזה (chazah): to see, perceive, behold	God reveals His intent
Shema (שָׁמַע)	Hear, listen, obey	שמע (shama): to hear with the intention to obey	We respond to what God reveals
Yir'eh (יִרְאֶה)	God sees / provides (YHWH Yir'eh)	ראה (ra'ah): to see, perceive, foresee	God manifests what He foresaw

Focused Obedience: Eliminating Distractions With God's Blueprint

Theme	Explanation	Key Questions to Discern God's Will
God's Will Simplifies Choices	When you know God's will, decision-making becomes clear because His vision becomes the standard for evaluating every opportunity.	Does this align with God's revealed will? Does this move me toward or away from my assignment?
Vision as a Measuring Stick	God's plan becomes the divine ruler that helps distinguish what is right, necessary, and aligned vs. what is unnecessary or distracting.	How does this fit into the vision God gave me? Is this part of the role God assigned to my life?
Discerning Opportunities	Not every good idea is a God idea <i>for you</i> . Some opportunities are God-inspired but assigned to someone else.	Is this truly mine to do? Does this add to the vision, or does it pull me away?

Focused Obedience: Eliminating Distractions With God's Blueprint

Theme	Explanation	Key Questions to Discern God's Will
Setting Priorities	Vision shapes how you plan your time, finances, energy, commitments, and calendar.	Does this investment (time/money/energy) advance the vision? Is this the best use of my resources in this season?
Avoiding Distractions	Anything that does not advance your God-given assignment becomes a distraction — no matter how appealing.	Is this a divine opportunity or a distraction? Will this pull me off course?
End-of-Life Measure	Success in God's eyes is not earthly achievement but fulfilling the assignment He gave you.	Did I do what God called me to do?

**If God Really
Chose Me, Why Am
I Experiencing So
Many Hassles
Along The Way?**

To keep us from accomplishing our God-given task, the devil may try to hinder us or even knock us out of the race. Satan will try to use the world around us to oppose what we are called to do.

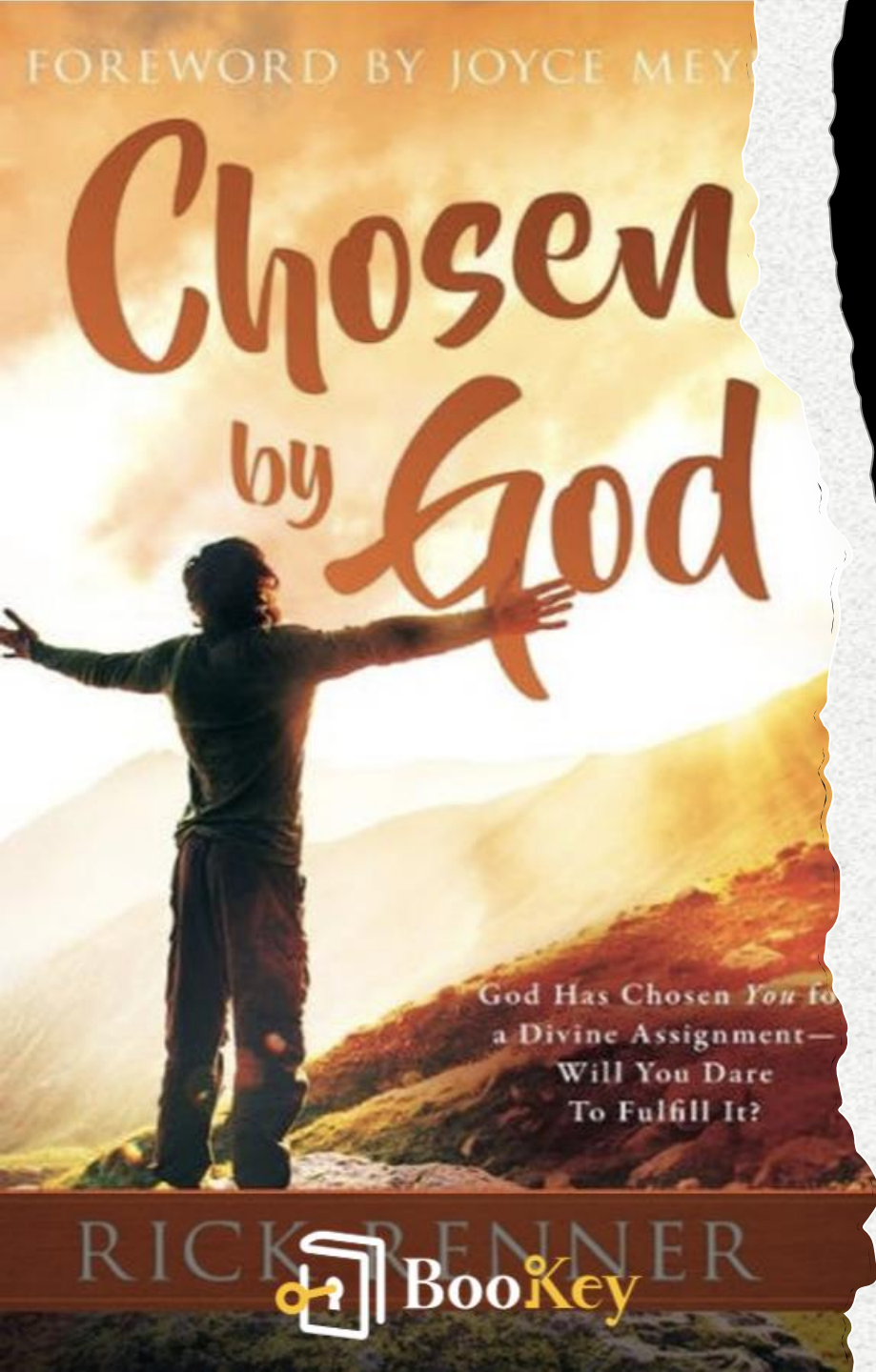
We must be determined to keep doing what we're called to do even if the devil tries to slam the door shut in our faces.

Paul describes the difficulties and hassles he encountered: 2 Cor 11:23-27

Paul's Example Of Pushing Through To Be Obedient

(2 Cor 11:23-27)

Verse	Experience or Suffering	Description / Insight
Verse 23	Labors and Imprisonments	Paul served Christ more abundantly than others — with far greater labors, more imprisonments, and countless beatings, often near death.
Verse 24	Flogged by Jews	Five times he received forty lashes minus one (thirty-nine lashes), a punishment given to the worst offenders under Jewish law.
Verse 25	Beaten and Stoned	Three times beaten with rods, once stoned (Acts 14:19), and three times shipwrecked; he spent a night and a day adrift in the open sea.
Verse 26	Dangers and Perils	Faced constant dangers — from rivers, robbers, fellow Jews, Gentiles, cities, wilderness, sea, and false believers.
Verse 27	Exhaustion and Exposure	Endured labor, hardship, sleepless nights, hunger, thirst, fasting, cold, and exposure — revealing total surrender for the sake of Christ.



Paul's Example Of Pushing Through To Be Obedient

- Paul's beatings: Chosen By God by Rick Renner: pgs. 55-57

Paul's Example Of Pushing Through To Be Obedient

If lack of convenience hinders us from doing the will of God, there is a serious flaw in the level of our commitment

Do we have an **idolatry of convenience**?

- The idea that our obedience to God must fit within comfort, ease, or personal preference.
- In essence: **true obedience isn't convenient; it's costly.**

Jesus said

- “If anyone wishes to follow Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

Obedience that costs us nothing reveals a shallow commitment. The early Church thrived in persecution, while the modern Church often hesitates at discomfort.

Our Modern Challenge

In our age, convenience has become a *false god*:

We want ministry
without inconvenience.

We want purpose
without process.

We want harvest
without sowing.

We want glory without
the cross.



When faith is filtered through comfort, obedience becomes optional. But when faith is filtered through love and surrender, obedience becomes natural—even when it hurts.

How We Should Respond

Response	Explanation	Scriptural Foundation
Reframe Discomfort as Refinement	See inconvenience, pressure, and stretching as tools God uses to mature us, not obstacles meant to stop us.	James 1:2–4 — Trials produce endurance and maturity.
Return to a Cross-Centered Life	Move from comfort-based Christianity to consecration-based obedience. Follow Christ even when it costs something.	Luke 9:23 — Deny yourself, take up your cross daily.
Redefine Success as Obedience	Measure success not by outcomes, opportunities, or applause, but by faithfulness to God's assignment.	Matthew 25:23 — “Well done, good and faithful servant.”
Practice Goshen Faith	Remain steadfast, separate, and aligned with God even when culture, systems, or people drift. Obey instructions even when they don't make sense.	Exodus 8:22 — God makes a distinction for His people.

How We Should Respond

Response	Explanation	Scriptural Foundation
Discern Opportunities Through Vision	Evaluate every decision based on how it aligns with God's revealed will, vision, and assignment for our lives.	Proverbs 3:5–6 — Acknowledge Him in all your ways.
Prioritize What Advances Your Assignment	Invest time, money, energy, and focus only where it supports the vision God gave you. Remove distractions.	Colossians 3:2 — Set your mind on things above.
Guard Your Life From Distractions	Say no to what looks good but isn't God for you. Not every opportunity is your assignment.	1 Corinthians 10:23 — Not everything beneficial is God's best.
Live With Eternity in View	Our ultimate measure of success is whether we did what God called us to do, not what people expected.	John 17:4 — "I finished the work You gave Me to do."

A Personal Reflection

Ask the Holy Spirit:

- “Lord, what have I postponed or avoided because it wasn’t convenient?”

Then respond:

- “Even when it’s uncomfortable, I will obey.”

Your next breakthrough often sits on the other side of inconvenience.

Egypt Faith

Goshen Faith

Conditional obedience:
“If it’s convenient, I’ll obey.”

Unconditional obedience:
“Even if it costs me, I’ll obey.”

Seeks comfort
and approval.

Seeks consecration
and alignment.

Depends on systems
and resources.

Depends on revelation
and provision from God.

Motivated by fear of loss.

Motivated by love and trust
in God’s plan.

Blend with worldly logic.

Operates from Kingdom
principles.

*When we know the vision God has spoken over our lives,
we can clearly discern what is for us and what is not.*

—Jeremiah 29:11

Egypt Faith vs. Goshen Faith

Egypt Faith	Scripture	Goshen Faith	Scripture
Conditional obedience: “If it’s convenient, I’ll obey.”	John 14:24 — “Anyone who does not love Me does not obey My teaching.”	Unconditional obedience: “Even if it costs me, I’ll obey.”	Luke 9:23 — “If anyone wishes to follow Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily.”
Seeks comfort and approval.	Galatians 1:10 — “Am I seeking the approval of man or of God?”	Seeks consecration and alignment.	Romans 12:1 — “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice... which is your spiritual worship.”
Depends on systems and resources.	Jeremiah 17:5–6 — “Cursed is the one who trusts in man... he shall not see prosperity.”	Depends on revelation and provision from God.	Jeremiah 17:7–8 — “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord... he will be like a tree planted by water.”
Motivated by fear of loss.	Job 3:25 — “What I feared has come upon me.”	Motivated by love and trust in God’s plan.	1 John 4:18 — “Perfect love drives out fear.”
Blends with worldly logic.	1 Corinthians 2:14 — “The natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God.”	Operates from Kingdom principles.	Matthew 6:33 — “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.”

Faithful to the Call

“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.” (John 17:4)

- **What has God called me to do?**

- Measure everything by **purpose**, not popularity.
- No longer say yes out of pressure.
- No longer say no out of fear.

- **Evaluate Decisions**

- Does this fit into the vision God gave me?
- Does this align with the role God has assigned for my life?
- Is this a God opportunity or simply a distraction?
- Is this the best use of my time, energy, and resources?

Prayer

Father, help me to recognize Your will with clarity and courage.
Teach me to weigh every opportunity by the vision You have given me.
Give me strength to say yes to what aligns with my assignment
and wisdom to say no to every distraction.
May my life be marked by obedience, focus, and faithfulness.
When my journey is done, may I stand before You knowing
I finished the work You entrusted to me.
Amen.