



Harvest Warriors

NEWSLETTER



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Warring to Harvest

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Searching For God's Will



We hope that you have found the last two newsletters helpful as you search for God's will and guidance for your life. I, Rebecca, want to continue on here with a few notes in general, then try to help you in coming to know God's call on your life into the specific work He has for you to do in His kingdom.

First, I do not believe that God wants to micro-manage our lives. If He does, it is only for a season and under special circumstances. I have had people tell me, "I won't go out to the grocery store unless the Lord first tells me to do so." My response to that is, "Unless you are living in imminent danger where your life is under continual threat, I believe the Lord created you with a brain, and He expects you to use it! If you need food, and you have the money to buy it, then you don't need God to tell you to go to the grocery store. You go when you need to go, so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities you are supposed to be doing such as going to work or church, etc." I cannot emphasize this strongly enough – *God doesn't want us to be puppets on a string!* He has given each one of us a brain and a will, and He wants us to choose to use them in line with His spoken Will in His Word, the Bible. Even the Holy Spirit does not usurp our wills. Instead the Apostle Paul wrote:

"... for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure." Phil. 2:13

Clearly, God works with our wills, He doesn't take them over and away from us. There is that fascinating scripture in 2 Chronicles about King Hezekiah:

"... God withdrew from him, [King Hezekiah] in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart." 2 Chron. 32:31

There are many times when God wants us to purpose within our own hearts what we are going to do. He will not always give us crystal clear guidance on which direction we are to go. When you come to such a season in your own life, do not be dismayed or paralyzed. Do two things: First, *relax in the sure knowledge that God always honors the intentions of our hearts.* If it is truly our desire to serve and please him, even if you make a mistake and go the wrong direction, God will eventually bring you back to where He wants you to be. He will not leave us stranded. He will honor the desires of our hearts.

Second, *if you are very unhappy with your current situation, you need to think about moving or changing jobs, etc.* Please let me hasten to add, if you are a poor worker — often showing up for work late, frequently calling in sick, and looking for a job where you won't have to work, then this does not apply to you. Your unhappiness will not be because you need to change, it will be because of your own unrighteousness. But, if you do need to move, or think you do, but are not receiving any clear guidance from the Lord, then our word to you is this: *explore your options!* As you do, pray and ask the Lord to open those doors He wants you to walk through, and close tight those He does not want you to go through. Sometimes you will have more than one direction you can go. Remember, God can use you wherever you are. Often times He simply gives

us the choice as to what we want to do.

Daniel and I have many times explored our options, asking God to open and close doors. God has always honored our prayers in this regard. For instance, when Daniel and I were living in Oregon, we desperately desired to find a house and get stable, as we had been living in our travel trailer for a long time. We were not receiving any specific guidance from the Lord as to where we should move, so we started to explore our options. We looked in many places, always praying that the Lord would open or close the doors for us. He did so. I used to joke about the fact that we had flat noses from God slamming shut so many doors in our faces. Finally, after six months of intense searching, Daniel just happened to think about the property here in Arkansas where he was born. The more he thought about it, the more he felt an urge to see if it might be for sale. As he moved to check the possibility out, God moved as well. He did miracle after miracle to open that door for us. Thus we moved to Arkansas and God has richly blessed us here. But, I want to point out here that we were moving and looking and exploring. *Remember, God cannot guide our steps until we first start walking.*

When God opens a door for you, usually it will open quickly and without much trouble, and you will have a peace about it. If it is something you have to fight and fight to open, then I suggest you back off, you are probably trying to go in the wrong direction. We can, by our own wills and work, force open doors God doesn't want us to go through.

But, please remember this. God hates lukewarmness. (See Rev. 3:14-16) *God expects us to make decisions! He does not want us to be passive and unable to ever decide anything.* Sometimes He will permit us to make a wrong decision. This will always be a test of our faith, but He always uses those times to humble us and teach us valuable lessons. Here is an example from our own lives.

The area where we are living in Arkansas has, for years, been under a terrible spiritual drought. A number of years ago, we got tired of it, and decided to move out of the state to a different state in order to be able to join a large church that was spiritually alive

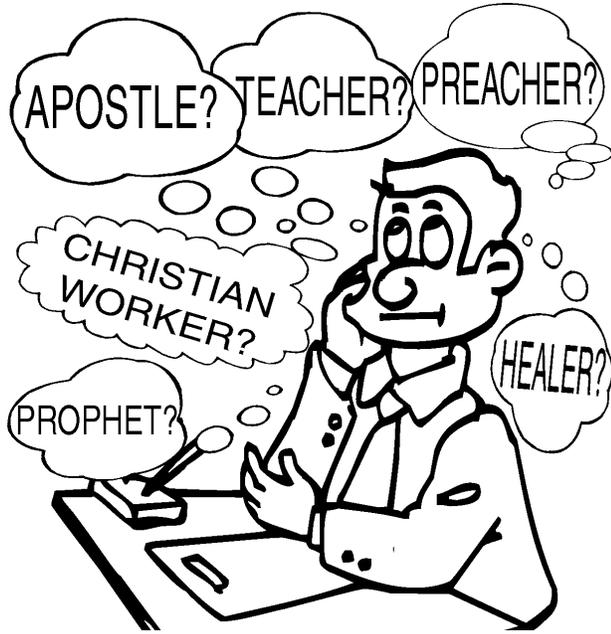
and on fire for the Lord. We prayed about it, but didn't receive an answer from the Lord. Now that I look back on it, I know that we shouldn't have even asked the Lord about the move in the first place. We should have already known, from a previous covenant He had made with us, that it was His will for us to stay in Arkansas. But we weren't thinking about that. So, we took all of our savings and traveled to that state and quickly found a beautiful piece of land. The financing went through within minutes and we put all our money into the down payment. However, on our way home, suddenly the Lord spoke very clearly to Daniel. He said, "What are you going to do with that land?" Daniel answered, "We're going to move there, Lord, and join that church that is on fire for you."

"I just want to let you know that I won't be moving with you," the Lord responded. "This move is NOT in My will for you." Daniel was shocked. Quickly he asked, "Lord, is there some way I can get our down payment back?"

"No," the Lord replied, "That wouldn't be righteous. You just lost all your money." Then He was silent. That was really a blow to us, but we obeyed. Why didn't the Lord stop us from ever trying to move in the first place? For two reasons. First, like I said, we should have known better because of a covenant the Lord had made with us concerning Arkansas 5 years previously. Second, because it was only after we lost all our savings that God was able to move miraculously to bring us to the property He wanted us to live on. Each step of the way after that, God worked miracle after miracle, and our faith grew and grew. If we had had the money for the down payment our faith would never have had the chance to grow.

Not always will God give you clear guidance. Sometimes He simply wants to see what you will do, sometimes, it is because He can use you where ever you go, sometimes it is because He is allowing you to make a wrong decision so that He can teach you a valuable lesson. Whatever the reason, the answer is trust. Trust that in the end, if you make a wrong move, the Lord will honor the desires of your heart and bring you back to where you should be.

How To Know God's Call On Your Life



“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, Called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.” Romans 1:1

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:1

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called . . .” Ephesians 4:1

From these, and many more scriptures, it is clear that the New Testament leaders knew their callings without any doubt, and expected every Christian to also know and work within their calling. This is an area of great confusions and trouble within the Body of Christ.

Suppose that there is within the army a unit of soldiers lead by a captain. Within that unit there are two men. The one, is gifted with mechanical abilities. He can fix anything – tanks, trucks, missile launchers, etc. The other man is gifted in languages, map reading, and can fit into any culture easily. Now suppose the original captain of that unit it suddenly replaced by a new captain who doesn't know the men. This new captain took the man with the mechanical gifts and sends him behind enemy lines to spy things out, and the man with the language abilities he sets to repairing all the tanks, trucks and mechanical things. What do you think would happen? You probably thought – chaos! And, you are right. There would be nothing but problems. It wouldn't take long

for the mechanic/spy to be caught and killed, and soon everything would be broken down and nothing fixed! Why? Because the captain did not know the abilities and giftings of the men under him and assign them jobs appropriate to their skill. Unfortunately this is all too often the case with church bodies and ministries. People don't get placed according to the gifts God has given them, often they do not even know what God's call is on their lives, and more often yet, people simply try to do what they think is important or glamorous, not what God really wants them to do.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 1:10

You did not come into God's kingdom by coincidence or chance! God called you into His kingdom at a specific time for a specific purpose. You didn't just happen to be conceived and born! God specifically planned for you before ever the world was created! God created you and gifted you for a specific work in His kingdom. If you don't do that work, then no one else will. That's one big reason why so many of our churches are nearly empty and struggling today.

When this scripture says that “we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them,” it means that God has a specific work planned for you to do. We Christians refer to that plan for your life as “God's call on your life.”

First, I want to point out that *each one of us must receive our call directly from our Captain, Jesus Christ!* If you think you are called to something only because some prophet prophesied that to you, then you are going to fall into much error. You have to know your call from the Lord directly, yourself. A prophetic word may bring confirmation, but ultimately the call has to come from the Lord Himself. Why? *Because there are always going to be times so difficult that the only thing that keeps you going is that you know that you know that this is what you are supposed to be doing!* Secondly, far too often

the prophets of today prophesy to us from their flesh to our flesh. Rarely, if ever, do you ever hear a prophet tell anyone anything other than “God has a great call into a big world-wide ministry” on someone’s life. The hard facts are, few have such a ministry. All of our churches suffer from the fact that every body in them wants to be big and important. Therefore the vital supposed unimportant works does not get done, and many souls are on their way to hell as a result.

Let me make one thing plain. *The first duty of every new Christian is to become a student of God’s Word! Everything else in our lives will flow from our knowledge of scripture.* God won’t ever be able to speak to you or call you if you don’t have a thorough knowledge of the Bible. *Rarely does a new Christian know what God’s call is on his or her life. My advice to you, a new Christian is this: don’t worry about what God’s call on your life is. First become an intense student of His Word, and at the right time and place, God will let you know exactly what your call will be.*

I believe that the scripture is clear, ***God has a plan for each one of our lives, and He has given each one of us the gifts to enable us to carry out that planned work.***

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. . .” Ephesians 4:7

God doesn’t plan work for us to do, and then expect us to simply go and do it. No, He has also given each one of us the gifts we need to do this work, or call. There are two words that are thrown around freely within the church that are rarely defined — gift and anointing. What are these things, anyway? *A gift is simply the ability to do something. An anointing is the power to exercise or use that gift with great effectiveness.*

There are two kinds of gifts – natural gifts, and spiritual gifts. Unfortunately, all too often Christians discount their natural gifts and think they are not important. But that is not so. *God gives us both gifts to be used equally in His kingdom work. We need both sets of gifts to be able to fulfill the work that He planned for us to do.*

Natural gifts are such things as:

Mechanical abilities, musical abilities, mathematical abilities, business abilities, sports, etc.

**“My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth,
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet there were none of them.” Psalm 139:14-16**

God specifically designed you with natural gifts first, knowing the spiritual gifts that He would be giving to you later. At the point of your conception, before ever you were formed or born, God gave you specific natural gifts. He gives us the spiritual gifts later, after we make Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Parents should ask God to help them recognize their children’s natural gifts, and then help them to develop them.

Signs of the natural gifts: activities we like to do, we are good at doing, we find these things easier to do than others. My favorite question to any child is this, “What is your favorite subject in school?” Most children will have one or two favorite subjects. These reflect their natural gifts. Most people have one to three predominant natural gifts.

Satan’s big attack against our youth today is to keep them from realizing or developing their natural gifts. Now so often when I ask a child what his or her favorite subject in school is, I often get the response, “I don’t know.” If I ask, “What do think you want to do when you grow up?” More often than not they will answer, “I don’t know.” How sad it is that Satan has such a grip on our public school systems that children are no longer encouraged to develop their natural gifts. Parents, you must step in and fill that gap.

Many of you reading this are held back from fully fulfilling God’s call on your life because you never developed your natural gifts. How do you do this? By getting an education! You have to learn and grow and develop a natural gift just the same as you do a spiritual gift. Some of you reading this need to go back to school, no matter how old you are!

Spiritual gifts are received after conversion. Some-

times the spiritual gifts overlap the natural gifts. Every person usually has one to three dominant gifts. That doesn't mean that God will never use you in any of the other gifts, but you will find that you have one to three gifts that you use predominantly.

What are the spiritual gifts? They are as follows:

Ephesians 4:11-12

apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers,
pastors

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith
healings, working of miracles,
discerning of spirits, tongues,
interpretation of tongues

Romans 8:6-8

gifts of giving, leading, mercy

1 Corinthians 12:28

helps and administrations

Remember, not everyone has all the gifts. God gives His gifts as He chooses!

“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

No matter what our gifts are, either natural or spiritual, there are two areas of work that the Lord requires each one of us to function in:

1. sharing the gospel with others (Mark 16:15, Matt 28:19)
2. helping others (1 Corinthians 13)

I don't care how big or important you get to be, God will always require these two things of you. 1 Cor. Chapter 13 is the great chapter on love. When you

look at it closely, you will see that the practice of love will always result in helping others.

Please don't mix up the gift of evangelism with the requirement of always being ready to share the “good news” with other people. A gifted evangelist has the ability to go up to nearly anyone on the street and start talking to that person and lead him or her to the Lord. People without this gift cannot do that. Much damage is done in Christian churches that insist that all their people go out and witness on the streets. Not everyone is gifted to do this work, and if you force people into this form of witnessing who do not have the gift of evangelism, you will do them great harm. Everyone should learn how to effectively share the gospel with someone else. But those of us who do not have the gift of evangelism have to be in a relationship with someone for a while before we can share with them.

The Quickest Way to Discover Your Call

The quickest way to discover your call, is first to develop your natural gifts. Then, after you have made Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, begin to work in these two areas: sharing the gospel with others, and helping others. As you do this faithfully, you will find that God is bringing the people into your life that you are gifted to help. I have many people who have read my books write to me and tell me that they feel they are called to the same kind of ministry as I now have. But, they always ask, “how did you find the witches?” Well, let me tell you, I didn't put an advertisement in the newspaper that said “Witches wanted – to bring you to Christ!” No, for a number of years I didn't know what God's call was on my life. I knew very strongly that He has something specific for me to do, but I didn't have any idea what it was. So, I went about developing my natural gifts – in my case, to practice medicine. Once I became a physician, I made it a practice to ask every patient I worked with if I could pray for him or her. This frequently opened the door for me to share the gospel with them. Also, every day, as I got up I prayed and said, “Lord, please open my eyes today and show me someone I can help. Show me what I can do to help them.” You see, I was functioning in these two areas of work. As I did so, when the time and place was right, the Lord started bring-

ing into my life only people involved in the occult. Quickly I was immersed in spiritual warfare as I lead these people to the Lord. Only after I had been in this warfare for more than a year did God speak to me directly, placing a clear call onto my life. If I had not been functioning in sharing the gospel and helping others, I don't think the Lord would have ever been able to move me into the ministry He wanted me to do.

Now, I use my natural gifts almost equally with my spiritual. How in the world does medicine help in a ministry, you may ask? The first and most powerful gifting and anointing on my life is that of a teacher. My second and third gifts are faith and the discerning of spirits. The way that I present everything I teach is a direct result of my medical training. My whole approach to God's kingdom and the truths therein is affected by my medical training. I am the teacher that I am because of the principles I learned in medicine.

Don't look down on your natural gifts! Let me give you an example:

Several years ago I talked with a young man on the phone. He told me that he had been in the U.S. Navy for eight years and was about to be discharged. He had accepted Christ through my first book and was on fire for the Lord. He was wanting to know which Bible School I would recommend he attend.

"Whoa, wait a minute," I exclaimed. "Has God specifically called you to go to Bible School?"

"Well no, but I want to serve Him full time, so therefore I must become a pastor must I not?" he replied.

"Absolutely not! Pastors have to be specifically called and gifted by God. Serving the Lord "full time" doesn't automatically mean you have to be behind a pulpit." I answered.

"But then how can I know what I should do?" he asked, bewildered.

"Tell me, what is your favorite thing in the whole world to do?" I asked.

"That's easy," he responded, "I love to share the gospel with people. In fact, I've lead half this ship to the Lord in the past two years."

"O.K., that tells me that your primary spiritual gift is that of an evangelist," I said. "So, now, what is your natural gifting. What things are you really good at doing?"

"Well," he hesitated, "that's nothing important."

"I didn't ask you if you thought your natural gift was important. I want to know what it is!"

"Well, I'm sure it is of no use to the Lord."

"Young man," I said in exasperation, either you answer my question honestly, or this conversation is at an end!"

There was a long silence, and finally he said, "Well, I can cut hair. I am a barber. In fact, I am so good, the admirals fly out to my ship for me to do their hair before important events."

"But this is wonderful!" I exclaimed. "Don't you see? God gave you the perfect natural gift to work hand-in-hand with your spiritual gift!"

"No, I don't see," he said.

"Look at it this way. Who do most people talk to and tell their troubles to? Their hair dresser and their bar tender! You have the answers for them. You are gifted to tell them about their need for Jesus Christ. Young man," I went on, "when you get out of the navy open up a barber shop. Everyday ask the Lord to bring the people into your shop that you can share with and help. You will soon be working full time for the Lord, I guarantee it."

Fortunately he listened to me. He did open up a shop, and was soon leading many people to the Lord, several each day in fact. Pretty shortly the Lord impressed upon his heart that he needed to open up his shop in the evenings to teach Bible study classes to help those new Christians get on their feet in their walk with the Lord. Thus, he discovered and began

to develop his second spiritual gift – teaching. So you see, God gifted this young man with the perfect natural gift to go along with his primary spiritual gift of evangelism. He almost fell into the trap of ignoring his natural gift and trying to develop a spiritual gift that had not been given to him.

Key: *Often your natural gifts are given to you to open the door for the exercise of your spiritual gifts.*

Key: *You must knock on doors for your natural gifts or God cannot open them for you. Example: I had to go through the long process of application to medical school, plus the undergraduate training necessary, before I could become a doctor.*

Key: *Only God can open the doors for you to use your spiritual gifts. When He does, you must obey and walk through them. If you try to pry open doors for the use of your spiritual gifts, you will end up in disaster and in the wrong work.*

“These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens.” Rev. 3:7

“So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen.” Matthew 20:16

Key: *The chosen ones are the obeyers. Never refuse a door that God opens. Unfortunately we are looking for big doors, not little ones.*

Key: *God rarely gives a specific call to a new Christian. He first requires each one to become a student of His word.*

Key: *Not everyone is called into a public Christian ministry. You can serve God full-time through a secular job just as much as through a Christian job.*

Four Stumbling Blocks To Entering Your Call

1. Do not despise small things!

“For who has despised the day of small things?” Zechariah 4:10

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’ Mat-

thew 25:21

“Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s who will give you what is your own?” Luke 16:11-12

This is one of the greatest stumbling blocks of all. People don’t want to start small. They want to be big and important immediately. Unfortunately too many of today’s prophets are feeding into this error by telling people that they are going to have a “big” ministry. So, then people sit at home waiting for God to drop a million dollars into their laps. It just doesn’t work that way. Also, I continually hear from people who have given up their jobs and gone totally bankrupt just because they thought they were called into a ministry. They may have been called, but I can tell you that it takes years of faithful work both in a secular job to support yourself and your family and in a ministry at the same time before God will move you into a position where the ministry itself can support you. Remember, even the Apostle Paul had to work making tents.

What are you doing to show yourself faithful in small things? Did you drop out of school – then go back and finish. God demands that discipline in your life before you can go forward.

Key: *God will always test his servants with small and discouraging things before He opens bigger doors for them.*

Many people never enter into their own ministry because they will not first, help someone else. Daniel and I have been the testing ground in this area for many people. Unfortunately nearly every one of them has flunked the test. God sent them to help us, but there’s nothing glamorous about helping out on a ranch. It is hard and many times dirty work looking after cattle, chickens, land and animals. Always, within a few weeks or months these people became angry because they wanted to travel and be up in front of the audience at the podium. They were unwilling to first show themselves faithful in what belonged to someone else. Nearly all of them stole from us extensively, they worked under the assumption that whatever belonged to us was also rightfully theirs as well. NONE of them have ever been moved forward

by God into the ministry of their call because they flunked this test.

Key: *God will test you. You must first be faithful with what belongs to someone else before God will give you what is your own.*

2. Fear

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, not dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Following God in faith involves risk taking. Fear is a major stumbling block to entering into your call. You must trust God and be willing to take risks. God may allow you to stumble and fall, be deceived and make mistakes. You must trust Him through all of this. Remember, God teaches us valuable lessons through our mistakes! If you cannot live with the understanding that God won't always keep you perfect, or always keep you from anything bad happening in your life, then you cannot enter into any sort of ministry for Him. (See May 2004, newsletter on “Victory Over Fear.”)

3. Doubt

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” James 1:6-7

The more you doubt, the more you lose. God cannot work in your life as long as you allow your mind to be filled with doubts. Believe me, Satan and his demons love to put doubts into our minds. That's why we are commanded to take every thought captive in 2 Cor. 10:5

Key: If you are faithful to take every thought captive and refuse doubts, God will bring you through the period of testing much more quickly and open the doors for the work He has called you to do.

4. Laziness and lack of self-discipline

“Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” 2 Tim. 1:6

Jesus never called one of the beggars on the street to be one of His disciples. No, He only called hard-working men. *It takes work to achieve anything, and a lot of it.* If you are lazy, like to sleep in, like to take a lot of sick days off of work, frequently show up late for work, you will not be advanced in your job. **NIETHER** will God advance you in His kingdom! It all comes down to that dirty four-lettered word so many hate —

W-O-R-K! You must be willing to work hard and long hours with few pleasures to advance either in your natural gifts or your spiritual gifts.

As we get busy it is easy not to spend the necessary time in our relationship with God. Thus, quickly our prayer life withers, and our spiritual life gets dry. One of the biggest battles every Christian will have to fight is to maintain regular adequate (at least 1 hour) daily time in God's word, and in prayer.

“And there is no one who calls on Your name, Who stirs himself up to take hold of You; For You have hidden your face from us, And have consumed us because of our iniquities.” Isaiah 64:7

Too many times we run around looking for some to revive us in the Lord. Revival is our own personal responsibility. It is our responsibility to stir ourselves up in the Lord. If you have to have someone else do this for you, then you are not qualified to work full time in any ministry for the Lord.

Key: *Great self-discipline is required by God in every area of our lives. This is a key to releasing God's blessings into our lives and our ministry.*

Final keys:

Normally *it takes years of preparation before you clearly know your call.*

But: *God will use you in each step along the way.*

Remember: *the greater the call, the longer the preparation time. We are an instant society. We are oriented to numbers and results. God is interested in character and heart attitudes and faith.*