

# LIFE, LIBERTY & THE PURSUIT OF GODLINESS

— A BIBLICAL VIEW OF CALLING —

*As you arrive, please answer the questions on page 2.*

**1:00 pm**     **Calling**

**1:20 pm**     **Passion**

**1:50pm**     **Wisdom**

**2:25pm**     **Break**

**2:40pm**     **Grit**

**3:30pm**     **Close**

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The Center for Christian Study is a Christian education and outreach organization that has been ministering to students, faculty and staff at the University of Virginia as well as to the people in and around central Virginia since 1976. Our vision is two-fold: "to foster serious consideration in the university environment of a biblical worldview" and "to facilitate wise discussion of the Truth in light of the challenges of contemporary culture."

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## Life, Liberty & The Pursuit of Godliness

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**Please complete these work questions while you wait for the seminar to begin**

### Raising Geniuses

Answer these questions about your family experience growing up. This isn't a judgment of your parents, just answer honestly:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Were you treated as though you had a unique kind of genius that was loved and respected?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Were you told that you could do and be anything you wanted - and that you'd be loved and admired no matter what it was?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Were you given real help and encouragement in finding out what you wanted to do - and how to do it?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Were you encouraged to explore all your own talents and interests, even if they changed frequently?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Were you (a) allowed to complain when the going got rough, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ (b) given sympathy instead of being told to quit?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Were you (a) bailed out when you got in over your head - but  
\_\_\_\_\_ (b) without reproach?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Were you surrounded by winners who were pleased when you won?

### Speak for a color

Pick one of your favorite colors. Role-play that color. Speak for it. Describe what qualities you have as that color. e.g. *I am dark blue. I'm quiet and deep like the ocean. Or I am yellow. I'm cheerful, intelligent, efficient but warm.*

### Five Lives

If you had five lives, what would you do with each one? Five complete lives, each one exploring a different talent, interest, or lifestyle to the fullest each time. (Flexible: Use three lives or ten lives if you want them.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Six People you admire

List six figures (historical, fictional or living) other than your parents who you have admired greatly growing up.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

## Introduction

### Genesis 1:26-28 (ESV)

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

### Genesis 2:15-17 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Calling is by God, to God, for God and everyone, everywhere in everything. "Be absolutely His" - Oswald Chambers. God loves \_\_\_\_\_. There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, "This is mine! This belongs to me!" - Abraham Kuyper.

### Psalms 139:1-6 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> O LORD, you have searched me and known me! <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. <sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

### Psalms 139:13-16 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

### Psalms 37:4 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

### Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

## Seven stages of calling

### 1. God gives you a dream

Speak for a color, Five Lives

#### Resources

Books by Barbara Sher: *Wishcraft, I Could Do Anything If I Only Knew What It Was, Refuse to Choose, Teamworks*

The One Degree process is a Christian coaching relationship that guides you through exercises to help you discover and live in your unique DESIGN, (the way God created you to be). At [YourOneDegree.com](http://YourOneDegree.com)

### 2. Your dream gets twisted by the world's view of greatness.

#### Numbers 12:1-15 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. <sup>2</sup>And they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it. <sup>3</sup>Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. <sup>4</sup>And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, "Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting." And the three of them came out. <sup>5</sup>And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. <sup>6</sup>And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. <sup>7</sup>Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. <sup>8</sup>With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" <sup>9</sup>And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them, and he departed.

<sup>10</sup>When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. <sup>11</sup>And Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. <sup>12</sup>Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb." <sup>13</sup>And Moses cried to the LORD, "O God, please heal her— please." <sup>14</sup>But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again." <sup>15</sup>So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again.

### 3. You get discouraged, often by those closest to you.

I can't because I don't have X. (e.g. Credentials, Experience, Money)

1. How can I get it without X?
2. How can I get X?

Barn raising in the body of Christ. Overcoming fear. Six people you admire

#### 4. You get tempted to take a shortcut.

##### 1 Samuel 24:5-6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup>And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. <sup>6</sup>He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed."

##### 1 Samuel 26:9-11, 21, 25 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup>But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD's anointed and be guiltless?" <sup>10</sup>And David said, "As the LORD lives, the LORD will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish. <sup>11</sup>The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go."

<sup>21</sup>Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake."

<sup>25</sup>Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

#### 5. You experience a moment of darkness where the dream looks like a failure.

##### 1 Kings 19:1-19 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." <sup>3</sup>Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. <sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." <sup>5</sup>And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." <sup>6</sup>And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." <sup>8</sup>And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

<sup>9</sup>There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>10</sup>He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a

great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup>And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. <sup>13</sup>And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" <sup>14</sup>He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." <sup>15</sup>And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria. <sup>16</sup>And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>And the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael shall Jehu put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha put to death. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

## 6. God turns the dream into something better than we imagined.

### Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

## 7. The fruit of our labor is up to God.