

Reflection on Brennfleck's Live Your Calling

Explanation of Calling

Much like Paul on the road to Damascus, it was through an encounter with the mighty presence and power of God in the driveway of my home in Wellsboro, PA that led me to declare Jesus as my Lord and savior. It was through the "Damascus road" transformation experience that God insisted on my calling and assured me that if I trusted and had faith in him that he would make me into a mighty prayer warrior and pastor of a church. The transformation that took place led me to gain experience with practical ministry in the church through leading prayer and intercession, healing and laying hands-on the sick, preaching and teaching to the youth and serving and serving on the church's worship team, leading adult bible studies, and breaking down spiritual and demonic strongholds.

Through the Christian church I had attended, Living Word Fellowship in Wellsboro, PA, I had not only received a solid biblical foundation, but also through practical ministry, I had received the hands-on experience that enabled and equipped me to become a future Christian leader in the church. For instance, I can remember shortly after being saved attending a Christian retreat where I had the opportunity to pray and intercede for the a teenage girl in the church. I called out to God and told him that I could not do this on my own and surrendered to him and asked him to give me a word. He told me that if I was obedient and laid hands on the girl that he would give me a word that would speak to her and heal her. Out of obedience to the Holy Spirit, I laid hands on the young lady and received not only a word to speak out to the young lady but also experienced the healing power of the Holy Spirit flow through me into her. She responded shortly thereafter, the word that I was given and the healing power of the Holy

Spirit was exactly what she needed to heal her and set her free from captivity of a traumatic event that had happened in her past.

The calling of becoming a future pastor of church was double confirmed by my pastor at Living Word Fellowship and a prophet who spoke a prophetic word over me. My pastor encouraged me to step out and use my teaching and preaching gifts. Also, I had received a prophetic word from a prophet who came to Living Word. The word that he received from the Lord asserted that I would become a pastoral leader with a focus on ministering and helping youth and teens.

Almost 15 years later, my calling was further refined by the Lord after he healed me from severe anxiety and depression. After experiencing significant job and financial loss, I got really bitter and angry. This was left unprocessed and went inward. The deep loss and pain underneath the bitterness led me to turn to some bad coping strategies including drinking, eating and spending addiction. I was struggling with deep dark depression and everything felt like it was moving in slow motion. It was not until I got to a place where I could process the pain and grieve the losses and forgive that I was able to get freedom from the depression and anxiety. Forgiveness is a matter of obedience, not a matter of faith. Out of this season of healing and recovery from anxiety and depression, God further refined my calling as a pastor to minister and help youth and teens experiencing mental illness and drug addictions. Shortly after this, I started to attend seminary at ATS to enable and equip me to answer my calling as a future ministerial leader in a Christian church.

Practical Implications of My Calling for My Own Life and Present and Future Ministry

Brennfleck’s book, “Live Your Calling” provided a practical roadmap and the resources required for defining and fulfilling our calling¹. The practical implications of this book for my own life and present and future ministry is that it allowed me to be a proactive steward of my gifts by moving me from dreaming to doing by constructing a Life Calling Map. This Life Calling Map involved developing personal mission statements, dimensions of my design, priority goals and action plan. This process also helped me to meet the other compass principles in the author’s book such as (1) keeping your primary calling primary, and (2) using your gifts to meet needs¹. Specific details of each of the parts of the Life Calling Map are presented below.

A. Life Calling Mission Statements

Primary Calling Mission Statement: My mission is to Love God and Love people.

Secondary Calling Mission Statement: My mission as a pastor of a church is to minister and help youth and teens experiencing anxiety and depression and drug addictions.

B. Life Calling-Dimensions of My Design

Transferrable Skills

Work Setting: Mentor/Coach (Help)	Advise/Counsel (Help)	Negotiate (Manage)
Supervise/Manage (Manage)	Encourage/Motivate (Help)	Plan (Manage)
Influence/Persuade (Manage)	Listen (Help)	Teach/Train/Speak
Improve/Modify (Creative)	Synthesize (Creative)	Write (Creative)

Volunteer Ministry:

¹ Brennfleck, Devin and Kay Marie. Live Your Calling: A Practical Guide to Finding and Fulfilling Your Mission in Life. Jossey-Bass, 2004.

Advise/Counsel	Plan
Encourage/Motivate	Influence
Listen	Negotiate
Mentor/Coach	Improve
Teach/Train/Speak	Write
Provide Skilled Labor	Coordinate/Organize
Explore/Develop:	

Mentor/Coach	Preaching/Teaching
Advise/Counsel	

Skill Cluster Categories:

Work setting-	Volunteer-
Help	Physical
Manage	Detail/organize
Creative	Manage
Help	

Core Work Values:

1. Balance
2. Decision-making
3. Help others
4. Power/Authority
5. Teamwork

Preferred Roles:

Work: Leader/Manager Mentor/Coach Teacher/Trainer/Speaker

Volunteer: Teacher/Trainer/Speaker Mentor Leader Helper

Explore/Develop: Mentor Preaching/Teaching Counseling

Personality Type:

E-Extrovert S-Sensing F-Feeling J-Judging

Personality Traits: Caring about people and bringing humans into relationships, Move into action to help others, organized, and get things done, oriented to current realities and facts.

C. Priority Goals:

Life role: Pastor/Church Leader

I will begin a pastoral leadership role in a church in Connecticut by September 2023.

D. Action Plan:

1. I will graduate from seminary in the summer of 2023.
2. I will contact pastors and church leaders affiliated with the CMA starting in July 15, 2023 to find out about potential pastoral jobs.
3. Contact at least 15-20 pastors in the CT area for suggestions and leads by end of July 23'.
4. Send a cover letter and resume to church leadership of each church I am targeting by August 6, 2023.
5. Follow-up with phone calls to church leadership that cover letters and resumes were sent to by August 20, 2023.
6. Target 3-5 interviews by end of August 23'.
7. Make a decision on Pastoral job-Beginning of September 23'.