

Calling_02

Script References

Introduction

Alexis: Hey everyone! Welcome to part two of this session on following God's call.

I want to start by asking an important question. Do you know you? Have you met the person God made you to be yet? Today, we're diving into an important topic that will help you answer God's call in your life— knowing yourself.

Knowing yourself is crucial because God designed you on purpose. He created you with unique skills and passions, and he placed you in unique circumstances so that you could accomplish unique purposes.

Part of being faithful to God's call is being faithful to who he made you to be. And so with that, here's what I want you to remember today:

To follow God's call, you have to know yourself.

“Deny Yourself” ≠ “Erase Yourself”

Now, right out the gate, I want to address a misconception that a lot of Christians seem to have. You've probably heard Jesus' line in the Gospels when he says, **“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”** (Luke 9:23-24)

Right here, right now, hear me say this: Jesus' call to self-denial is not a call to self-erasure.

Too many people, when they're trying to figure out what God is calling them to do, think that whatever makes them most miserable, whatever requires the biggest self-sacrifice, that's what God wants them to do.

But that logic is flawed! Think about it - God created you. He gifted you with certain skills and passions. He knows what brings you joy.

When Jesus says, “deny yourself,” he really means it. But the self he's talking about is your sinful flesh. He's talking about the selfish impulses,

the deceitful desires, the egotistical ambition that would lead you away from loving God and others.

I want you to take a beat right here and consider the difference between Jesus' call to self-denial and the misconception of self-erasure. Have you gotten these confused in your life? Spend time with God asking him for wisdom to know the difference.

Who Did God Make You?

At the risk of stating the obvious, I'm going to say - God loves you - you specifically and especially, in all your uniqueness. Listen to what the Psalms say about how carefully God designed you:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:13-14)

God's works are wonderful, and you're one of his works! So again, I'll ask: Do you know you? Have you met the person God made you to be yet?

What are your strengths and weaknesses? What are you passionate about? How have your past experiences equipped you? Where does God have you placed right now? Answering these kinds of questions is an important part of discerning God's call in your life.

A lot of faithful people hear Jesus say, "follow me," and they think the only way to answer it is to go into quote-unquote traditional ministry. To become a pastor or a missionary.

That could be what God's calling you to - or God could be calling you to be on mission in some other way. Are you an entrepreneur? How can you build a business that serves God's kingdom? Do you love cooking? How can you use those skills to show the hospitality of Christ? Are you a student on a campus? How can you be a light to your classmates? I want you to-

Take stock of your life right now. Where does God have you placed? With what resources and skills has God equipped you? In what direction do your interests point you? Ask God how you can use your unique life to serve him.

Three Tips

God has plans for you, and knowing yourself is key to embracing and walking in those plans. To wrap this up, I'm going to give you three tips to help you on your journey of self-discovery.

1. First, be willing to recognize the good and the bad.

You are at once both a new creation in Christ, being renewed in the image of God, and a sinner constantly in need of grace.

In other words, not all of your desires and personality quirks are of the Lord - some are straight out of your sinful nature and need to be surrendered to God so he can transform them. This surrendering can feel painful, but think of it as a growing pain. God is raising you up into your true self.

2. Second, go on this journey with friends, people who know the Lord and can give you godly wisdom.

It's important to get other peoples' perspectives because the truth is, we're prone to self-deception. We all need friends who will speak God's truth to us and call us out when we're straying out of line. We also need friends to point out the good things about us when insecurity and fear have us believing lies about our worth.

3. And third, use the resources available to you.

There are all kinds of personality and career assessments that can be a great starting point for self-reflection. Meyers-Briggs, the Enneagram - Maybe your church has a spiritual gifts survey or class you can take. Therapy and counseling are also really helpful tools for learning more about yourself.

Like I said at the start of this video, to follow God's call, you have to know yourself, and knowing yourself takes intentionality.

God has good plans in store for you! Join me next time for the final video of this session - I'll be talking about how to measure success as you live your life on mission for the Lord.