

MAGNIFY YOUR CALLING

Just as the Lord could not invite guests to the marriage supper until all was made ready (Matthew 22:1–4), so too must we prepare before we invite others to Christ. How can we call people to come to Him unless we have come ourselves? To guide others into a closer walk with God, means we first must have a personal relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

We'll consider three steps toward a life-giving ministry: **living your calling**, **spending time with God**, and **pursuing holiness**.

Living Your Calling

Paul's writings can sound bold—even startling. He declared, *“By the grace of God I am what I am... **I labored more abundantly than they all**, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me”* (1 Corinthians 15:10). And again, *“**Be ye followers of me**, even as I also am of Christ”* (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Imagine a priesthood member saying today, *“Follow me; live as I do.”* It might seem audacious—but Paul could say it because he truly *did* follow Christ. He counted *“all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord... that I may win Christ, and be found in Him”* (Philippians 3:8–9). Paul's life was his message.

In contrast, consider Corianton. While serving with Alma among the Zoramites, he abandoned his ministry to pursue the harlot Isabel. Alma rebuked him: *“When they saw your conduct, **they would not believe my words**... therefore, my son, turn to the Lord with all your mind, might, and strength”* (Alma 19:17, 19). His actions undermined the testimony of the Gospel he was sent to share.

These examples show the power—and the peril—of our influence. Like Paul, we are called to live the Gospel we preach, lest our conduct hinder those we hope to save. Scripture is clear: priesthood must *live* their calling (Jacob 1:18–20; Section 83:21a; Ezekiel 34). The question is simple—will our ministry resemble the effectiveness of Paul or the failure of Corianton?

To magnify our calling, we must let Christ work through us, that others might follow not us, but the One whom we follow.

Role	Key Duties	Scriptures
Deacon	Assist Teachers; invite to Christ; teach and exhort; receive tithes; preside in absence of other priesthood.	Sec 17:11; 83:22; 120:2; 122:9, 1 Tim 3:8-13;
Teacher	Watch over the Church; ensure members meet, fulfill duties, and remain without iniquity; invite to Christ; preside in absence of Priests or Melchizedek ministers.	Sec 17:11; 83:22 120:2; 122:9; Eph 4:11
Priest	Preach, teach, and baptize; administer sacrament; visit homes; exhort members to prayer and duty; ordain Deacons, Teachers, and other Priests; preside in absence of elders.	Sec 17:10, 18, 22; 83:22; 120:2, 122:9; Acts 6:7
Elder	Preach, teach, and watch over the Church; baptize and confirm with Holy Spirit; administer ordinances; ordain Deacons, Teachers, Priests, and other Elders; judge in Elders' Courts; preside and lead in absence of High Priest.	Acts 14:23; Tit 1:5-6; Jas 5:14; Sec 17:8-9, 17-19; 42:12d, 22; 83:22; 120:2; 122:7-9

Spend Time with God (Prayer, Study, Fasting, Meditation, Worship)

Study, prayer, and fasting are essential to our walk with Christ and our life in His Kingdom. Through study, we *learn* about God; through prayer, we *commune* with Him; and through fasting, we *come to know* Him. These are not just good habits—they are keys to the Spirit of Revelation and the Spirit of Prophecy (Alma 12:1–5).

As we live our calling and spend time with God, He directs us in His service, giving us thoughts, testimonies, and inspiration. Meditation and worship are vital in this process. They invite the Holy Spirit into our heart, mind, and soul—allowing God to guide, purify, and transform us from within.¹

Matthew records at least five occasions when Jesus withdrew to the mountains to be alone with His Father. Likewise, we must seek that sacred stillness. *“Blessed is the man... whose delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water... whatsoever he doeth shall prosper”* (Psalm 1:1–3).

¹ <https://www.gotquestions.org/meditate-on-Gods-Word.html>

Meditation not only strengthens us—it blesses others. Paul counseled Timothy to be an example *“in word, in conduct, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* Paul admonishes him to give heed to reading, exhortation, and doctrine, and to remember the gift of priesthood. *“**Meditate** upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that they profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, **and them that hear thee**”* (1 Timothy 4:15-16).

God invites us to meditate upon our calling—to stand in the stead of Christ and minister to His children. To do this, we must *first* draw near to Him through prayer, study, fasting, and worship. *Next*, be still—find a quiet place to be alone with God, as Jesus did. *Finally*, attune your heart through repentance and submission, allowing His Spirit to speak within. Do not merely hear His voice—listen and hearken. In such moments, we resonate with the power of God.

Pursue Holiness

As Isaiah testified, *“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory”* (Isaiah 6:3). And yet, even Isaiah—a prophet of the Lord—cried out saying, *“Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts”* (Isaiah 6:5).

However, it was in this very moment of understanding, that the Lord purged Isaiah of his iniquity. You see, holiness is much like farming according to Christian author Jeff Bridges. While a farmer can’t control the sun, rain, temperature, or even the seed itself, he can plough the field, plant the seed, water and tend to his crop, and eventually harvest it.

Holiness works in the same manner. There are many things—the most important ones I daresay, such as grace, mercy, and a remission of sins—that we have no control over. *These are in God’s hands.* However, there are some things—such as ploughing, planting, nourishing—that God will not do for us. Ultimately, we are the ones that must walk the path of holiness. It is God who has established a highway of holiness (Isaiah 35:8). He just asks us to walk on it.

God knows that there are many things pulling on our heart, vying for our attention, which is why He has invited us to pursue holiness, which is the same thing as pursuing Him (1 Peter 1:15-16). For without holiness, *“no man shall see the Lord”* (Hebrews 12:14).

Holiness means separateness—living a life that is wholly God’s. Exodus 19:3-6 and Psalms 24:3-6 show us how:

1. *Look up and listen* – set your eyes on God and hear His voice.
2. *Obey His voice* – cleanse your hands through obedience.
3. *Keep His covenant* – purify your heart by remaining faithful.

We’re never going to obey God and keep His covenant—nor teach others to do the same—if we don’t believe He is holy. The rich young ruler believed Jesus was holy, but wasn’t willing to be like Him. Holiness requires not just belief, but a willingness to be like God.

Think of a marriage covenant. We are to keep ourselves wholly for each other and from all others (Section 111:2b). There’s no other choice. What about our relationship with God? Do we give allowances? Are there things in our lives that:

1. Have power over us?
2. Aren’t helpful?
3. Don’t glorify God?
4. Don’t serve others?

Those are idols, and they must be removed through prayer, study, fasting, and faithful action. This is how we “*worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*”—by yielding our hearts and walking daily upon His holy way.

Questions to consider

1. Where are you in your walk with the Lord? Are there idols in your life?
2. Are you consistently trying to magnify your calling?
3. What steps could you take to draw closer with God?