

Four Ways of Entering One's Calling
Part 1
The First Way - Entering into God's Predestine Works

- *The best and the most perfect example of how to enter into God's Calling for our lives is the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *The four Gospels provide us with a complete view of Christ's life and ministry.*
- *The four Gospels are not simply a repetition of the same events but actually provide four different perspectives into the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.*
- *Each of the four Gospels provides us a unique perspective and each carries with it sometimes subtle but important differences that unlock the mysteries of the Gospel.*
- *The unique attributes of the four gospel can be seen in a pattern that is seen in Revelation 4:7.*

Revelation 4:7 (ESV)

⁷the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

- *The Lion, the Ox, the face of a Man, and the Eagle each highlight one of the four Gospels and in the same order.*
- *The first Gospel – the Gospel of Matthew pictures Christ as the Lion – The Lion of Judah, the son of David, the King of Israel, the King of Kings.*
- *In the Gospel of Matthew we see one aspect of Christ that is portrayed by a lion – boldness and the outgoing temperament.*
- *The second Gospel – the Gospel of Mark pictures Christ like an Ox – an animal that serves and diligently pulls the plow – This Gospel pictures Christ as the Perfect Servant.*
- *In the Gospel of Mark we see Christ as the Perfect Servant who faithfully keeps His eyes on the goal – He will not be deterred – the goal centered temperament.*
- *The third Gospel – the Gospel of Luke pictures Christ as the Perfect Man – this gospel emphasizes His humanity and the introspective and meditative temperament.*

- *The fourth Gospel – the Gospel of John pictures Christ as the flying Eagle – this gospel emphasizes His divinity and how the Heavenly perspective always led him – this emphasizes Christ as the Son of God. This is the visionary temperament.*
- *The introduction of Jesus Christ in each gospel sets the tone of each gospel.*
- *In Matthew, where Christ is depicted as the Lion of Judah, the King of Israel, Christ's birth and genealogy is focused on His lineage as the Son of David.*

Matthew 1:1 (NKJV)

¹The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

- *In Mark, where Christ is depicted as the Ox, the Perfect Servant, there is no genealogy but Jesus is first seen coming to be baptized by John to fulfill His Father's will and then He begins His ministry.*
- *Christ's birth is not even mentioned in Mark because the important thing about a servant is not his lineage but his service.*
- *In Luke, where Christ is depicted as the Perfect Man, the lineage is traced back to Adam to emphasize that Jesus Christ is the Son of Man.*

Luke 3:38 (NKJV)

³⁸the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

- *In John, where Christ is depicted as the Eagle, the Son of God, there is no lineage recorded because the Son of God has no beginning and no end.*

John 1:1 (NKJV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

- *The Gospel John begins in the same way as Genesis does – in the beginning was God. It emphasizes Jesus Christ as God.*
- *Each Gospel gives us insights into how to enter one's calling.*
- *Each of the four steps is progressive and leads to the next step until we are able to fully enter into the will of God for our lives.*
- *The First Way of Entering One's Calling is through God's Predestine Works.*

- *In this step we develop a strong conviction that God has specific predestine works for us and a predestine calling for each of our individual lives.*
- *The important thing is not that we know the whole picture (because we can't) but to know that there is a whole picture.*
- *Many Christians go through out their lives aimlessly just living for the moment without any expectation that God has created them for something wonderful and unique.*
- *In the Gospel of Matthew the predestine purposes of Jesus Christ is accentuated.*
- *In the Gospel of Matthew the Old Testament is quoted at least 14 times in reference to Christ fulfilling what had been prophesied. This is more than all the other three Gospels combined!*

Matthew 1:21–23 (NKJV)

²¹And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²²So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Matthew 2:3–6 (NKJV)

³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

Matthew 2:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt,

¹⁵and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”

- *A dominating characteristic we see in the Gospel of Matthew is Jesus Christ bold as a lion. He knew He was not walking a random path for His life but one that His Father had predestined for Him.*

John 7:30 (NKJV)

³⁰Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

John 8:20 (NKJV)

²⁰These words Jesus spoke in the treasury, as He taught in the temple; and no one laid hands on Him, for His hour had not yet come.

- *Jesus Christ always had the consciousness of walking in His Father's will and that no one and no circumstance was able to thwart the plan of God for His life.*

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

³⁹He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

- *Jesus was always aware He had come to fulfill the will of His Father and that God had a predestine plan for His life.*
- *This knowledge and revelation strengthened Jesus to make even the hardest decisions without wavering.*

John 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

John 5:30 (NKJV)

³⁰I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

- *Jesus always sought the guidance of His Father so that every step He took would lead Him to the ultimate purpose He had come for – to be the Saviour of all mankind.*
- *For us to be led by the deep conviction that God has a unique predestine calling for each one of us and has predestine works for us to fulfill, will produce within our hearts a bold confidence and expectation.*
- *For us to truly live under the conviction that God has a predestine plan for our lives will not produce a "hyper spiritual" attitude of seeking a word from God for every small day to day decision we make but an attitude of abiding in Christ as we walk through the day acknowledging that the Holy Spirit is leading us.*
- *For us to walk in God's predestine works for our lives does not mean constantly experiencing the tangible presence of God or constantly receiving a prophetic word but it is much more profoundly simple. It is allowing God's invisible hand of providence to guide us moment by moment even though we may be totally unaware of what He is doing.*

- *Many Christians live out their lives not knowing or believing that God has a very definite purpose for their lives.*
- *Christians who are not conscious that God has a very unique and wonderful purpose for their lives tend to live undisciplined and wasteful lives.*

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

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

- *“created in Christ Jesus for good works” – Christ’s redemptive work has made us a new creation so that we now have a divine purpose for our lives.*
- *“prepared beforehand” – God has good works for us to do which He has prepared for us from the foundation of the world.*
- *“that we should walk in them” – The Greek word for “walk” conveys the idea of the way one conducts one’s life.*
- *When we walk in God’s predestine works for our lives it is more than just doing specific things that God has ordained but living and abiding in the will of God every moment of every day.*
- *“that we should walk in them” – The Greek verb “should walk” is in the subjunctive mood which expresses the idea of possibility as opposed to certainty.*
- *God has created us so that we should walk in His predestine works for our lives.*
- *Even though the “should walk” speaks about our responsibility before God to fulfill His will it also makes us understand that our response to His calling will determine if the “should walk” will become the “have walked”.*
- *The different between a “calling” and “God’s plan” is that a calling is an invitation to enter into God’s plan for your life.*
- *A calling does not guarantee that we will enter into God’s plan or fulfill God’s purposes for our lives.*
- *Our response to God’s invitation will determine if we will enter into our calling and if we will fulfill His will for our lives.*

1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- *God calls all men to salvation through Christ but not all will choose to respond to that invitation.*
- *God has a calling for every person He has created.*
- *This calling goes beyond salvation but extends to the very specific purpose God created them for.*

John 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶**You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.**

- *God has a clear purpose for each believer and those purposes, if we will walk in them, will produce fruitfulness that will impact and carry on for eternity.*

2 Timothy 1:1 (NKJV)

¹**Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus,**

- *Paul did not say “Paul an apostle according to the Bible College I went to” or “Paul an apostle according to my desires and self-effort” or “Paul an apostle because I was hired by a committee”, but Paul, an apostle according to the will of God.*

Acts 9:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵**But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.**

¹⁶**For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”**

¹⁷**And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”**

- *From the very beginning Paul took hold of the destiny that God was calling him to and he fully embraced it.*

1 Thessalonians 3:2-4 (NKJV)

2 and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

3 that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

4 For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV)

²⁷**But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to**

others, **I myself should become disqualified.**

- *Even though Paul saw the great calling that was upon his life, He did not take it for granted.*
- *Paul clearly knew if he did not continue to yield to God he eventually would end up being disqualified from the ministry that God had called him to.*
- *We must understand how to properly relate to the truth that God has a predestined calling and plan for our lives.*
- *We can see an example of two men and how their responses to these truths shaped their lives.*
- *One was king Saul and the other was king David.*

1 Samuel 9:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶“Tomorrow about this time I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall anoint him commander over My people Israel, that he may save My people from the hand of the Philistines; for I have looked upon My people, because their cry has come to Me.”

¹⁷So when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said to him, “There he is, the man of whom I spoke to you. **This one shall reign over My people.**”

1 Samuel 10:1 (NKJV)

¹Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: “Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?”

- *We see how the Lord called Saul to be king and it was such a tender and endearing moment which reflected God’s heart for Saul.*

1 Samuel 13:13 (NKJV)

¹³And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. **For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever.**”

- *God through the prophet Samuel had called and anointed Saul to be king over Israel.*
- *King Saul began to walk in his calling as the king but then he became self-willed, self-seeking and disobedient.*
- *Because of Saul’s disobedience to God his kingdom did not end up enduring or fulfilling the will of God.*

- *Just because Saul failed in his calling does not mean that God predestined him to fail.*
- *The calling was from God but the choice was Saul's in terms of how he was going to respond to God's calling.*

1 Samuel 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

- *After Saul had rejected the calling upon his life, God called and anointed David to be the future king of Israel.*
- *David was still a young man when he was anointed to be the future king over Israel.*
- *David had to wait another 13 or so years before becoming king but in the mean time he treasured the calling in his heart and that helped him stay the course even through very difficult and trying times.*
- *David remained faithful during this time of preparation and the ultimate outcome was David was established as king of Israel and through his lineage the Messiah came.*
- *There are a number of ways we can respond to the predestine calling of God upon our lives.*
- *1. We can ignore God's calling upon our lives and choose not to respond which will ultimately lead to lives that are devoid of true purpose.*
- *2. We can embrace God's calling upon our lives and allow Him to take us through the preparation process so we can see God's purposes fulfilled in our lives.*
- *When we respond with a yes one of the things God wants to establish in our hearts is a sense that God has a predestine purpose for our lives.*
- *The more we are aware of the reality that God has a predestine plan for our lives the more perseverance and strength we will have to go through difficult times.*

1 Samuel 23:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

¹⁷And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you.

You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.”

- *David had those around him who would encourage him and remind him that God had a predestine plan for his life.*
- *3. Sometimes we forget about the predestine call of God on our lives because fear or busyness has obscured our view of God.*

1 Samuel 27:1 (NKJV)

¹And David said in his heart, “Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.”

- *Purposeless Christians easily become discouraged and fatigued and give up and give into temptation.*

1 Samuel 30:6 (NKJV)

⁶Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

- *David found himself in a worse situation after he fled into land of the Philistines. The way of the flesh always leads to more sorrow and defeat.*
- *After only 16 months in the land of the Philistines he now found himself in a position that not only was Saul seeking to kill him but even his own men.*
- *David, however, responded in the correct way and turned his attention back to the Lord and remembered God’s faithfulness.*
- *4. An equally dangerous response to God’s predestine purpose for our lives is to take them for granted and think because we are “special” to God we are above the natural laws of sowing and reaping.*

1 Chronicles 14:2–3 (NKJV)

²So David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel, for his kingdom was highly exalted for the sake of His people Israel.

³Then David took more wives in Jerusalem, and David begot more sons and daughters.

- *Once David perceived that God’s promises were coming to pass he stopped being vigilant and began to make careless decision.*
- *These careless decisions ultimately led David to commit both adultery and*

murder.

Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴“For many are called, but few are chosen.”

- *It is not our calling that will determine our success but our response to God’s calling.*
- *If we allow God to prepare us, He will choose us and if we continue to yield to Him we will then be found faithful.*
- *Every born again Christian has a predestine calling and purpose for his or her life.*
- *The important thing is having a sense of God’s destiny for our lives.*
- *If we are willing to respond step-by-step with faith and obedience God will lead us into His predestine purposes for our lives.*
- *It doesn’t matter how many times we have said “no” to God the important thing is that we say “yes” to Him now.*

Romans 11:29 (NKJV)

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

- *God has not removed your calling but the question is are you willing to trust and obey.*

Joel 2:25 (NKJV)

²⁵“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

- *We are not to look back at our failures and lost opportunities but to confess our failures and repent which means to turn our attention away from our past and our failures and look forward focusing on Christ.*
- *What is our response to God’s calling?*
- *Some may be here today who have never responded to the call of salvation. Today God is calling you to receive Christ.*
- *Some may be here who have received Christ but have never consistently responded to God’s calling on their lives in faith and obedience. Today you can begin to say “yes” to God.*
- *Some may be here who are walking with the Lord and are entering into God’s*

purposes for their lives. Today you can give thanks for God's faithfulness to you and also ask Him to establish you more and more so that you can be found faithful.