

Four Ways of Entering One's Calling Part 4

The Fourth Way – Recognizing God's New Move and Flowing with it.

- *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 Flying Eagle each highlight one of the four Gospels and in the same order.*
- *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.*
- *In Matthew, Jesus is pictured as the Lion, the One who is bold and confident – the Bold Outgoing Temperament.*
- *The first way that we looked at to enter one's calling is seen in the first Gospel, Matthew, and the first way to enter one's calling – Entering into God's Predestine Works.*

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

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

- *In Mark, Jesus is pictured as an Ox, the One who has set His shoulder to the plow and is pressing forward to the goal set before Him.*
- *The Second Way of Entering One's Calling is through Sanctified Initiative.*
- *A simple way to rephrase this second step would be:*
- *Don't Just Stand There Do Some Thing!!!!!!*
- *The Gospel of Mark presents Jesus Christ as the Perfect Servant*
- *Jesus is seen in Mark as the Ox – the Goal Centered Temperament.*
- *The third way to enter one's calling is by deepening our calling through prayer and the study of God's Word.*
- *This third way is seen clearest in the gospel of Luke where Christ is depicted as the Perfect Man – the Introspective Temperament.*
- *In Matthew, where Jesus is presented as the King, His genealogy is through His stepfather Joseph and is traced back to David.*
- *In Mark, where Jesus is presented as the perfect servant, His birth is not even mentioned because the important thing about a servant is not his lineage but his service.*
- *In Luke, where Jesus is presented as the perfect man, His genealogy is through Mary and is traced back to Adam emphasizing His humanity.*
- *In John, where Christ is depicted as the flying Eagle, the Son of God, the Visionary Temperament – This is the eternal or Heavenly perspective.*
- *In John there is no lineage recorded because the Son of God has no beginning and no end.*

John 1:1 (NKJV)

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

Genesis 1:1 (NKJV)

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

- *The Gospel of John begins in the same way as Genesis does – in the beginning was God. It emphasizes Jesus Christ as God, the Creator.*
- *The first way of entering one's calling gives us a sense of divine purpose for our lives and expectation of great things that God desires to do in and through us.*
- *The second way of entering one's calling stirs us to do something and not just remain as stargazers but put action to God's calling on our lives.*
- *The second way provides balance and direction to the first way.*
- *The third way of entering one's calling brings balance to the second way by making sure we are not so busy "doing things for God" that we fail to spend time with God and thus fail to mature and deepen our relationship with Him.*
- *The third way of entering one's calling deepens our relationship with God and gives us a sensitivity to His Holy Spirit so that we can recognize when God is doing a new thing and be willing and able to flow with it.*

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV)

³²of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

- *The sons of Issachar are an example of those that had deepened their relationship with God so that they were prepared for God's new move.*
- *"who had understanding of the times" – The sons of Issachar were those who were aware of God's timing and sensitive enough to the Spirit to know when God was about to do something new.*
- *"to know what Israel ought to do" – The sons of Issachar not only recognized when God was doing something new but they had the wisdom to know how to flow with it.*
- *The name "Issachar" means, "there is recompense".*
- *When we have deepened our calling and have learned to recognize God's new move and are willing to flow with it there is a great reward.*
- *"New" doesn't necessarily mean different but "new" in the idea of replacing those things that have grown old, stale, worn out.*

- *God's new move produces revival and revival means returning back to Biblical Christianity.*
- *God wants to restore the Church back to the experience of the first Church.*
- *The early Church was filled with the awesomeness of prayer, an expectation of the miraculous, the fear of God, and holiness – in summary the early Church walked in their first love.*

Luke 19:41–46 (NKJV)

⁴¹Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

⁴²saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

⁴³For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,

⁴⁴and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

⁴⁵Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,

⁴⁶saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house is a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

Luke 19:41–46 (NKJV)

⁴¹Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

- *As Jesus drew near to Jerusalem, He wept because they had failed to recognize God's new move but instead rejected God's plan of salvation.*

⁴²saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.

- *“the things that make for your peace” – God's plans will always result in peace, victory and salvation if we are willing to stop doing things our way and choose to flow with His way.*
- *“But now they are hidden from your eyes” - The leadership of Israel had failed to prepare themselves and thus were unable to recognize God's new move.*

⁴³For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,

⁴⁴and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

- *The rejection of God's plan of salvation resulted in God's protection being withdrawn, which opened the door for their enemies to attack them.*
- *"because you did not know the time of your visitation." - All these calamities came upon Israel because they failed to recognize God's new move (His visitation) and instead they continued in their old ways, which led them to much suffering.*
- *Part of the reason the leadership rejected Christ was because they had their own preconceived ideas of how Messiah was going to come and rejected the way He actually came.*
- *Another reason the leadership of Israel rejected Christ is because they had set up their own religious system which they had control over and there was no room for the Holy Spirit to move.*

⁴⁵Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it,

⁴⁶saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

- *Israel had replaced prayer with commerce and instead of deepening their calling through prayer they filled their lives with the traditions of man.*
- *The leaders of the previous moves of God can become the enemies of the new move of God if they do not maintain a heart that is sensitive to the Holy Spirit.*
- *Andrew Murray is an example of a man of God who almost failed to recognize God's new move but in the end his relationship with the Lord was deep enough for him to finally recognize what God was doing and to flow with it, resulting in a mighty revival.*
- *God's visitation can be corporate or individual.*
- *Sometimes God's visitation in our lives may appear subtle such as experiencing the tangible presence of the Holy Spirit during a time of prayer.*
- *Sometimes God's new move in our lives can be a profound experience such as being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.*
- *As we respond to God's new move it will lead us to other new experiences with God and through this, God will position us to be right in the centre of His will so we will be ready to impact the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

- *The Gospel of John is unique in so many ways from the other three Gospels because it reveals God's new move.*
- *The Gospel of John prepares us for the Book of the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles that are to follow.*
- *Of all the Gospels, John portrays Christ in the clearest light as God.*

John 1:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

- *Jesus Christ is clearly seen as the Creator.*

John 8:58 (NKJV)

⁵⁸Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

- *Jesus Christ is clearly seen as the Alpha and Omega – the Eternal One.*
- *There are a number of important revelations found in the Gospel of John that are vital for us to understand the New Testament which are only alluded to in the other three Gospels.*
- *Gospel of John is the first time that a clear presentation of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone is seen.*

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 6:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:47 (NKJV)

⁴⁷Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

- *The Gospel of John is the only Gospel that speaks about the new birth and our need to become a new creation if we are to be saved and enter into the Kingdom of God.*

John 3:3–9 (NKJV)

³Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

⁵Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

- *Jesus clearly makes a distinction between the natural man and the spiritual man.*
- *This paves the way for Paul’s writings, which explain the difference between walking in the spirit versus of the flesh.*

⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

- *‘You must be born again.’ - Nicodemus, a teacher of the Law, had never heard such a thing much less ever thought about this before.*
- *“The wind blows where it wishes” - The new birth leads to a new walk, one that is led by the Spirit.*

John 3:30 (NKJV)

³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease.

- *A new way of evaluating our lives – we must become less so Christ can be magnified in our lives.*

John 4:21, 23, 24 (NKJV)

²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

²³But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- *A new way to worship God – neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem but we must worship God in Spirit and in truth.*
- *“for the Father is seeking such to worship Him” – The heart of the Father is beating with desire to have those who worship Him to do it from a sincere heart of love.*
- *Should we worship God singing hymns or choruses; standing or sitting; dancing or sitting quietly, waving flags or raising arms; quietly or loudly? Yes*
- *The new move of God is yes as long as it is in spirit and truth.*

- *Spirit speaks about a sincere heart and truth speaks about a pure life.*

John 5:39 (NKJV)

³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

- *A new purpose for studying the Scriptures – to search for greater revelations of Jesus Christ.*
- *We no longer keep the Feasts and the Law, because Christ has fulfilled them for us, but we study the Feasts and the Law to find Christ in them.*

John 10:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.

¹⁵As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

¹⁶And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

- *The Church – a new creation – bringing Jew and Gentile to form One New Man.*
- *Even up to Acts 15 the apostles were struggling with what to do with the gentile believers but gradually they understood that the gentiles and Jews are to become one new man in Christ and that God no longer makes a distinction between Jew and gentile in His Church.*

John 6:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

²⁹Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

- *A new definition of what it means to do the work of God – to believe in Jesus Christ.*
- *The greatest work we can do is totally believing and trusting in Christ so that nothing causes us to waver or fear.*

John 15:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

- *“Abide in Me, and I in you.” – A new way of living – A life of total dependence and unbroken fellowship with Christ.*

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- *If Christ never changes then why is the last way of entering one’s calling “recognizing God’s new move and flowing with it?”*
- *God is perfect and unchangeable so it is not God who must change but it is us who must change until we are fully in the image of Jesus Christ.*
- *Why does God have new ways of moving?*
- *1. We sometimes confuse our ways of doing things (our culture or traditions) with God’s Divine Order.*
- *2. Sometimes because we are still spiritual babes God must speak to us as one speaks to a child, but the time comes when He begins to speak to us as adults.*

John 16:12–13 (GW)

¹²“I have a lot more to tell you, but that would be too much for you now.

¹³When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into the full truth. He won’t speak on his own. He will speak what he hears and will tell you about things to come.

- *3. Sometimes God in His mercy tolerates things in our lives that are not according to His will, but the time comes that He no longer will ignore them but begins to deal with them.*
- *4. The sinful human condition has a tendency to take things for granted no matter how wonderful and awesome they are.*
- *God wants to awaken us from our spiritual slumber and He does this by breaking out of the mold we have put Him in.*

- *We can see in history the Church going through these phases of God's new moves.*
- *Through Martin Luther God awakened the message that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.*
- *Through John Wesley the message of holiness and the holiness movement.*
- *Then in the early twentieth century the Pentecostal movement and the reawakening of the Church to the gifts and person of the Holy Spirit.*
- *In the latter part of the twentieth century came the restoration of the Five Fold Ministry and God's Divine Order for Church government.*
- *In the Great Commission we can see the four ways of entering our calling through the four "all"s.*

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always (literally "all days"), even to the end of the age." Amen.

- *Entering into God's Predestine Works - Bold Outgoing Temperament*
- "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
- *Sanctified Initiative - Goal Centered Temperament*
- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
- *Deepening Your Calling (Through study and prayer) - Introspective Temperament*
- "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you"
- *4. Recognizing God's New Move and Flowing with it - Visionary Temperament*
- and lo, I am with you always (literally - all days) even to the end of the age." Amen.

- *There are some here who have never responded to Jesus' call to salvation. Today is the day of salvation.*
- *There are some Christians whose spiritual lives have grown stagnant and they have lost the joy and that first love. Today we can respond to God and tell Him we are willing to allow Him to break us out of our routine and to move us on with Him.*
- *There are some Christians who are responding to God stirring. We can give thanks that He is stirring us and we can respond by asking Him to stir us even more so that we can fully enter into His will for our lives.*