

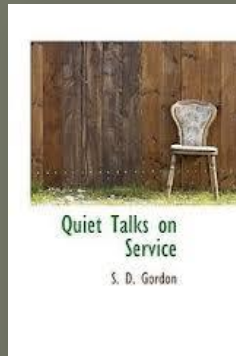
(Re) Discover Your Sense of Calling

Three Steps to Experience



**Leadership Education and
Development Conference
Tri-Philippine Union**

Dr. Gordon shows Jesus walking down the golden streets of heaven. He has just returned from earth in His ascension. And heaven is eager to greet Him and welcome Him and the first to greet Him there is Gabriel and so He and Gabriel are arm in arm, walking along the golden street. And Gabriel engages Him in a conversation that in the fantasy goes something like this:



"Master, You died for the whole world down there, did You not?" "Yes."

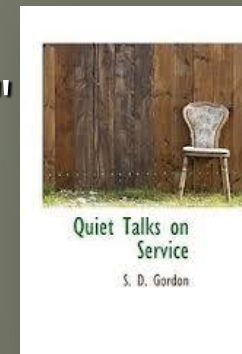
"You must have suffered much."

"Yes," the Lord said.

"And do they all know what You did for them?" replied Gabriel.

"Oh no.. .no, only a few in Palestine know about it so far."

Gabriel replies, "Well, Master, what's Your plan? What have You done about telling the world that You died for them, that You shed Your blood for all of them? What's Your plan?"



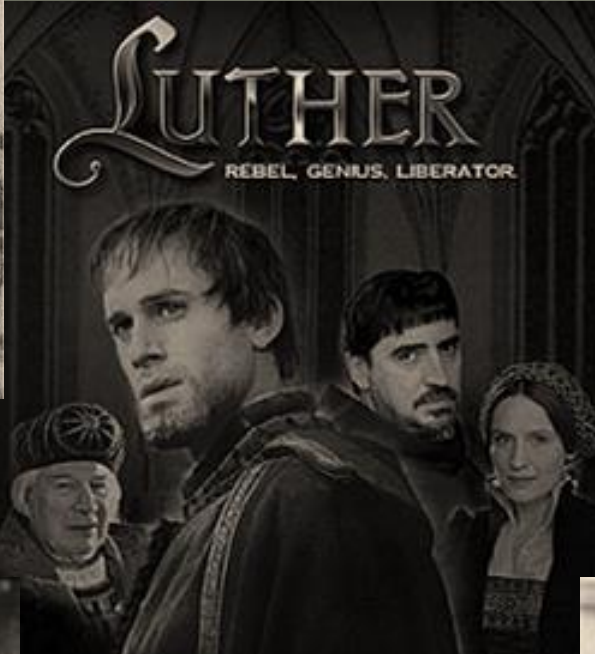
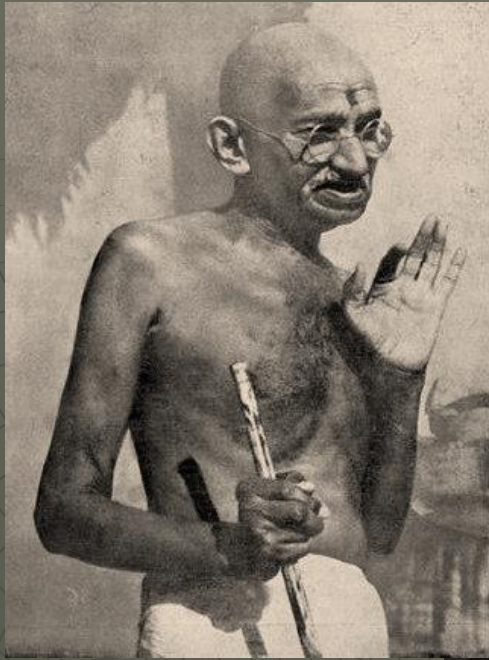
"Well, I asked Peter and James and John and Andrew and a few other fellows if... if they'd make it the business of their lives to tell others. And then the ones that they tell could tell others and then the ones that they tell could tell others and finally it would reach to the farthest corner of the earth and all would know the thrill and power of the gospel."

And Gabriel is said to have replied, "But suppose Peter fails? And suppose after awhile John just doesn't tell anybody? And what if James and Andrew are ashamed or afraid? Then what?"

To which Jesus says, "Gabriel, I haven't made any other plans. I'm totally counting on them."

The background features a large, faint target with a grid pattern. A small, dark object is positioned at the center of the target. The text "Your calling and purpose..." is overlaid on the target.

Your calling and purpose...



"The need for us all to identify both the 'superhero' nature of Jesus—and the 'Jesus' nature of our superheroes—has never been greater. This book makes the relationship between the two undeniable."

JOHN SCHNEIDER

"Jonathan Kent" on the TV series *Smallville*



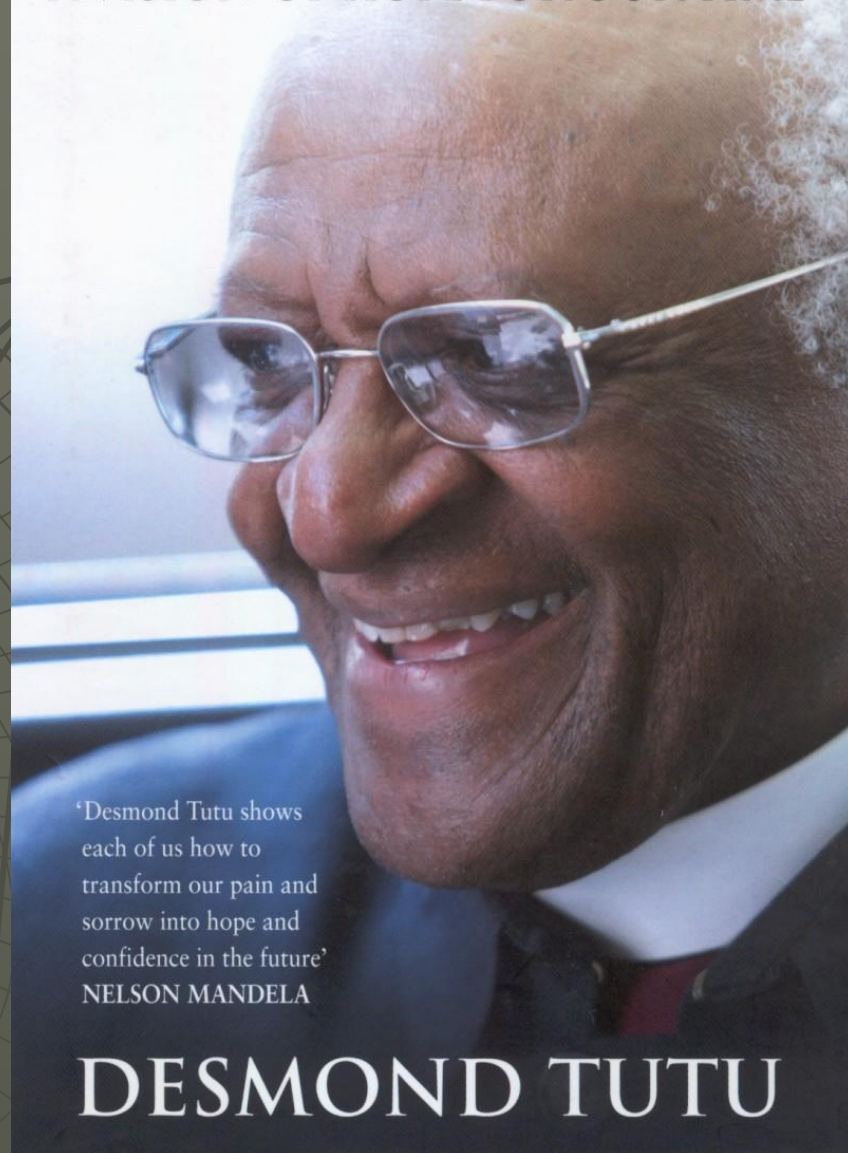
THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHERO

STEPHEN
SKELTON

“God has a dream of a different kind of world, but that world won't happen in a dramatic kind of weak moment. It will happen, because each of us has agreed that we want to help God realize God's dream. We really can make a difference, if we will stand for a little truth and a little goodness; and maybe...have zero tolerance for intolerance. God says, 'I have no one except you - and I believe in you.'”

GOD HAS A **DREAM**

A VISION OF HOPE FOR OUR TIME



‘Desmond Tutu shows each of us how to transform our pain and sorrow into hope and confidence in the future’
NELSON MANDELA

DESMOND TUTU

A faint, grayscale background image of a target with a bullseye. A small pin is stuck into the center bullseye. The target has concentric circles and radial lines, creating a grid-like pattern.

Life's Purpose

Life's Purpose, COL 326

"Christ's followers have been redeemed for service. Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service—service to God and to their fellow men. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ.

The law of service becomes the connecting link which binds us to God and to our fellow men.

"To His servants Christ commits "His goods"—something to be put to use for Him. He gives "to every man his work." Each has his place in the eternal plan of heaven. Each is to work in co-operation with Christ for the salvation of souls.

Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God.

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments."
- Matthew 22:37-40

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
- Matthew 28:19-20

1
WORSHIP
Love the Lord with all your heart

2
MINISTRY
Love your neighbor as yourself

3
EVANGELISM
Go and make disciples

4
FELLOWSHIP
Baptizing them

5
DISCIPLESHIP
Teaching them to obey

How do you discover or re-discover your purpose?

Three simple steps:

Discover It

Embrace It

Share It

God's Original Calling

“Long before He laid down earth's foundations, He (God) had us in mind, had **settled on us as the focus of His love**, to be made whole and holy by His love.

Long, long ago He decided to **adopt us into His family** through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to **enter into the celebration of His lavish gift-giving** by the hand of His beloved Son.”

Ephesians 1:4-6 (The Message Bible)



Do I Realize a Sense of *Calling*?

***Latin *vocare*, to call**

***God calls a person to a
particular task or service**

What a Call Isn't and Is:

- 1. Not an order but a choice**
- 2. Usually via a still, small voice**
- 3. Accompanied by passion**
- 4. Involves sacrifice & suffering**

Intent: To Reconnect, Remember, Recognize the deep impulse, urge, voice (call):

***Callings come in arenas of work,
relationships, lifestyle, spirituality, service***

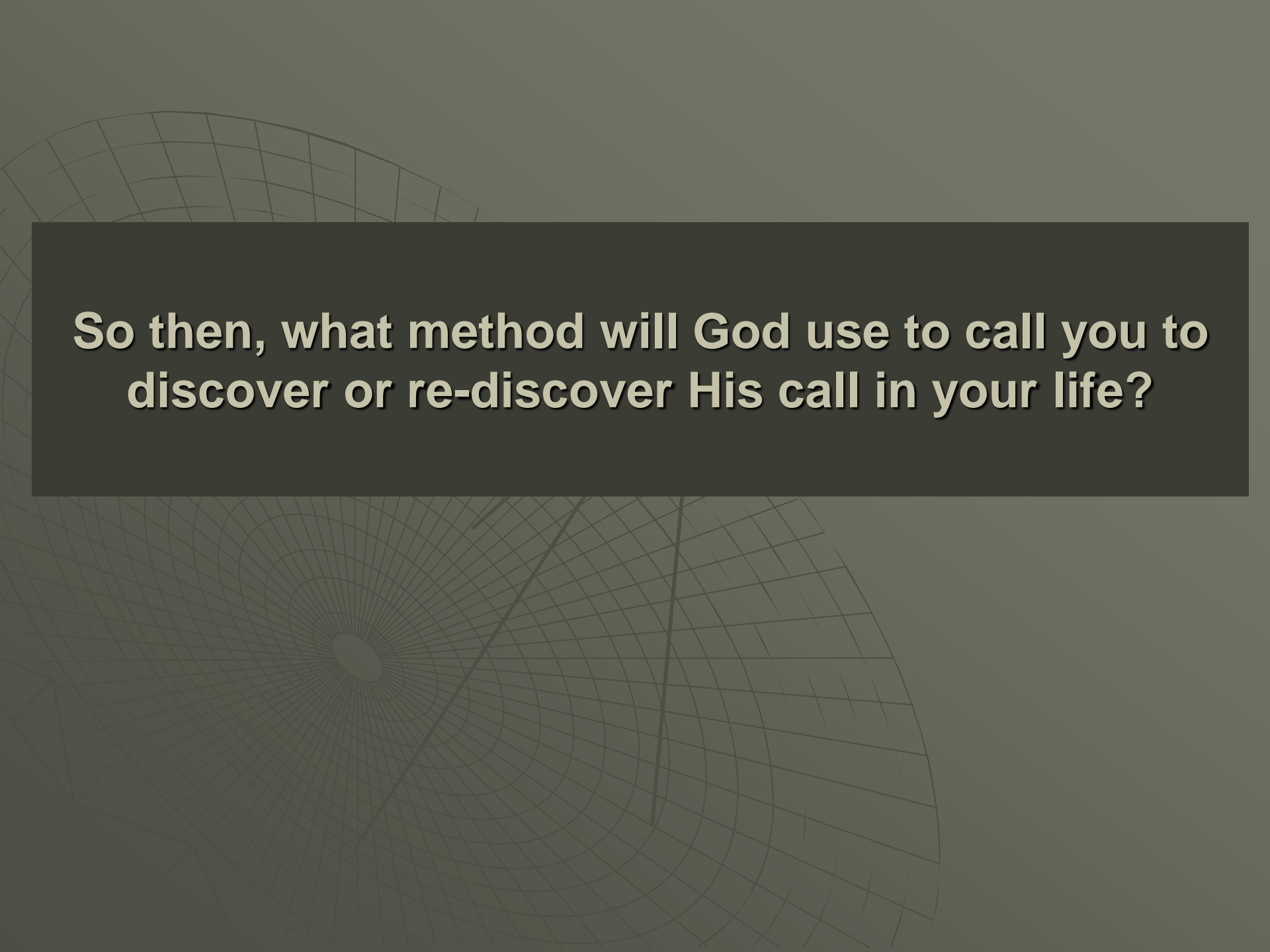
- **Call** to *do* something
 - learn, stretch, relationship, redo
- **Call** to *be* something
 - selfless, loving, forgiving, bold, trust
- **Call** *toward or away from* something
- **Call** to *review or change* something
- **Call** to *dream and attempt* something



What is your still small voice
that whispers, insists. . . ?

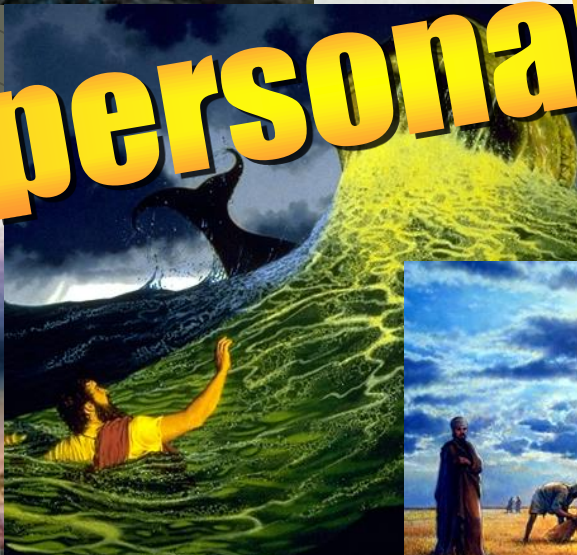


#1 Discover It!

The background of the slide is a dark gray. On the left side, there is a faint, light gray graphic consisting of a grid of lines that curves around a central point, creating a spiral or vortex-like effect. This graphic is partially obscured by a dark gray rectangular box that contains the text.

So then, what method will God use to call you to discover or re-discover His call in your life?

It's a personal issue!





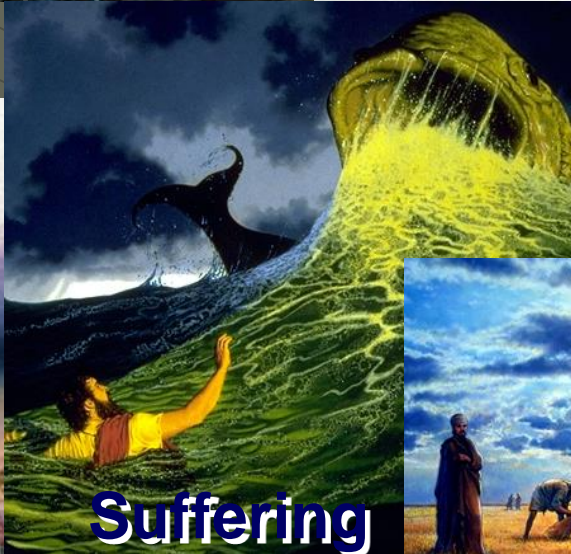
Phenomena



Theophany



Voice



Suffering



Divine Sign



Providence



Inner Urge

- 
- ◆ Only the individual knows to what God is calling him.

Joseph F. Girzone

- ◆ **The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.**

Frederick Buechner

- ◆ The world is to be cleaned by somebody, and you are not called of God if you are ashamed to scrub.

Henry Ward Beecher

- ◆ **To labor for God and for the salvation of souls is the highest and noblest calling that men ever had or ever can have—it affects eternity.**

Ellen G. White

Monologue Must Become a Dialogue

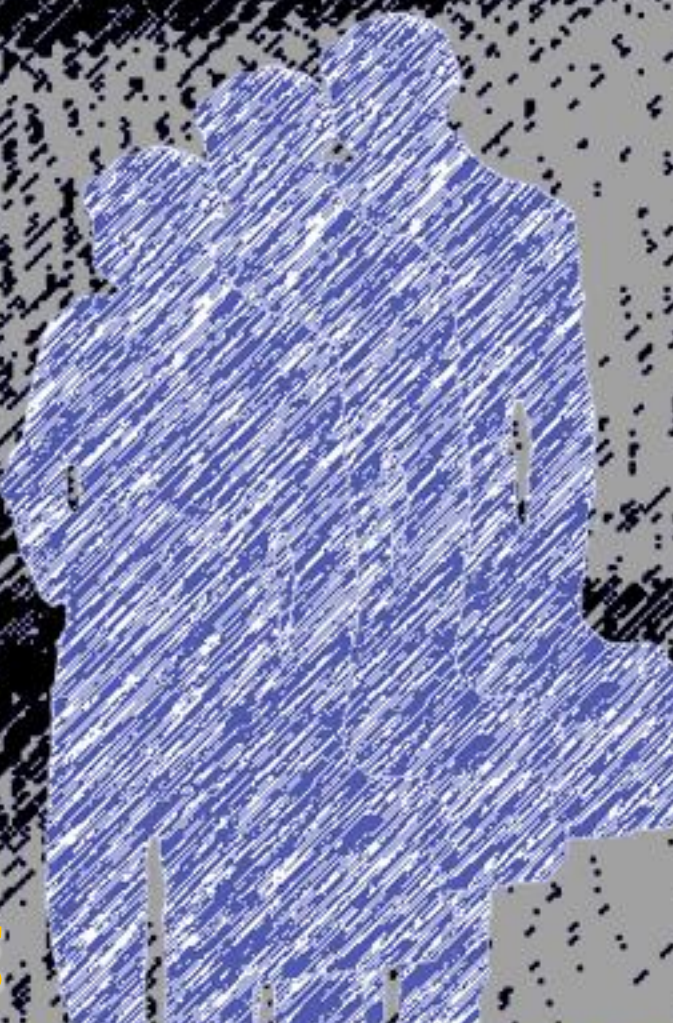
“The purpose of calls is to summon adherents away from their daily grind to a level of awareness, into a sacred frame of mind, into communion with that which is bigger than themselves. . . . Calls, of course, beg the question ‘Who, or what, is calling?’

“Primarily this force announces the need for change, and the response for which it calls is an awakening of some kind. A call is only a monologue. A return call, a response, creates a dialogue.

Our own unfolding requires that we be in constant contact with whatever is calling us. The call and one’s response to it are also a central metaphor for the spiritual life, in the Latin there is a correspondence between the words for *listening* and *following*.

My Destiny to specific task God has placed me on earth to accomplish:

1. tailor made to my unique **talents, gifts**
2. reflects my spiritual **passion**
3. meets a **need** in society God cares about
4. driven by **conviction** to make a difference

- 
- 1) Busyness**
 - 2) Insensitivity**
 - 3) Forgetfulness**
 - 4) Cultural conformity**
 - 5) Discouraging People**
 - 6) Fear and Apprehension**
 - 7) Educational Brainwashing**
 - 8) Apprehension of Suffering**

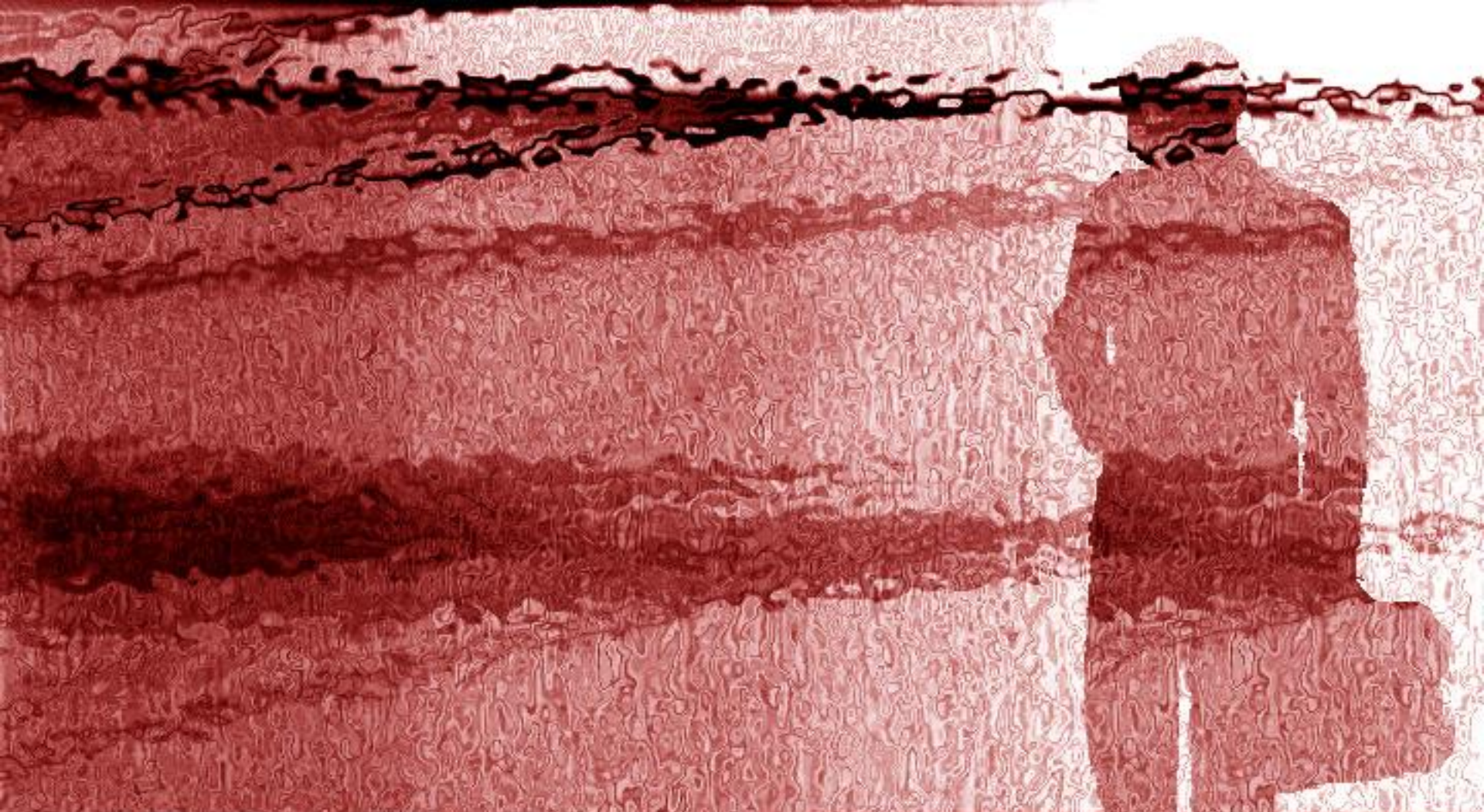
**Post-Modern Culture Works
Against Sense of Calling**

- 
- **Spiritual Impressions**
 - **Physical symptoms**
 - **Recurring Dreams**
 - **Strong Intuitions**
 - **Recurring Counsel**
 - **Principled Ultimatums**
 - **Nagging Problem Areas**
 - **Providential Circumstances**
 - **Decisions Awaiting Solutions**
 - **Preach-able Passions**

**How can one decipher a
call & be sure it is real?**



#2 Embrace It!



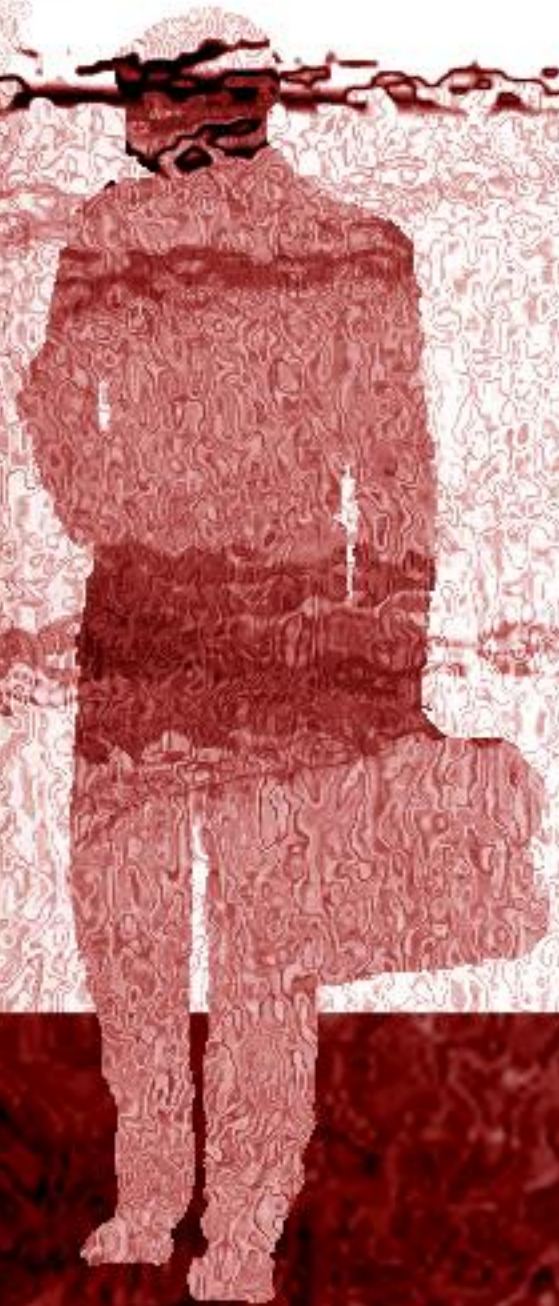
**The SUPREME challenge is
“are you willing to
SACRIFICE for your Call?”**

The Price of a Call

“Perhaps the main reason we ignore calls is that **we instinctively know** the price they’ll exact.

“In order to become authentic, **we’re going to have to give up something dear**: a job, a house, a relationship, a belief, a lifestyle to which we have become accustomed, the prestige of being a big fish in *any* size pond, security, money, precious time, anger at somebody, or just the pleasure of cynicism.”

Calling will include
SACRIFICE



Each time we sacrifice — each time we let go of something, die to an old way of being, relinquish our grip on the fruit—we are practicing for bigger surrenders, eventually what S Peck calls “the final vocation”: growing old gracefully, a tough call, dying.

SACRIFICE—We do so by small surrenders: letting go of a bad mood, making a choice or a compromise, forgiving someone, parting with fear and saying the truth, spending time with the family instead of working late, again.

It may be you'll have to redouble efforts:
Beg, cry, plead with God to cause you to discover
what He has for you . . .

"I won't let go until You bless me!"



**Special
Ministry**

Service

**Scripture
Passion**

Sin Solution

Spiritual Formation

Spouse or

Family Reconciliation

Special BHAG Passion



#3 Share It!

A black silhouette of a person standing and facing right, carrying a bag over their shoulder. The background is a green field with a blue sky.

Recommitting to the Call to Service, then tell it:

- 1. Recommit to God, self, ministry,
Great Commission & Doing Good**
 - 2. Go out for a personal challenge;
nurture your passion—get excited
about life or something (BHAG)**
 - 3. Genuinely reach out to and help...**
 - 4. Create, innovate plans to
reintroduce, reconnect, re-gear to
your immediate constituents**
- Something else . . . Only you can tell!**

Three Things We Can Know . . .

1. YOU ARE IN HIS THOUGHTS: For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord,

2. HIS THOUGHTS ARE POSITIVE: thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

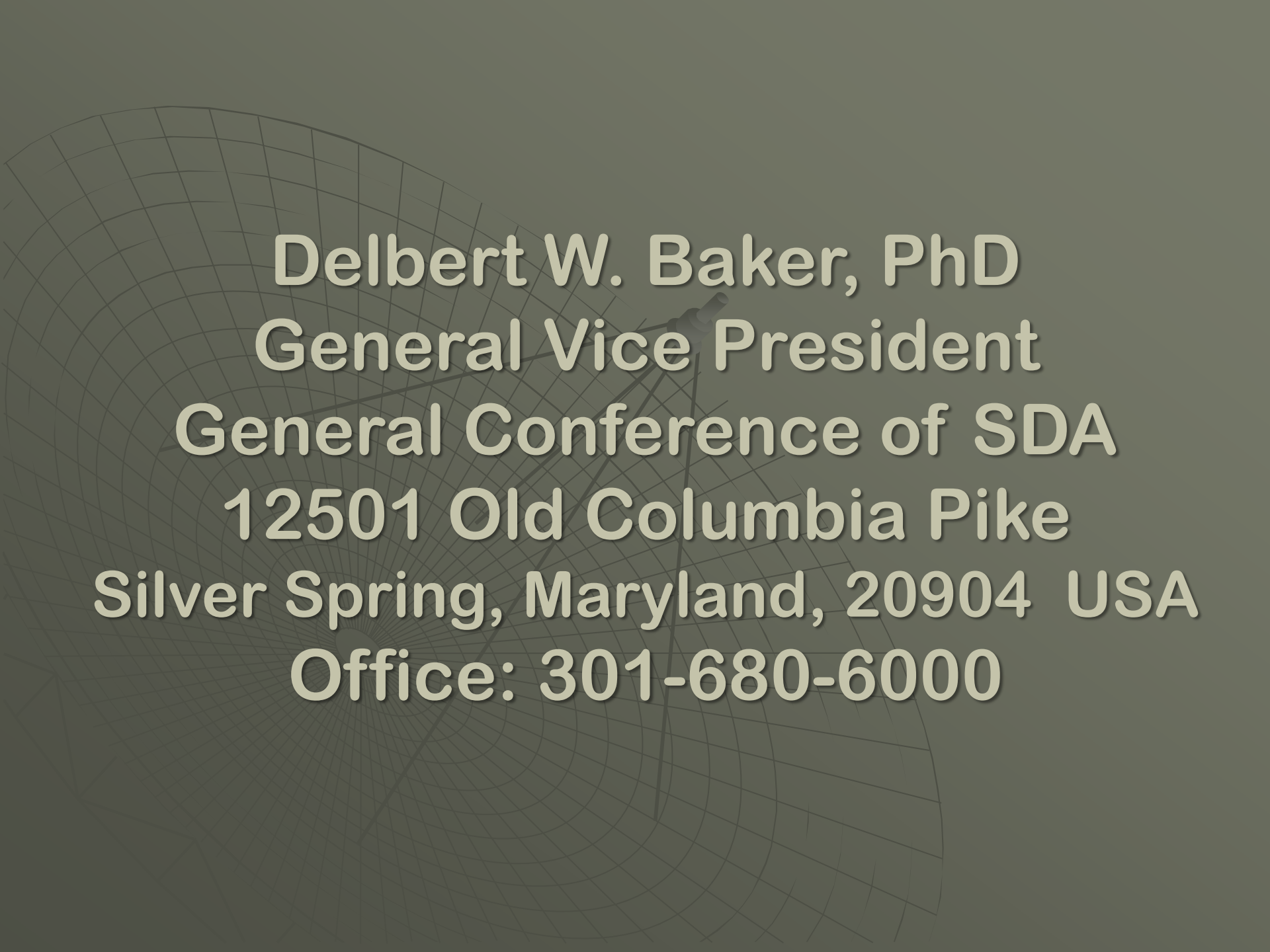
Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)

3. HIS THOUGHT HAVE TO DO WITH PEOPLE: He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

*Oh bless His name and Providence
give Him all the glory and
attention due Him!*

Make a commitment to (re) discover ...



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