

Hear and Follow God's Calling

"Calling is the truth that God calls us to Himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism and direction lived out as a response to His summons and service," from *Rising to the Call* by Os Guinness. The following 11 actions have helped people hear and follow God and His calling.

1. Worship God

There is no calling without a Caller. Take dedicated time to worship, glorify, praise and thank Him. Then as you live and work every day from waking until sleeping, do everything to honor Him.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship ... in the splendor of his holiness.
PSALM 29:2

2. Read and Study the Bible

The Bible is God's authority and our manual for living. Consider it as bread, and feed from it every day. If you have never read the Bible, consider starting with the book of John, Ephesians or Psalms.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.
PSALM 119:105

3. Pray

Be in conversation with God every day, perhaps multiple times during every day. He is always available. Pray for guidance. Read a Psalm as your own personal prayer.

Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. PSALM 143:8

4. Listen to God

Prayer is two-way communication. In a journal, notebook or this Work Book, write thoughts that come to your mind for later reflection and Bible study.

Be still, and know that I am God. PSALM 46:10

5. Be with Christians

Spend time with Christians whom you like and who like you. Study the Bible together. Pray together. Encourage one another. Follow the ABCs of Accountability, Belonging and Care.

...consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. HEBREWS 10:24

6. Seek Wise Counsel

Seek wisdom first from above (James 3:17) and then from other people. Some may be friends. Some may be strangers with whom we talk only once.

Let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. PROVERBS 1:5

7. Consider Circumstances

Be a good steward of the opportunities God gives you. Consider each situation with God in prayer. Always measure your prayer, counsel and unfolding circumstances in light of the truth of the Bible.

Be very careful, then, how you live ...making the most of every opportunity... EPHESIANS 5:15-16

8. Confess and Clear Your Head

A clear head is critical in thinking through options and seeking God's leading. It is easy to become confused, especially if sin is getting in the way. Confess it, and clear it out every day.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us...
1 JOHN 1:9*

9. Be Alert for God's Peace

As you consider various options and paths, be alert for the peace that transcends all understanding, even in the midst of the most chaotic of times.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. PHILIPPIANS 4:7

10. Keep a Journal

Keep track of what you learn from your Bible reading, thoughts you have during prayer, advice you receive from your friends, unfolding circumstances, and things that bring you God's peace.

Thus says the LORD ... "Write all the words which I have spoken to you in a book." JEREMIAH 30:2

11. Trust and Obey

There is no other way! If you think the Lord wants you to do something, and it seems to be in alignment with everything we have been talking about, then do it! If you hear Him, follow Him.

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." JOHN 14:2

God is Calling You

Good news! God, who created the world and everything in it, wants to have a personal relationship with you. He made it possible by His Son paying the price for your sin, the only thing that separates you from Him. By accepting His Son as payment on your behalf, you can have a relationship with the Creator of the universe, starting now and for eternity.

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
JOHN 3:16*

Even in the midst of the agony of defeats, it is possible to experience victories. You can discover that God is good. God is great. Seek Him and His righteousness, and all the other things He has prepared will be added to you. Work out your faith in Him upward, inward and outward. He made you for good works.