

Excerpt from the book entitled: **“WHAT ON EARTH DOES GOD WANT WITH ME?”**

When I started identifying the steps to finding your place in God’s kingdom, I had no idea how many steps would be revealed to me. But, it’s just amazing to me that it ended up being eight, the number in the prophetic code meaning “new beginnings.” How appropriate is that as the answer to the question of “What on earth does God want with me?” He wants and gives each of us a new beginning through His son Jesus Christ. A life in Christ is a new beginning to be saved from eternal damnation for a life of sin. A life in Christ is a new beginning to glorify God through purposeful living.

The scripture reference I Corinthians 14:26 reads: “...Let all things be done unto edifying.” Why should every believer seek after his/her spiritual gifts? Once we have received the gift of salvation, Jesus Christ, he said that he would not have us alone, but will send a Comforter. That Comforter is the Holy Spirit. He is available to every believer. When we walk led by the Spirit, we have the power. The Power is given by the Holy Spirit. That power is to edify, exhort, and comfort the church. In other words, each of us who are led by the Spirit will contribute to the church by helping to strengthen and enlighten, which is to edify. Each of us led by the Spirit will urge and advise other members of the church, which is to exhort. And, we will each comfort other members of the church through our own unique power given by the Holy Spirit.

I now recognize what it means to be a pew member. A pew member is a member who has not activated his/her membership of faith. Once faith is activated, talent is released for abundant living. The scripture tells us that “faith without works is dead.” If your membership card is not activated we simply don’t receive the rewards held by membership. If we don’t work what we believe—let our light (talent) shine—instead of hiding it under a bush—we miss the rewards.

There is a difference in “calling” and “vocation”. Every life has a calling- an action that God has embedded in our soul for us to contribute to the world. To every calling, there must be an expression of response. We respond to the calling with or through a voice that is our chosen vocation (or vocal response).

Vocation is simply the way we choose to respond or express the calling on our lives. When we respond in truth through a vocation suited for our true self, we please God. We prepare ourselves for the world to benefit. Every person’s true self is the gift that God has given us to share in the world for His glory.

The bible scriptures tell us to not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. Now, let’s examine the act of renewing our minds. The word renew in the secular sense refers in some cases to getting a driver’s license renewed. In such a case of renewal, a driver’s license is issued to give a driver the right under the law to operate a vehicle. Once the license is issued the driver has authority and the right to drive in accordance to the laws of driving. But, why does the license have to be renewed? The reason is similar to why our minds have to be renewed. When the driver’s license is originally issued, the driver met the requirements and information about him/her was recorded that made the driver “**identifiable**” to the issuer of the license. Now the similarity to having to renew our minds is also so that we can be “**identifiable**” to God. Originally, God gave man the will to choose in our minds. As man partakes of life in this world, sometimes we fail to choose God’s will for our lives. In choosing our own will over God’s, we travel a path of worldly living till we reach the point that our minds become so distorted from the original mind for God. In such a distorted state of mind, we find ourselves trying to cope with the world’s challenges by conforming to a worldly view. But, there is hope in renewing our minds to become “**identifiable**” to God’s image again. The renewal occurs as we recall the psalmist request ...”create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”