

7 Stages of a Call from God

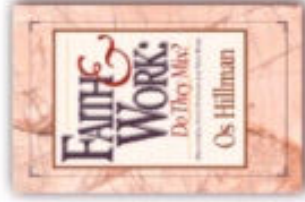
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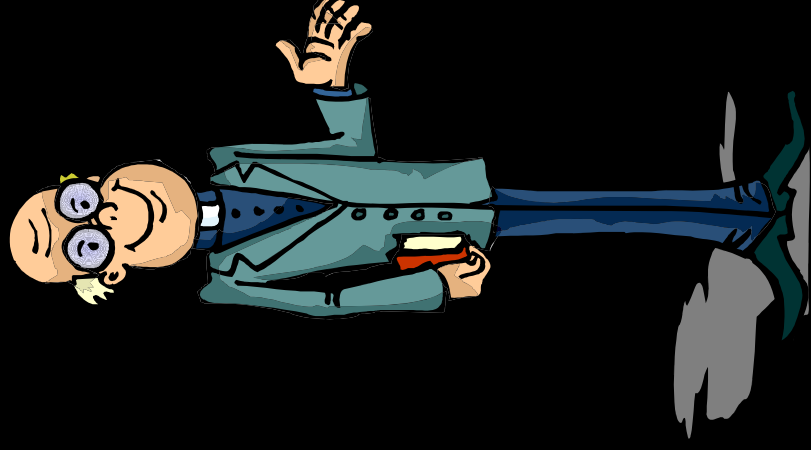
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Revelation 3:20

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”



Genesis 3:10

“And he said, ‘I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked.’”

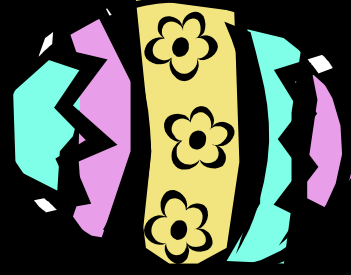


Brief testimony

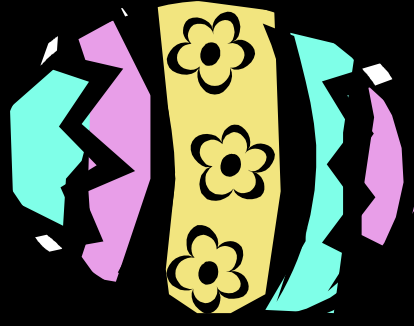
- How I discovered my purpose.
- Brenda
- Os Hillman

“Articulator and pastor of foundational ideas that lead to transformation”

Is Perception Reality?



Can An Egg Fly?



There has to be a Transformation



... from who we are,
to who we are to become.

Do you want to fulfill
the complete purpose
for which God made
you?

Does God have your
permission to do anything
in your life in order to
accomplish it?

Stage 1

What has God called you to do
in your life? Why has
He made you?

We Are First Called to
Someone,
Not Something.

Gospel of Salvation

Convenience

“Bless me Lord”

Reason
&
Analysis

Crisis

“Help Me Lord”

What vs
Why

Conviction

“Have Me Lord”

Gospel of the
Kingdom

“Intimacy with God”

“This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.” 1 John 2:6

To Know Him

Phil 3:10-11

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Apostle Paul

“Intimacy with God”

Extraordinary Call

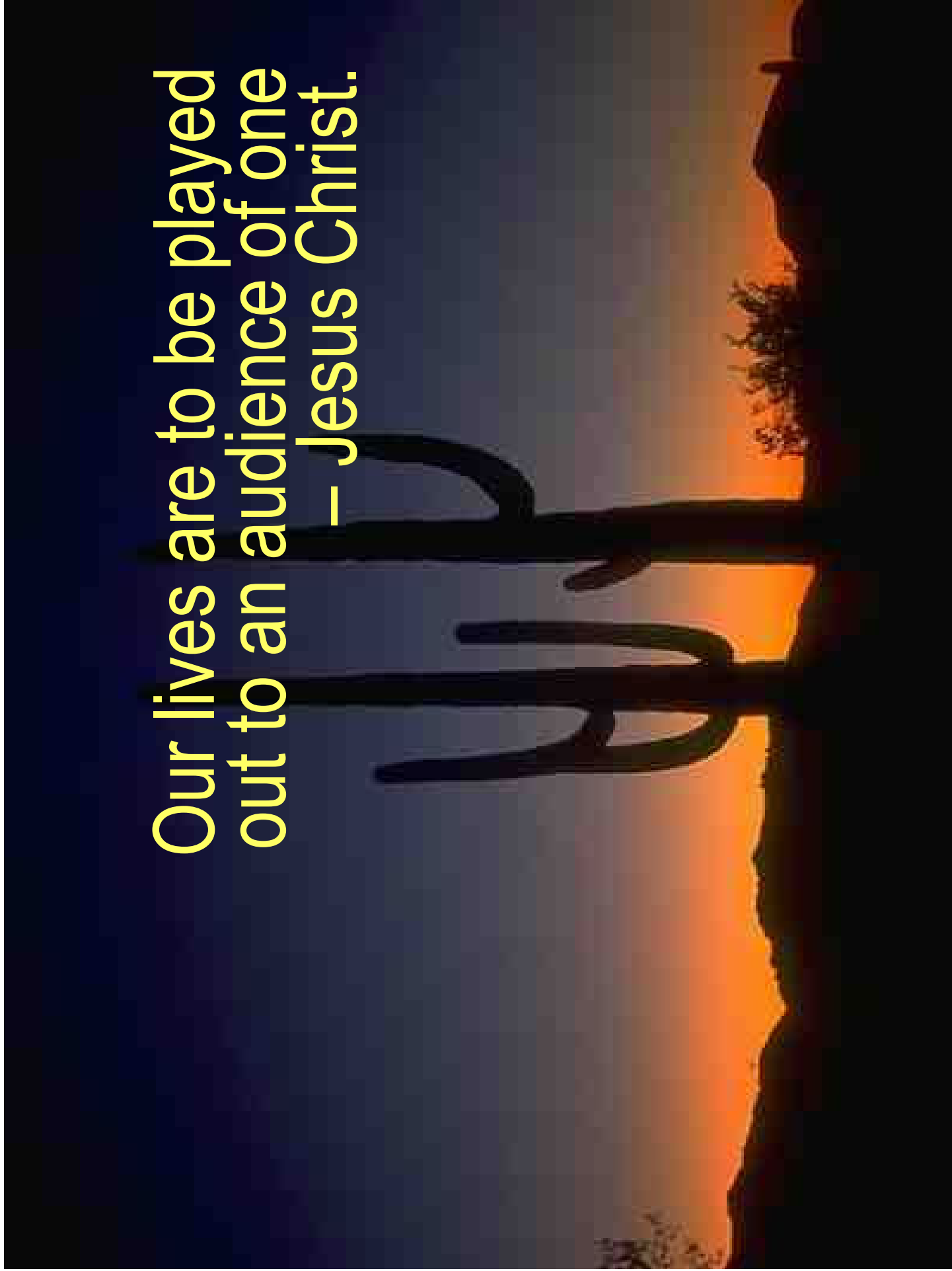
- **There are extraordinary callings in which God comes to an individual and personally calls him to a specific mission for His purposes. Moses, Joseph, Gideon, Jonah, Peter, Paul, Samuel, King Saul, David, etc.**

“When you obey the call of God, the first thing that strikes you is the irrelevancy of the *things you have to do.*”

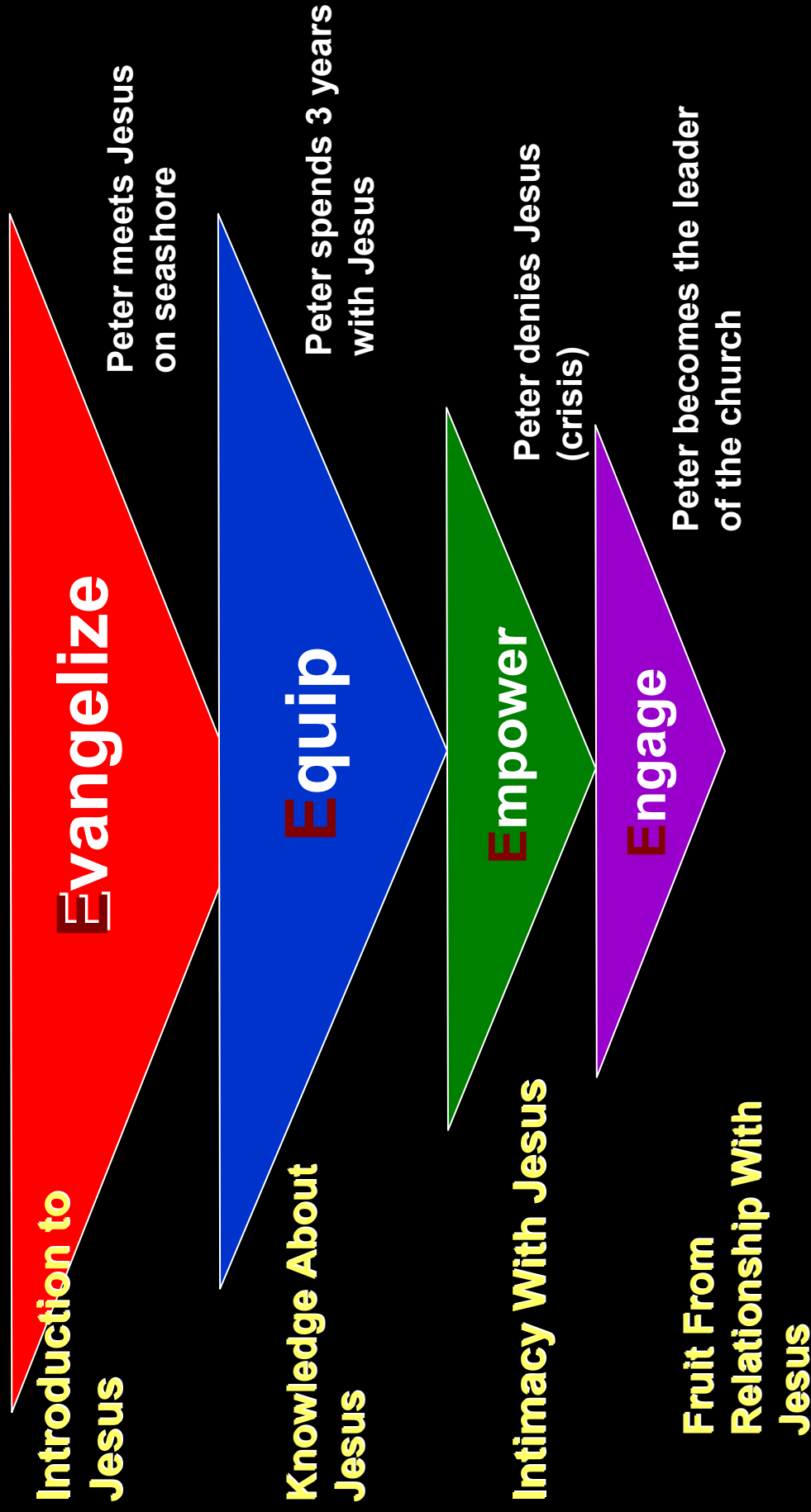
-- Oswald Chambers

It's not **what** you do, it's **how well** you **know** the one who calls.

Our lives are to be played
out to an audience of one
— Jesus Christ.



Primary Phases of A Calling from God



Gospel of the Kingdom

Stage 2 Preparation

“In the beginning we do not train for God, we train for work, for our own aims; but as we go on with God we lose all our own aims and are trained into God’s purpose. Unless practical work is appointed by God, it will prove a curse.”

--- Oswald Chambers

“His doing nothing ‘wonderful’ (his first 30-years) was in itself a kind of wonder.”

-- Saint Bonaventure

**More than 50% of his life as a carpenter.
God is not in a hurry!**

**Most of us will have many jobs
in our preparation.**

Stage 3 Crisis Stage

God's First Step Is Too Get Our Undivided Attention

“God whispers to us in our pleasures,
speaks in our conscience,
but shouts in our pains:
it is His megaphone to
rouse a deaf world.”

– C.S. Lewis, *The Problem With Pain*

**It's a lack of maturity
that forces God to
shout.**

*"If my people would but listen to me,
if Israel would follow my ways,
how quickly would I subdue their
enemies and turn my hand against
their foes!" (Ps 81:13-14)*

“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply.” – A.W. Tozer

“Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him”

Heb 5:7-10

My Story

A vision is often birthed from a crisis

- King Saul, Moses, Paul, Joseph, Jacob, Abraham, Peter
- Turn the Valley of Achor (trouble) into a door of hope – Hosea 2:15
- Depth & width of your “faith experiences” is often proportional to the *level* of call upon your life.

1994

Vision

God's method always seems to be vision first and then reality, but in between the vision and the reality there is often a deep valley of humiliation.

Abraham -- "and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him."
Genesis 15:12

Perception vs Reality

“At times it appears as if God
has not only forsaken His
Word, but has deliberately
deceived us.” – *Oswald Chambers*

- Moses' call to deliver Israel from Egyptians

Ex 10:1-2 Then the LORD said to Moses,
"Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his
heart and the hearts of his officials so
that I may perform these miraculous
signs of mine among them that you may
tell your children and grandchildren how I
dealt harshly with the Egyptians and how
I performed my signs among them, and
that you may know that I am the LORD."

Goal of this Process: Death that leads to Life

Death to self first, then our own vision,
so God's vision can come forth.

Goal of the Christian life is not change,
it's death!

Romans 6:1-8

“If we died with Christ, we believe we will also live
with him....”

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his
saints. ...you have freed me from my chains.”

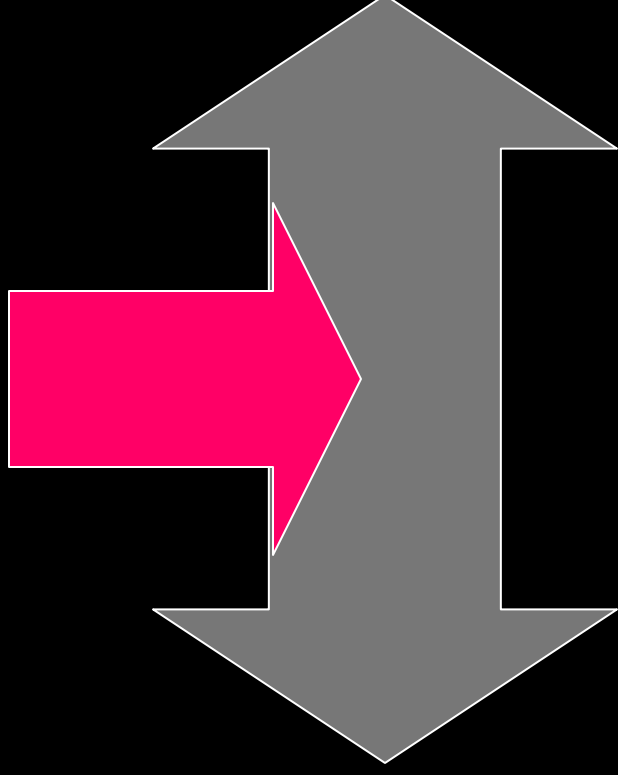
Psalms 116:15,16

- “No matter what revelations God has made to you, there will be destitution so far as the physical apprehension of things is concerned. God gives you a revelation that He will provide: then He provides nothing, and you begin to realize that there is a famine—of food, or of clothes, or money—and your common sense says, ‘Abandon your faith in God.’”

Oswald Chambers

This Stage Creates a Crossroads

Crisis



Victim

Victor

“..what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.” Phil. 1:12

If our testimony is weak, it is because we have gone through no crisis with God; there is no heartbroken emotion behind it.

It is essential to go through a crisis with God which costs you something; otherwise, your devotional life is not worth anything. You cannot be profoundly moved by doctrine; you can only be profoundly moved by devotion.”

Circumcision
is painful,
bloody, and
personal.

“If we imagine we have any strength apart from God, we will have to break the neck of our strength over some obstacle before we are willing to rely upon Him. Our own strength is the backbone of the natural life, but not the life of God. There will be a wobble in our walk of faith until the vision of faith and the reality are one and the same.”

Oswald Chambers

The Broken Oak Tree

“They will be called
oaks of righteousness, a
planting of the Lord, for
the discipline of His
pleasure.

Isa. 61:3



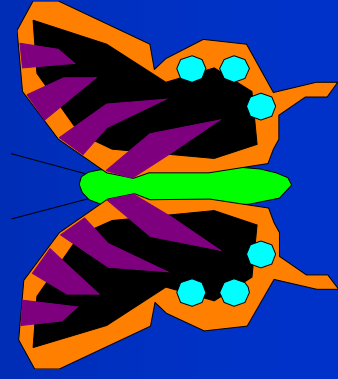
God's Timing for Deliverance

“When we are in the place of the valley, our temptation is to seek to deliver ourselves. We must be careful not to deliver ourselves before it is time. This requires spiritual maturity to learn the difference between **self-deliverance** and **God's deliverance** of us. Otherwise, we may miss the supernatural deliverance He has planned for our lives.” ie. Moses

Life is a series of “Red Sea” experiences for the person of faith to frame our life message. \$20k

The Process of the Struggle is God's Method of Training

- A caterpillar was made to fly.
- He cannot fly until there is a death to his old way.
- It is the very process of the struggle to gain freedom from the cocoon that insures He will fly. God has made you and me to “fly” spiritually.



My Skill vs His Power?

“You almost have to withhold your natural gifting to insure God is in it.”

-- Gunnar Olson

“Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over
the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.

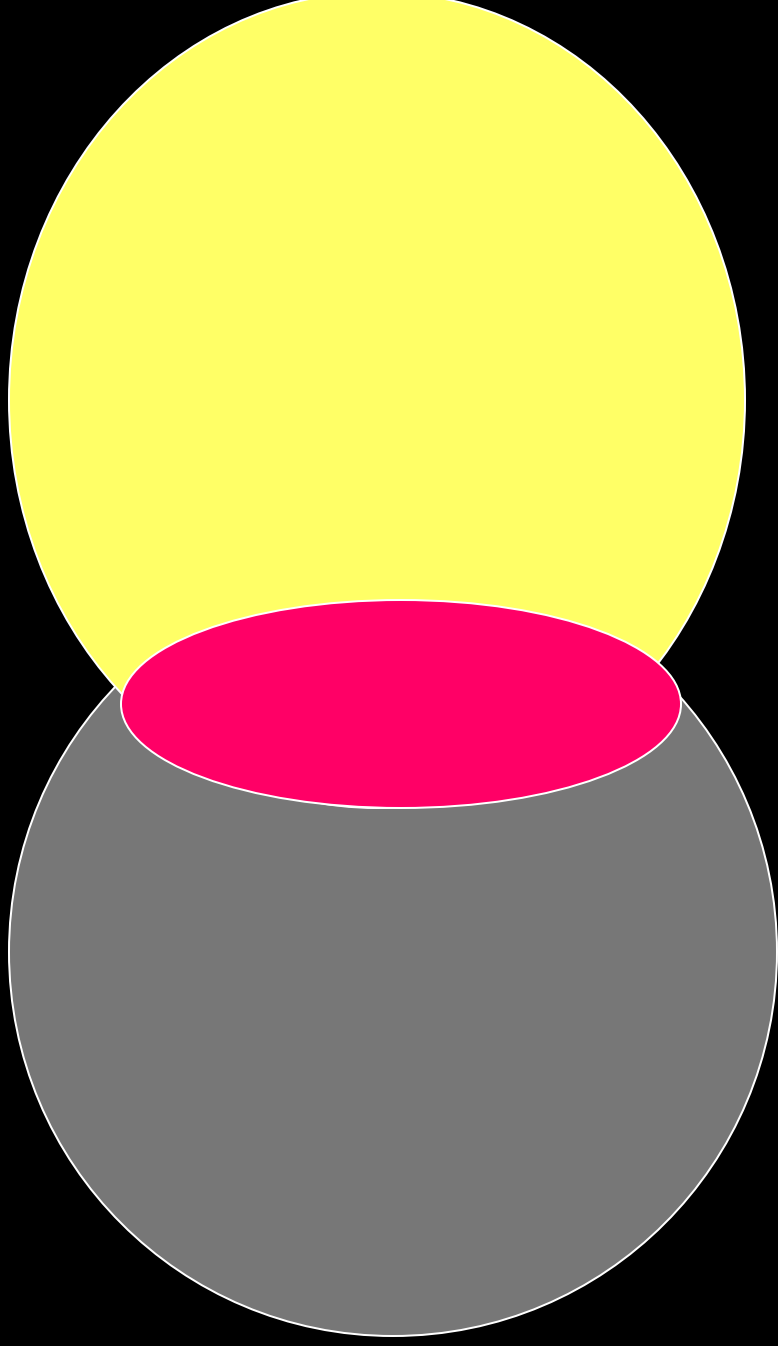
In vain you rise early and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—
for he grants sleep
to those he loves.”

Ps 127:1-2

Romans 8:14 Christian? Integrated or Segmented?

My Skill

His Power



“Those led by the Spirit are sons of God...”

My Skill vs His Power

“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”

1 Cor. 2:4

**“Beware of the Christian leader
who does not walk with a limp.”**

- Bob Mumford

Humility is a major requirement of the life God uses. You can get it voluntarily or involuntarily.

Stage 4

God Tests Your Call.

We must avoid *helping* God
fulfill the vision He has for our life.

“Much of modern Christian
enterprise is ‘Ishmael.’ Born not of God,
but of an inordinate desire to do

God’s will in our own way –
the one thing our Lord never did.”

Oswald Chambers

“Many of us do not go on in our spiritual life because we prefer to choose what is *our right* instead of relying upon God to *choose for us.*”

Reason and analysis vs Spirit-led obedience

Still living in a “Greek system” based on knowledge & reason alone. Faith is spelled **“R I S K.”**

Satan Attacks the Place of Our Inheritance.

- Relationships
- Abraham was promised land. Lot appeared to choose the better land. Mamre – “place of strength”
- Requires entrusting ourselves to God. Often requires “suicidal faith”

Unity in relationships is a high priority in God's economy.

Stage 5

Personal Revelation of Your Call Through Signs and Wonders

God's call on your life is
confirmed by God & others.

- Cyprus Trip
- “Omar”

A Workplace Call for Many of You

- Avodah “work is worship”
- “Full time” Christian work, “In the ministry”
- Secular vs sacred – all of life is sacred
- Transform your workplace for Christ

Jesus & the Workplace

- 132 Public Appearances of Jesus, 122 were in the marketplace
- Of 40 miracles in Acts, 39 in marketplace
- 70% of our time is in the workplace – homemaker, executive, office, construction
- Church leadership often trains us to do **THEIR** ministry instead of **OUR** ministry in the marketplace.

4 Types of Christians in the Workplace

1. Surviving only, defeated
2. Living by Christian principles
3. Led by the power of the Holy Spirit
4. Transforming their workplace for Christ

Ed Silvoso, *Anointed for Business*

“Hello, I am
Dr. Glover,
a servant of
Jesus Christ
masquerading
as a dentist.”



Taxi-cab Driver Transforms His Workplace

- Joe, a taxi-cab driver in Philippines—salvation
- Looked for qualified sinner.
- Befriended bartender – homosexual, pimp – came to Christ. sinner. Went to bar and drank a Coke
- 35 prostitutes came to Christ
- Small group Bible study in bar
- Owner got saved
- Bar became a church
- 10 cell groups in the neighborhood formed

★ Source: *Anointed for Business*, Ed Silvano, p.118

Stage 6

The Fruitful Stage *The Promised Land*

Provision Resulting from Obedience

“So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.”

Josh 24:13

NY venture capitalist

Receiving From God

And David knew that the Lord had established him as king over Israel and that his kingdom had been highly exalted for the sake of his people Israel.

1 Chronicles 14:2

“A man can receive only what God gives him.” - John 3:27

Transformed Paradigm Regarding Provision

God's provision is not dependant on "work" – but obedience to what He has called you to do. Provision follows obedience.

Stage 7:

Result - God Elevates Those Who Obey Him

“So David's fame spread throughout every land, and the LORD made all the nations fear him.”

1 Chron 14:17-15:1

“Spiritual Authority”

“Fruitful Relationship with God”

Can We Can Say We Fulfilled The Work God Gave Us To Do?

“I have brought you glory on
earth by completing the work
you gave me to do.”

John 17:4-5

- Jesus



Mr. Marketplace -

March 9, 2001

Last year I bought my husband Today God Is First after I talked to you on the phone about what might be most helpful to him. At the time he was going through a real wilderness experience, with both his family and business. He told me after he started using it that it's the best devotional he's ever used, considering that he is both a family man and a businessman. So I've given it for gifts since then, and sent copies last month to both President Bush and Vice President Cheney, along with a note letting them know that we pray for them every day.



Well today –while I was out doing errands!o(–a woman from Vice President Cheney’s office called our house and told my husband thank you, and how nice the Vice President thought it was that we sent the book. Our number is unlisted, and I guess I thought it would have been something if we had even gotten a pre-fab snail-mail note. So -- that was pretty amazing! I don’t know if the Vice President’s using it every day, but he got it and saw it as a positive gift.

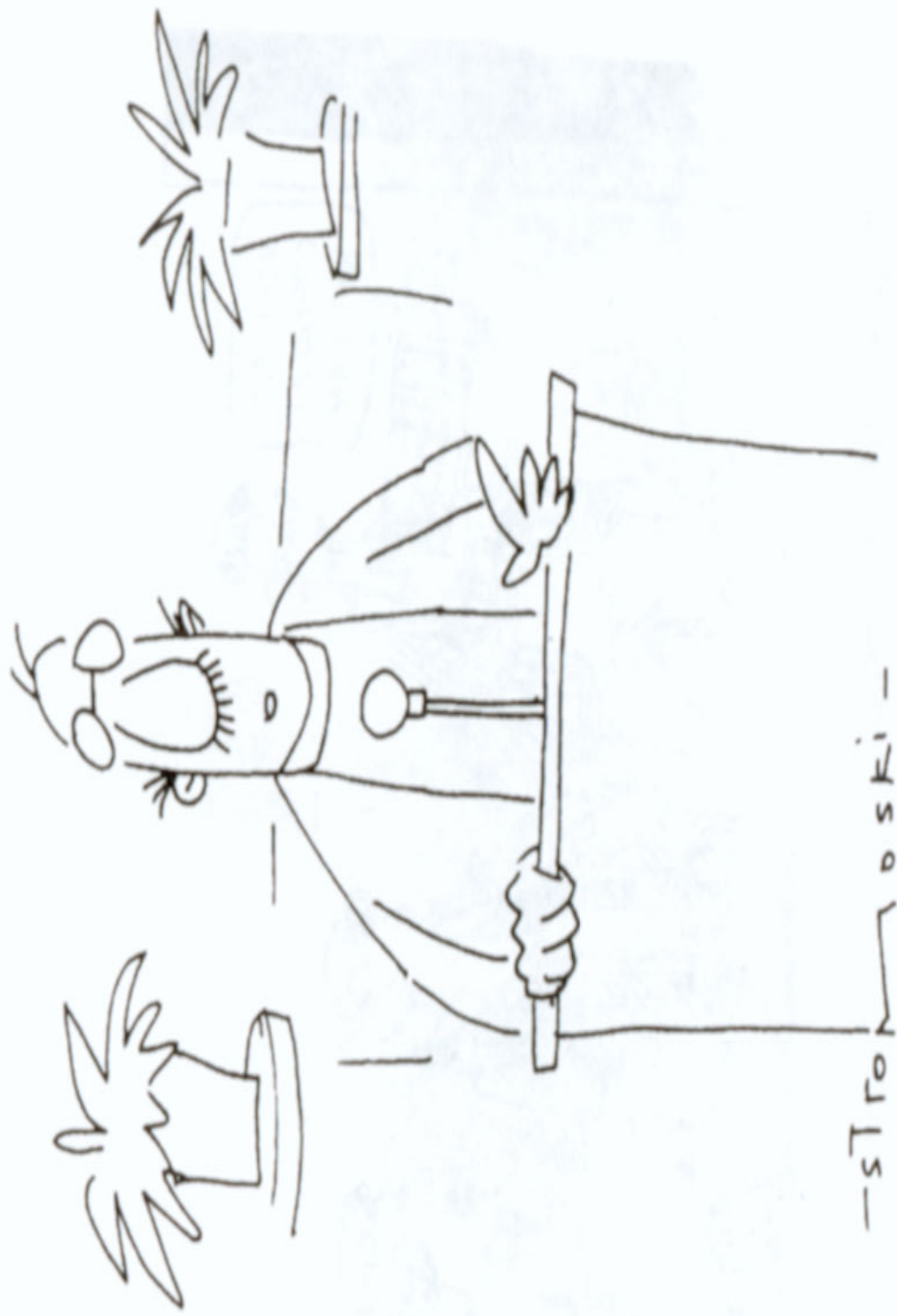
I thought it might encourage you to know.

Blessings to you and and your ministry... BW, Arlington, WI

Are You Willing for God to Do Whatever It Takes To Fulfill His Purposes in Your Life?

- Give him permission
- Take the next step
- Salvation, acceptance of your current circumstance, obedience to your call.

Prayer



“And after the services we hope you’ll join us for coffee, cappuccino, decaf cappuccino, double decaf cappuccino, latte, latte mocha, mocha java, double mocha decaf . . .”

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Reason and analysis vs Spirit-led obedience

Still living in a “Greek system” based on knowledge & reason alone. Faith is spelled **RISK.**

Gospel of the Kingdom

- China project
- Benin, Africa
- Almolonga, Guatemala