



## SESSION 4 | FREEDOM IS SURRENDER

Have you surrendered to the call of God on your life?

“God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.” It’s people like us that turn the world upside down! (See the calling of Moses [ex 3] & Jeremiah [Jer 1])

### THE 3 – FOLD CALLING OF THE BELIEVER

#### 1. Internal Calling:

To grow in love. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God wholeheartedly and your neighbor as yourself. The forward thrust of all the Scriptures lead us to a place of inward spiritual maturity, flourishing in untainted love. (we all have the same internal calling) Matt. 22:36-40

#### 2. External Calling:

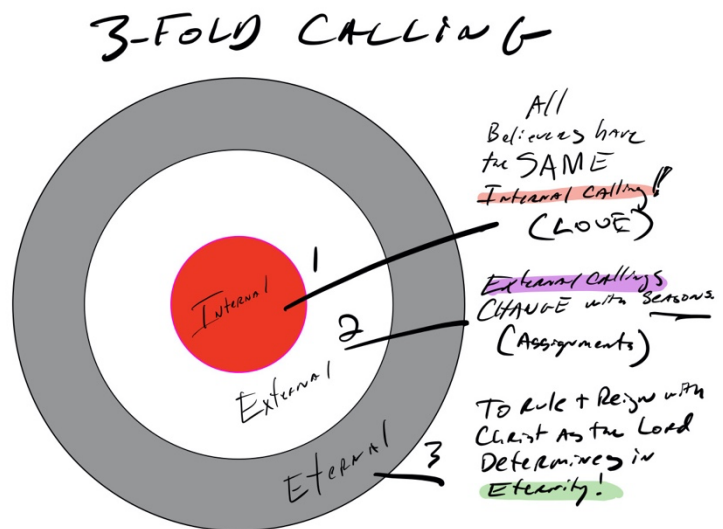
These are specific assignments the Lord gives us. Much of our eternal destiny is contingent on our faithfulness to temporary assignments in this life. (We do not all have the same external calling, though we may enjoy the partnership with others who do for seasons in our journey) Eph. 2:10

*“Life is the internship for eternity” – Mike Bickle*

#### 3. Eternal Calling:

This is our destiny that will play out unceasingly in the ages to come. Temporary assignments will play a role in shaping us for our eternal destiny in Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11-14, Matt. 16:27)

*NOTE: David was called for an assignment because David was available. His heart was already “after God’s” before God was after him for a specific purpose.*



#### FREEDOM VALUE: MISSIONAL

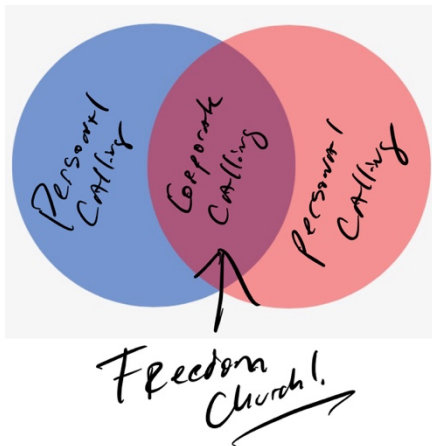
At Freedom, our faith looks like something! We are here to grow in love and to make disciples of Christ! You only have to be one step in front of another to lead!

Read: Matt 28-16-2



## FINDING YOUR PLACE

We all want to know where our place is. “Is there room for me?” “Is there a place I can serve?” “How can I give back what God has given me?” These are all valid questions when joining a church or new ministry environment! We all have a personal calling and a corporate calling. (a calling to contribute to a church body) These roles will intersect at various levels depending on the season we are in! It’s our personal callings together that make up a corporate calling of a local church! (1 Cor. 12:12-27)



Several factors determine how our corporate calling in a local body is expressed.

- The season of life & ministry we are in
- Our personal gifts & callings
- The discretion of spiritual governance (elders & leadership)
- Our spiritual & emotional maturity
- Relational equity built over time
- Our adaptation to a ministry environment & culture

## PROMOTIONAL CULTURE vs. RELATIONAL CULTURE

**IN A RELATIONAL CULTURE, THE PATH TO EMPOWERMENT STARTS WITH HONOR!**

### HONOR

Honor is the foundations for all our relationships in expanding the work of the Kingdom together. To have a “culture of honor” means we honor Christ in one another and we honor the authority given to those by Christ. When there is a breakdown in honor, there is a breakdown in relationships. Are we honoring those in authority?

### TRUST

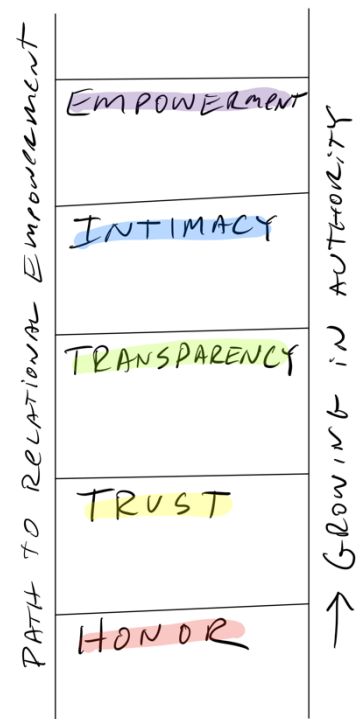
Trust takes time. To build trust means faithfully walking out assignments with honor. Jesus said, “be faithful with the little, and you will be given much.” Are we demonstrating trustworthiness in our responsibilities?

### TRANSPARENCY

Transparency in our relationships is key to growing in spiritual authority. We must relate to those who are empowering us honestly with a willingness to be vulnerable when appropriate.

### INTIMACY

Like trust, intimacy takes time. Fight a few battles for the Kingdom together with another believer and you learn each other quickly. Being known and knowing one another is imperative to





preserving unity. It's not necessarily organization or position that can thrive during challenges, it's relationship.

## EMPOWERMENT

Jesus released ambassadors to the nations, or Apostles. These were men who had spent time with Him, seen Him minister and were able to represent or "re-present" Him to the world. While each Apostle had their own unique gift to bring to the church, they were all empowered by the Holy Spirit to represent Jesus.

## FINDING YOUR PLACE THROUGH INTEGRITY

If you are **ANOINTED** and **GIFTED** but have difficulty finding your place of ministry, it may be an **INTEGRITY** problem!

**INTEGRITY** (by grace) is what shows up under pressure. (strong or weak) It is what sustains the anointing on your life and ensures that it is operating for the benefit of Christ's body. Our perseverance, effectiveness and influence grows over time as we allow God to strengthen "our" integrity.

Some **PRACTICAL AREAS OF INTEGRITY** to become aware of as we are growing:

**1. KEEPING COMMITMENTS.** Our priorities set our commitments, but they shouldn't cause us to break our word. The Holy Spirit will never inspire you to break your word. If we are overcommitted, we need to do less (change our commitments where there is opportunity to be released) and keep our word. It's better to do 25% at 100% than be overcommitted.

### 2. Similar to number 1, **LET YOUR "YES BE YES"**

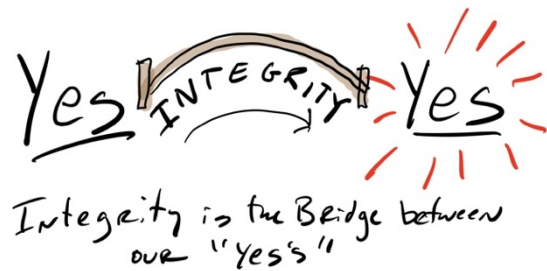
There is always a person, or people behind your "Yes." If Yes then becomes "No" too often, you will find yourself closing doors of opportunity to serve the body and in the workplace. Integrity is the bridge between our Yeses.

**3. HONOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY.** We don't like this one, especially in our modern culture of broken families

and inflated egos, but honor is a valuable currency in the Kingdom of God. We always honor the position; however, honor grows as we give leaders permission to lead us. Like Bob Dylan sang, "You gotta serve somebody." (Which is a good lead in to number 4....)

### WHAT I LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL LEADER – Pastor Richy Clark

1. Are they bearing spiritual fruit?
2. Are they willing to empower and promote others?
3. Are they already functioning as a leader "for free?"
4. Are they easily offended or gracious with others? (emotionally mature)
5. Do they make others feel welcomed?
6. Are they servant-hearted or ambition driven?
7. How do they serve under pressure?
8. Do they keep their commitments?
9. Are they easily susceptible to spiritual warfare and oppression?
10. Do they represent the Kingdom well on social media and before the lost?
11. Do they have a dynamic devotional life with Jesus?
12. Have they had time to build relational trust with the church & leadership?





**4. SHOW UP TO SERVE** not to be served. Sound familiar? YES, it's the best leader, JESUS, showing us the way. (Matt 20:28) When our place of ministry is about our identity or people finally discovering our gifting, we may lead in the opposite spirit of Christ. While we are all growing in this and God is so gracious, our gifting is for the edifying of the BODY, not the inflating of self. Don't limit your service by waiting for the "big stage" or to be "discovered." The heart of Christ in the believer says "Just put me anywhere Lord, let me love your people."

In the Kingdom of GOD, we never grow out of serving, we always grow into greater servitude.

**5. PICK A LANE** and do it well for a season. (I.e. beyond a few weeks) PERSERVERANCE was such a sought after attribute in the early church that James says we should "Count it all Joy in trails" because we get PERSEVERANCE on the other side!

Maybe the breakthrough was at week 17 but you quit at week 16 of your new initiative.

*"Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You." Psalms 25:21*

≡ SEE HANDOUT REGARDING THE FREEDOM LIGHTHOUSE VISION ≡

**Q1: Have you surrendered your life to following Jesus? If so, tell us about it.**

**Q2: Do you have a spiritual mentor? If not, what is your plan to find one?**

## WE NEED YOU!



### CONNECT >

You can love the worship or the preaching, but without a connection, most visitors never go deeper in discipleship! Here are some ways you can make a connection!

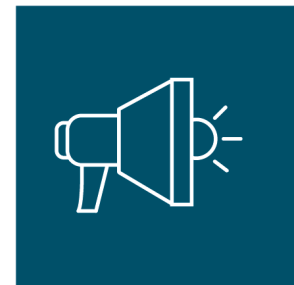
- Visit a LIGHTHOUSE!
- Teens, Attend Freedom Youth on Wednesday Nights! (6:30)
- Visit our Women's Weekly Brunch & Bible (Re-opening soon!)
- Visit our new "School of the Spirit" & House of Prayer beginning in Feb.



### GROW >

Healthy things grow, and growing things change! We are committed to seeing you grow into your full potential in Christ! Here are some ways you can actively grow!

- Enroll in Freedom Discipleship Training (8 weeks)
- Join a Spirit-Filled Bible Training Course (6 weeks)
- Join a neighborhood LIGHTHOUSE!
- Sign up for a Specialized Care Group (Seasonal) & MORE



### GO! >

To be "friends of God" means we do what He does! Serving is actually part of our growing! "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few" Here are some ways to serve!

- Serve in our Freedom KIDS Ministry
- Lead or Host a LIGHTHOUSE or SALT STUDY!
- Join our Altar Ministry Team
- Volunteer for Special Events & Services
- Join our Sound & Media Ministry Team & MORE

### QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BECOME A MEMBER. HAVE YOU...?

- ✓ Been reconciled to any broken relationships at a previous church?
- ✓ Forgiven those that may have wounded you in a previous church experience?
- ✓ Are you displaying fruits of "repentance" in your life?
- ✓ Given your life to Christ or been "born again?"
- ✓ Been water baptized?
- ✓ Do you have a grasp of the Gospel of Salvation through faith in Jesus?