



**Collbran Congregational Church**

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**Collbran Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
PO Box 160  
Collbran Colorado 81624**

**To Contact Pastor Bryant  
Church: 970-487-3349  
Mobile: 970-274-6846  
E-Mail: [nsoulr@gmail.com](mailto:nsoulr@gmail.com)**

# SO YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOUR 'CALLING' IS

*4 Things to Remember When You're Not Sure What You're Supposed to Do with Your Life.*

By Jimmy Fabrizio

I learned a lot while attending a Christian liberal arts college. One of the biggest things was that the millennial generation, their unique challenges notwithstanding, could change the world.

The first time I heard this I was inspired, but what started as inspiration began to build into anxiety. Words like "calling" and "vocation" sound great until you realize you don't know yours. I felt like I had to figure out how I would change the world forever, how I would make my mark. But several years of walking in all sorts of wrong directions taught me a few things that are important to remember when you're not sure what your calling is.

## Discovering Our Calling takes Time

There is just no way around this. Patience and perseverance have to become defining attributes of our journey to find our calling. Sure, there are the people out there who knew they were going to be missionaries from the first time they saw a map (and even they have to wait and prepare), but for the vast majority of us, it takes more time.

We have to learn new things, grow up, build community, work at Starbucks, drop out of Grad school or take our first graphic design class before we start to have an idea of what we want to do. We have to consider our talents and passions and seek out wisdom. And when we do start to figure it out, we may have to come to terms with the fact that our place in the process might look a little bit more like making someone's day by brewing an incredible cup of coffee rather than revolutionizing the whole industry through fair-trade initiatives, (but more on that later).

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CALLING.

## Other People's Callings Look Really Good

Sometimes we don't want to take the time to figure out where we are specifically gifted. We want to change the world and do it now. So we let the pressure get to us and we look to other people's callings for answers.

It's like if you are walking through a crowd of people trying to figure out which direction you are supposed to be going: Rather than taking the time to stop, reflect, pray and figure it out, you just start wandering. Inevitably, you began bumping into people who know where they are going and are focused in that direction. Upon meeting them and hearing where and why they are going, you become so excited about their calling and idea that you assume that identity. You walk in that same direction, towards that same thing, and it feels good and right.

I can't even tell you how many times I "knew" my life calling so assuredly only to figure out I just wasted months or years walking in the wrong direction. I was going to open up a one-of-a-kind music venue, I was going to plant a church, I was going to be in a band. None of these, though great things in

and of themselves, were things to which I felt particularly drawn or areas in which I was especially gifted.

When we don't take the appropriate time to find out what we love and what we are good at, we will just throw ourselves at exciting things for the wrong reasons. We will miss out on the real things we are meant to do and the people we are called to meet and influence. It might be great for a while, but it fades and we are left still wondering where we are called to go.

## **We are Called to Live in Our Present Context**

No matter how long it takes us to figure out our calling or how many miles we walk in the wrong direction, one thing remains the same: We are always called to live in the present.

Changing the world doesn't always look like what we want it to, and it rarely happens in our time frame. When it comes down to it, whether we figure out our place in the world tomorrow or we never quite figure it out at all, we are called to faithfully love and to patiently work.

It isn't always easy to see how entering data into a spreadsheet or driving a taxi around the city should be done lovingly. But it isn't always easy to see how writing a book or preaching a sermon should be done lovingly either.

And that is the point. No matter the situation or the place we find ourselves in, we all have tasks at hand in the present and all of those tasks matter in changing the world, whether they are things we always pictured ourselves doing or things we do to simply pay the bills and survive. So while we might always have bigger dreams and goals for the future, we likely won't get there if we don't learn how to live well now.

WHETHER WE FIGURE OUT  
OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD  
TOMORROW OR WE NEVER  
QUITE FIGURE IT OUT AT ALL,  
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## **It's Not Supposed to be Easy**

It's hard. It just is. But I have found that there are some things that can help us through the process. First, we can talk about it. Having a group of people with whom you can discuss your dreams, ideas, frustrations and disappointments with is incredibly valuable. It provides space for processing, for encouragement and for people to tell you when you are about to do something stupid.

Also, we can learn to take advantage of situations in ways that connect to our bigger goals. If you want to be an author but are working in retail, start a blog about your experience. If you want to start a band but you want to finish college first, have shows on campus and start networking with the marketing majors. God honors our stewardship, and your faithfulness in cultivating the calling you want to pursue through mundane times will not only make those times bearable and important, it will reap rewards in the future.

Finally, remind yourself of who you are to God. Whatever your current situation or calling, you are a child of the King. Sometimes, the most refreshing things we can hear as we pursue our life calling is the reassurance from God that He loves us, that He notices our faithfulness, that He redeems wasted time, and that He is using us now and preparing us for later, whether we see it or not.

*(Reprinted from RELEVANT ~ The Magazine on Faith, Culture and Intentional Living, June, 12, 2014)*

Several council members met with the representatives from Belfor Restoration. We had received the final bill from the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 water damage claim. We went over the bill and looked at the repairs that were made. Belfor is to send all information to our insurance company. Our representative will be contacting us with final settlement details.

Jumping for joy is good exercise !

Pleasure can be found in the worlds ordinary miracles. ( Like the morning songs of the birds. The brightness of the flowers and skies after a small shower, and so many more things. )

The most precious thing one can make is a friend.

More quotes from Phyllis:

Marry a man older than yourself. As your beauty fades, so does his eye sight.

Housework don't kill you. But, why take a chance?

Cleaning house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling your walk in a snowstorm.

Best way to get rid of kitchen odors: Eat out!

The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the same outfit in public at the same time.

A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once.

Anytime three New Yorkers get into a cab without an argument, a bank has just been robbed.

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I plan to move in with them.

Most children threaten at t of our children'simes to run away from home. This is the only thing that keeps some parents going.

We spend the first 12 months of our children's lives teaching them how to walk and talk and the next twelve years telling them to sit down and shut up!

What I don't like about office parties is looking for a job the next day.

Burt Reynolds once asked me out! I was in his room at the time.

Photographs don't do me justice. They look just like me!

Tranquilizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle. Keep away from children.

The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you won't see him laughing!

Ladies Fellowship has not met during the summer months. We will meet again on September 9<sup>th</sup> in the dining room of the basement. We will be assembling layettes for the Grand Junction Pregnancy Center. Needed for the layettes are: white bath towel and wash cloths. Tee shirts for newborns. Baby socks. Baby Shampoo. Diapers and Flannel blankets. Thank You to all that have been so generous.

Ladie Fellowship has also been in charge of the Food Bank. We appreciate so much, all your donations to help.

President – Nancy Karlson. 487-3740

Noisy Offering for August is "Come Let's Dance" This was started by a man in Glenwood Springs to help send books, clothes, aid, food and medicenes to people in the poorest part of

Africa. We are so fortunate that our Pastor, Gary Bryant, brought this to our attention since he knew this man. We are honored to help.



*COURAGE IS what it takes  
to stand up and speak; cour-  
age is also what it takes to sit  
down and listen.*

SIR WINSTON  
CHURCHILL

*You never know  
when God is  
going to bless  
you!! Good  
things happen  
when you least  
expect them*

In Remembrance

Betty Ruth Wallace  
Ilda Anderson  
Norman Winterhalder

≡ THE OLD TESTAMENT BIBLE QUIZ  
IN THE NEW (II)

Here are more passages from the New Testament, each of them a quotation from the Old Testament. Name the Old Testament book (and, if you're sharp, chapter and verse) where the passage appears.

1. Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee (Acts 13:33).
2. Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption (Acts 13:35).
3. After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up (Acts 15:16).
4. Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive (Acts 28:26).
5. For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written (Romans 2:24).
6. That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged (Romans 3:4).
7. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one (Romans 3:12).
8. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips (Romans 3:13).
9. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness (Romans 3:14).
10. Their feet are swift to shed blood (Romans 3:15).
11. For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter (Romans 8:36):
12. Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated (Romans 9:13).
13. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion (Romans 9:15).
14. Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, that my name might be declared throughout all the earth (Romans 9:17).

**Robin Roberts: It takes courage to believe the best is yet to come.**

**Robin Roberts: Optimism is a muscle that gets stronger with use. Right foot. Left foot, just keep moving !**

**Robin's mother: God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.**

**Steven Wright, the famous erudite (comic) scientist: What's the speed of dark?**

- " Borrow money from pessimists, They don't expect it back.**
- " A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.**
- " A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.**
- " How do you tell when you are out of invisible ink?**
- " What happens if you get scared to death twice?**
- " When everything is coming your way – you're in the wrong lane.**
- " Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?**
- " The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.**
- " If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.**

**If you chase two rabbits, you catch none! Confucius**

**Great acts are made up of small deeds. Aristotle**

**You can't build a reputation on what you're going to do. Henry Ford**

**Success usually comes to those too busy to look for it. Henry David Thoreau**

**The distance is nothing. It's only the first step that's important. Marquise Du Deffand**

**A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams. John Barrymore**

**If the enemy within cannot kill us, then the enemy without can do no harm. African proverb**

**Trust me, you can dance! Wine**

**Write drunk -- edit sober. Ernst Hemmingway**

**There is nothing so easy to learn as experience and nothing so hard to apply. Josh Billings**

**As a rule, man worries more about what they can't see than what they can. Julius Caesar**

**The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. Dolly Parton**

**We are what we think. Buddha**

**Life is life: fight for it. Mother Teresa**

**I am still learning. Michael Angelo**

Here we go again. The summer just flew by and I'm not adjusting well. School starts in just a few weeks, are you ready? I just started looking for my coolest shorts. Forget that – where are my winter clothes? I was just getting used to the kids playing outside later in the days. My flowers are not blooming and I have myself to blame for that. I didn't water them like I should. My garden is a well nourished patch of weeds. I had been composting for years and the weeds just love it. They crowded out my squash and cucumbers so fast I couldn't find them. Never mind – there is always next year ! It's been a summer our town will never forget. Tragedies bring us closer and remind us tomorrow is not promised but always hoped for. It's a reminder also that you should not put off what needs to be done.

The church hours will change back to normal on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September. That means Sunday school will begin at 10:am and Church service will be at 11:am. We will also ask for volunteers for the snacks to be available after church service. Our stewards can always use your help – just offer! We have Church Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month. 6:30 pm. We need your input and ideas! You do know how to get here, don't you?

### The Old Testament in the New (II) (Answers)

1. Psalm 2:7
2. Psalm 16:10
3. Amos 9:11
4. Isaiah 6:9
5. Isaiah 52:5
6. Psalm 51:4
7. Psalm 14:3
8. Psalm 5:9
9. Psalm 10:17
10. Isaiah 59:7
11. Psalm 44:22
12. Malachi 1:2-3
13. Exodus 33:19
14. Exodus 9:16

*Someday everything  
will make perfect sense.*

*So, for now, laugh at  
the confusion, smile through  
the tears and keep  
reminding yourself that  
everything happens  
for a reason.*



### SERVING OUR COUNTRY



Andrew Bellotti

Jaron Lachinet

Elijah Brito

Mark Lachinet

Adam Brown

Chris Box

Tony Clements

DJ Schuman

Corey Martin

Jason Hallett

Jake Harris

Alan Salamanca

Kimberley Schneider

Chad Schneider

Justin Cady

Eric DuVall

Kasindra VanMeter

Sarah Tressel

John Lloyd