LEADING TRANSFORMATION #20:
TWO TYPES OF CALLING (PART 2)

Every human being is created by God with particular sets of gifts and life-purpose. This is especially true for leaders-people who are intentionally seeking to influence others toward specific agreed upon desired ends. Success in life is directly linked with the leader's power of focus on particular visions. Such focus is only possible when one has identified and aligned with a particular life-calling as an overall framework for life and career engagements.

A person's PARTICULAR LIFE-CALLING is almost always fulfilled through the development of a unique set of talents, gifts, experiences, background, social context, and passions given by God. Identifying this unique set will help leaders shape their agenda for leadership as well as their approach. It gives focus to leadership. It maximizes impact in the leader's spheres of responsibility. It improves confidence and motivation. It frees the leader to appreciate the contributions of others without feeling intimidated.

USEFUL QUESTIONS FOR IDENTIFYING PARTICULAR CALLING
There are many professional tools for identifying one's areas of strength, giftedness and particular calling in life. A simpler way to start is to answer some basic questions.

1. WHAT ARE YOU GOOD AT?
People are usually gifted with skills in their specific areas of calling. They experience better results in those areas in comparison to others.

2. WHAT HAVE YOU TENDED TO DO?
There are things that YOU TEND TO DO because of, and especially in spite of your assignments. Those things are usually related to your unique areas of giftedness and calling.

3. WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?
If you have passion for something, you keenly follow activities that are associated with it, and you like to talk a lot about it.

4. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING?
The idea of ENJOYMENT here has to do with DEEP SATISFACTION. What you enjoy doing may be associated with difficulties, but you find deep satisfaction in engaging in activities associated with it.

5. WHAT DO YOU FIND DISGUSTING AND INTOLERABLE?
The things that disturb you, and you strongly desire to change are usually related to your particular life-calling. Your life-calling is related to the positive changes you desire to see.

6. WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU WANT TO SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE IN CHANGING?
If you have reached the place in life where you are willing to die for a cause, then you clearly have your particular life-calling. Meaningful life has begun for you.

7. ASSUMING YOU WERE DEAD, AND PEOPLE CLOSE TO YOU WERE READING YOUR EULOGIES IN PUBLIC, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT THEM TO SAY THAT YOU ACCOMPLISHED WITH YOUR LIFE?
You can write your own eulogy, with focus on your desired major accomplishment in life.

8. SHOULD A DOCTOR GIVE YOU TWO YEARS TO LIVE, AND RESOURCES ARE NOT AN ISSUE, WHAT WOULD YOU REORIENT YOUR LIFE TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING?
When we are faced with the brevity of life, we quickly come to our senses and are willing to make decisions we would normally avoid.

"YOU ARE NOT READY TO LIVE UNTIL YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DIE FOR."

Once a person has identified a particular life-calling, it is important to also identify and operate by relevant and appropriate LIFE-VALUES. Examples of life-values are integrity, excellence, justice, freedom, and maximization of existing resources. Values reinforce alignment to life-calling.

The leader with a high sense of calling can respond to challenges in life with conviction, values, and principles.

Many leaders are unable to align their lives with particular life-callings because of their inability to disentangle themselves from the circumstances of life. The tyranny of the urgent; the need to survive; the temptations of career opportunities; the desire for comfortable lifestyles; the fear of change; risk averseness among others, are obstacles to identifying, embracing and fulfilling one's particular life-calling.

Leaders who greatly impact their world have exercised the courage to cut themselves loose from the circumstances of life. They step up and out, reaching higher and higher for their particular life-calling and its associated dreams, vision and goals.

"NICE GUYS DON'T CHANGE THE WORLD; TOUGH LEADERS DO."

Where are you in relation to identifying, embracing and fulfilling your particular life-calling? What obstacles do you have to overcome?