LEADING TRANSFORMATION #21:
BARRIERS TO EMBRACING LIFE-CALLING

There are barriers to embracing one's LIFE-CALLING. Awareness of the barriers or obstacles in the way of embracing one's life-calling is essential to being able to take necessary steps to change circumstances in order to enhance the possibility for aligning LIFE, CAREER and CALLING.

The barriers include

1. LACK OF KNOWLEDGE
Lack of knowledge of one's giftedness and calling. A lot of times we go through life by simply going with the flow. We do not ask the question, "WHY AM I?" We do not challenge our situations in light of our direction in life. Most decisions that have bearing on our calling are made for us by others-Parents, Teachers, Employers etc. Identifying one's calling requires intentionality.

2. FEAR OF FAILURE
Most people avoid going public with their life-calling and related activities simply because they fear to fail. Embracing one's life-calling requires experimentations. These experimentations will necessarily involve some failures. Those failures can be viewed as learning experiences and translated into assets that enrich life and leadership.

3. EMPLOYMENT
The challenges and opportunities of life may result in a person working almost exclusively to make ends meet. This if not noted and addressed can distract an individual or even groups of people from their areas of giftedness and calling.

4. EDUCATION
Some educational opportunities may be inconsistent with a person's gifting and calling. If not noted and addressed, this can set a person on a different track; shaping career path along lines of education rather than calling.

5. LACK OF COACHING/MENTORING
Accountability relationships can go a long way in helping leaders align their life and career engagements with their calling. Coaches or mentors can provide such relationships as well as facilitate access to useful expertise.

6. LACK OF MATERIAL RESOURCES
There are two costs in realigning one's life and career to one's calling. They are education and transition. Education in the right area to gain the appropriate knowledge, skills and attitude does cost something.

7. EMOTIONAL STRESS FROM TRANSITIONS
Transition from current job situations to jobs or assignments that are more in line with one's calling also comes at a price. But the higher cost of transition is the emotional stress associated with moving from one career environment to another. This is because our identities and relationships are usually tied to our careers and the possessions, positions, power, prestige, privileges and other benefits that come with them. It takes emotional strength to say good bye and embrace a new future.

Careful planning is therefore needed for emotional transitions.

8. IMITATION OF OTHERS
The temptation to imitate others due to admiration, jealousy or group pressure can distract people from focusing on their own unique areas of giftedness and calling.

Self-acceptance and contentment are essential for the discipline to stay focused on being the best of who YOU are meant to be.