

Teaching - Part 1

Vocational Maturity is the ability to discern the vision and voice of God and the willingness to obey those callings

- Belief #1: God is eager to reveal (Subtle, not Shy/Show-y)
 - General and Specific // Covert for the Sake of Growth // Overt for Exceptional Circumstances
- Belief #2: We are capable of receiving (Distracted, not Deaf/Dumb)
 - Look for Vision // Listen for Voice // Tyranny of the Urgent
- Belief #3: Others confirm (Discovery & Enjoyment)
 - Every calling from the Lord strengthens community (mutuality; unity in the Spirit)

Exercise 1

Exposing Discernment 'Defaults' and Expanding Our Perspectives

- Select a discernment focus for the day so you can practice.
- Which of the three (God/Soul/Society) is clearest and loudest regarding your focus for the day?
- Expand all three inputs to create a wider perspective on the focus.
- Use Past time-orientations (Origins & Obstacles) to track Future projections (Outlooks & Opportunities) to see how your Past/Future are shaping your Present.
 - Origins/Outlooks – how the places you come from are shaping the vision ahead of you
 - Obstacles/Opportunities – how the things you've faced shape the road you see ahead
 - [*Center*] How all four of these are weighing in on the focus for the day

Teaching - Part 2

Vocationally Mature Christ-Followers use multiple avenues of Discernment in order to obey their callings

- Universal Callings – Creation, Fall, Hope, Future
- Unique Callings – Personhood (True Self) & Personality (False Self) in Nature/Nurture
 - Psalm 139.13-16; Ephesians 2.8-10
- Consolation – Ecclesiastes 2-3.11-14, Whole-Hearted Living (John 10.10)
 - Purpose vs Power/Prestige/Prestige
 - Fulfillment vs Pleasure
- Desolation – Ecclesiastes 2.11, 17, 26, ‘Wind-Chasing’
 - Conviction that leads to Growth
- Local Callings & Global Callings
 - Exploring the Source and Impact of Every Calling

Exercise 2

Exploring the impact of your calling

- **Who** is impacted by this decision (Remain neutral, think *quantity*)?
- **What** is impacted by this decision (Remain neutral, think *quantity*)?
- **How** does this calling positively/negatively impact the people and circumstances of my life? Get *qualitative* with all the neutral information and assess whether or not to act at this time.
 - Larger outcomes often require more time and input (and, possibly, support/permission; African proverb)
 - Smaller outcomes can be entered into with less certainty
 - "Write your plans in pencil; then give God the eraser" (Prioritize, Troubleshoot & Act, rarely receive 100%)