

The Call

Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life, By Os Guinness

Nashville: Word Publishing, 1998

Thought Captivation: "We take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" 2 Cor.

I recommend Os Guinness' book, *The Call* for anyone serious about understanding the call of God. This is not a superficial book. God's Call impacts all areas of life and society. Os provides a broad scope with many gems and references to great literature. In this devotional format, Os uses penetrating personal questions at the end of each chapter. This book gives principles, not overly simple "how to" instructions. This book is a penetrating analysis of modern society and Christianity. I commend this book to you with the following quotes collected by David Mays to whet your appetite. *John Henry*

"As modern people we are all on a search for significance. We desire to make a difference. We long to leave a legacy." "Our passion is to know that we are fulfilling the purpose for which we are here on earth." p1

"Deep in our hearts, we all want to find a fulfill a purpose bigger than ourselves." p3

As modern people, "we have too much to live with and too little to live for." "in the midst of material plenty, we have spiritual poverty." p 4

"Answering the call of our Creator is 'the ultimate why' for living, the highest source of purpose in human existence." p4

"Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service." p4

"Calling is the most comprehensive reorientation and the most profound motivation in human experience - the ultimate Why for living in all history." "Answering the call is the way to find and fulfill the central purpose of your life." p7

"Part of our contemporary crisis of identity can be summed up by saying that modern people are haunted by an inescapable question of biography: Who am I?" p 20

"In the secular view the body is all we have and all we are." "The absurdity of this position is obvious for all but the rich, the strong, the wealthy, the young, and the fanatical." "So, ironically, we have the greatest capacity when we have the least clue what it is for." p22

"The Caller sees and addresses us as individuals - as unique, exceptional, precious, significant, and free to respond. He who calls us is personal as well as infinite and personal in himself, not just to us. So we who are called are addressed as individuals and invited into a relationship. We are known with an intimacy that is a source of gratitude and soul-shivering wonder. p24

"The more I resist Him and try to live on my own, the more I become dominated by my own heredity and upbringing and surroundings and natural desires. In fact what I so proudly call

'Myself' becomes merely the meeting place for trains of events which I never started and which I cannot stop." Quoting C. S. Lewis p25

"Only when we respond to Christ and follow his call do we become our real selves and come to have personalities of our own." p25

"Calling is not only a matter of being and doing what we are but also of becoming what we are not yet but are called by God to be." It is almost a synonym for salvation. In this context, calling is overwhelmingly God's calling people to himself as followers of Christ." p30

"In short, calling in the Bible is a central and dynamic theme that becomes a metaphor for the life of faith itself." p 31

"Our primary calling as followers of Christ is by him, to him, and for him. Our secondary calling, considering who God is a sovereign, is that everyone, everywhere, and in everything should think, speak, live, and act entirely for him." p31

"If we understand calling, we must make sure that first things remain first and the primary calling always comes before the secondary calling. But we must also make sure that the primary calling leads without fail to the secondary calling. p31

"Do you want to accept a challenge that will be the integrating dynamism of your whole life? p 35

"Most people live somewhere between a grudging acceptance of their job and an active dislike of it." (Studs Terkel, Working) p37

"First, we must resolutely refuse to play the word games that pretend calling means anything without a Caller - and we must not allow people to play such games on us." p42

"If there is no Caller, there are no callings - only work." p42

"The one aim of the call of God is the satisfaction of God, not a call to do something for Him." Oswald Chambers p42

"We are not primarily called to do something or go somewhere; we are called to Someone." p43

"God normally calls us along the line of our giftedness, but the purpose of giftedness is stewardship and service, not selfishness." p 46

"A sense of calling should precede a choice of job and career, and the main way to discover calling is along the line of what we are each created and gifted to be. Instead of, 'You are what you do,' calling says: 'Do what you are.'" p46

"In the biblical understanding of giftedness, gifts are never really ours or for ourselves. Our gifts are ultimately God's, and we are only 'stewards'." p47

"The truth is not that God is finding us a place for our gifts but that God has created us and our gifts for a place of his choosing." p47