

Contending for the manifestation of our Calling

I. Establishing a lifestyle of vision to walk out our calling (Acts Church Account)

- A. Step 1 - Vision Casting - Establishing clear and concise direction based on your identification of your calling. (*Acts 1:3-8, Acts 13:2*)
- B. Step 2 - Intentional Life - Putting steps in place and stepping out in faith. (*Jerusalem Acts 1:12-14, Judea and Samaria 8:5-12 and 25, Ends of the Earth Acts 13-28*) (*Eph. 3:1-7*)
- C. Step 3 - Grow and Adjust - Receive new revelation (*Acts 10:9-11:18, 15:1-35*)
- D. Step 4 - Fullness - Manifestation of the Vision (*Acts 15:12, Rom 15:15-19, Eph. 3:1-7*)

II. Hindrances to our calling (1 Pet. 4:1-11)

- A. Lack of Understanding - Ignorance, No vision casting, unclear roles and assignments, poor communication, confusion, un-teachable, spiritual blindness. (1 Cor. 12:1, Eph. 1:18)
- B. Lack of Gifting - Uninvolved, immaturity, gifts not embraced, and no outlet. (1 Cor. 12:13-17, 1 Cor. 14:39-40, 1 Thess. 5:20)
- C. Distractions - Good things and God things that are not your calling, wrong priorities, lack of eternal perspective, tyranny of the urgent. (Luke 8:14-15, Luke 10:40, Col 3:1-3)
- D. Division - lack of humility, patience, gentleness (love), valuing ideas and structure above people and relationship, gossiping, acting outside of delegated authority (Acts 15:1-2, 22-27, Rom. 16:17, 1 Cor. 1:10)

- E. Compromise - unrepentant sin, lack of truth, lust of flesh, lack of accountability. (Rom. 13:11-14, 1 Cor. 5, Heb. 12:1, Rev. 2:20-23)

- F. Pride - Isolation, critical spirit, lack of honor, independent spirit, gaining knowledge of God unto intellect rather than love.
(1 Cor. 8:1, 1 Cor. 12:20-21, 1 Pet. 5:5-6)

III. Advancing in our calling “walking worthy” (Eph. 4:1-16)

- A. Pursuing love for Jesus and his people must be set as the highest and most important thing we do. –(Eph. 4:1-3)

- B. We only can advance in our calling if we are one. Unity grows in an atmosphere of love.–(Eph. 4-6)

- C. Jesus gave himself unto death in order that we could walk in the calling that He gave us. Celebrate, recognize and depend on our different gifts and callings so that we can preserve unity.–(Eph. 4:7-11)

- D. We must be intentional with our God given gifts and callings to build up the body. This intentional lifestyle of the church will move forward in maturity toward the fullness of our calling.–(Eph. 4:12-16)