



FLOURISHING IN THE MIDST OF OPPOSITION

"The men of the other Nebo, 52."

Nehemiah 7:33



**Why record names and numbers
no one wants to read?**



**Renewal includes
everyone.**

**Everyone's part matters.
Everyone's work matters.**



The division between
"vocational ministry"
and "lay people" is the
most likely contribution
misunderstanding

'lay' from French (15th) 'lai' means 'secular' (N)

Are people "in ministry"
another level of godliness
or
as a division of labor?

Ephesians 4:12



Notice 3 facts:

1. They had altar, temple, prophets and priests
2. All kinds of people all worked together
3. Flourishing came through non-religious actions done for God's glory



Non-religious acts for God

- a. Raised investment from Susa
- b. Re-established military security
- c. Re-established infrastructure
- d. Refugee resettlement
- e. Re-population of urban areas
- f. Restoration of economic systems and markets
- g. Restitution of the poor and economic justice
- h. Reformed family formation and culture
- i. Restored a national festival
- j. Touchy Diplomacy



4 Key Vocation Doctrines:

"Vocation" means "calling"
from Latin *vocatio*



1. Devotion doesn't determine vocation.

There is no direct relationship between devotion and vocation 

Misunderstanding:

It's easy to **FEEL** that since the main characters of the NT are apostles, that ministry leaders are God's best people.

It's a *'sample bias'* fallacy.

Luke 9:23 - 26

Then he said to them all: "If **anyone** would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For **whoever** wants to save his life will lose it, but **whoever** loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? If **anyone** is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.



**More responsibility isn't
the same as caring more.**



"REALLY loving Jesus..."

or

"Wanting to do something that matters..."

Isn't reason to enter vocational ministry. It's reason to enter redeemed humanity.



2. Jesus gave us all the priestly vocation

...along with the creation mandate 

Misunderstanding:

Because **priests** lead the people in the OT, the church's leaders are **priests**.



**The category "priest" is
strangely absent in the NT.**

Except when referring to all God's people.

(1 Peter 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6, 5:10, 20:6)



Romans 15:15 - 16

But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God *to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

3. Getting “called” is not literal...usually.

"calling" doesn't mean not deciding (N)

Misunderstanding:

The Bible teaches that God will give each a calling pointing to his "will for your life."

God gives good works, but you have to choose with courage and wisdom.



1 Corinthians 7:17 - 24

Nevertheless, each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has called him. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised...



...Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing. Keeping God's commands is what counts. Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. Were you a slave when you were called? Don't let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. For he who was a slave when he was called by the Lord is the Lord's freedman;



...similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men. Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God called him to.

Calling / Vocation

"What each person follows Christ into as the good work of their labor and does for His glory and in His name for the good of his neighbor and creation." It is the **RESULT** of his call to Christ.



**4. Embracing a vocation
is still following
Christ's call.**



Finding God's will for your life happens by applying faith to taking responsibility rather than trying to get God to make your decisions for you.



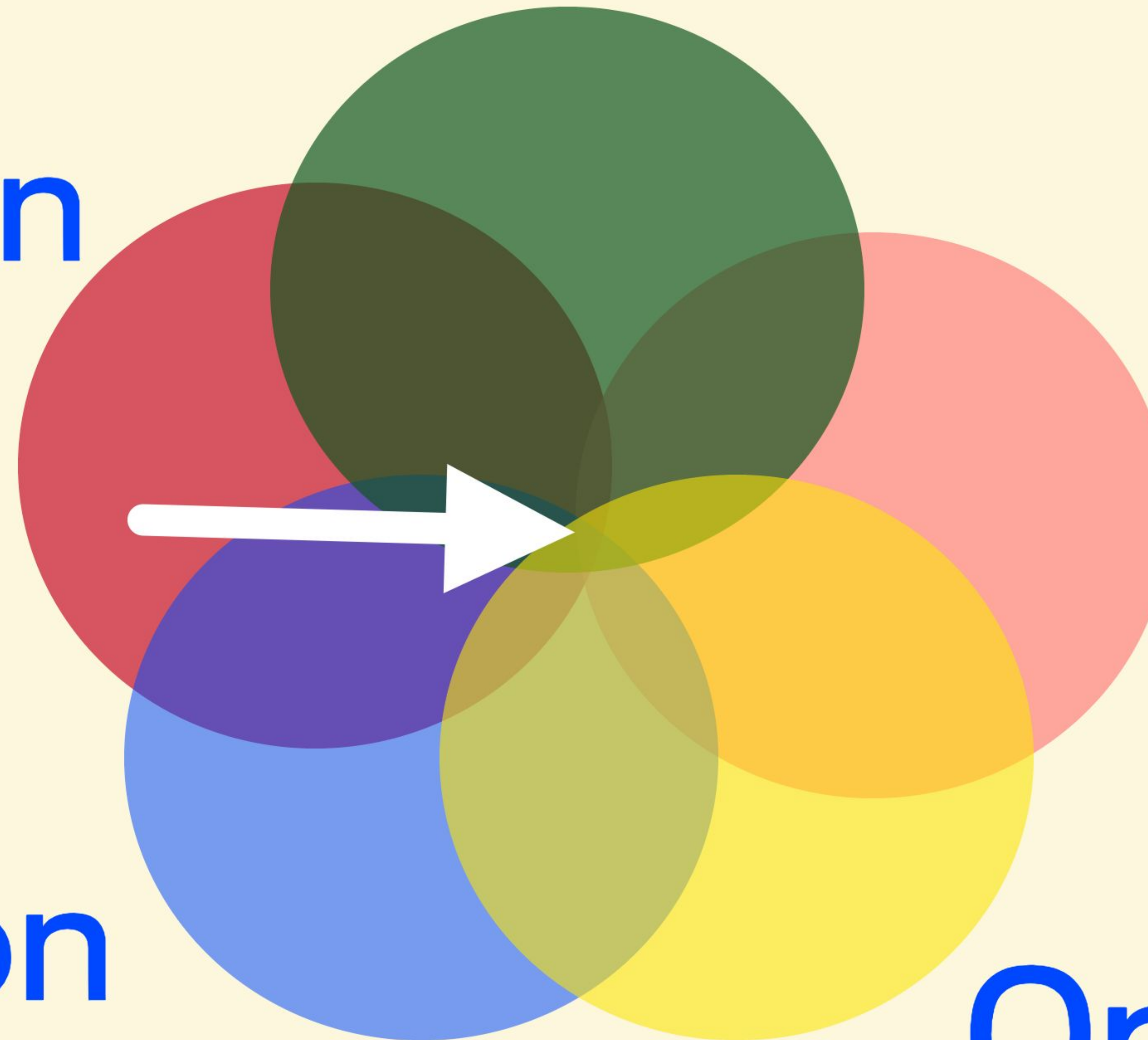
How do I choose a vocation?



Genuine Interest

Holy Ambition

**The
Needed
Grace**



Confirmation

Opportunity

Secret vs. Revealed Will

God's Revealed will:

Take Dominion, multiply, cause flourishing, make disciples, Love God and neighbor.

God's Secret will:

Ephesians 2:10



Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God **prepared** in
advance for us to do.





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