

Title: Aligning Your Heart
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The hope of His calling

Ephesians 1:15-18

¹⁵Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling...

- His calling on your life
- The ownership issue
- It's holy
- It's settled before you arrived
- We're called by grace
- It's irrevocable

Discussion question

Where are the areas in and around your life where you can see God's hand at work?

1: Know His will

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT)

¹⁵So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Matthew 18:11

¹¹"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.

2: Know His ways

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

¹⁴"When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' ¹⁵"you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. ¹⁶"But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' ¹⁷"Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; nor shall he greatly

multiply silver and gold for himself. ¹⁸Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. ¹⁹And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, ²⁰that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel.

3: Recognise His hand

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Haggai 1:1-7 (NLT)

¹On August 29 of the second year of King Darius's reign, the Lord gave a message through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Jeshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ²"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: The people are saying, 'The time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.'" ³Then the Lord sent this message through the prophet Haggai: ⁴"Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins? ⁵This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! ⁶You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes! ⁷"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: Look at what's happening to you! ⁸Now go up into the hills, bring down timber, and rebuild my house. Then I will take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord. ⁹You hoped for rich harvests, but they were poor. And when you brought your harvest home, I blew it away. Why? Because my house lies in ruins, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, while all of you are busy building your own fine houses.

Psalms 92:13-15

¹³Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, ¹⁵To declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

4: Avoid entanglement

1 Corinthians 15:33

³³Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

Proverbs 12:26

²⁶The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.

2 Corinthians 6:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.

5: What's hidden in your heart

2 Samuel 7:1-3

¹Now it came to pass when the king was dwelling in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies all around, ²that the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells inside tent curtains." ³Then Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

1 Kings 8:17-18

¹⁷"Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the LORD God of Israel. ¹⁸"But the LORD said to my father David, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.'

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.