



Building an apostolic culture

Calp, 3-5 May 2019

Session 2 – Your specific calling

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Levels of the apostolic gift

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Gift type	Every believer	Spiritual gifts	Motivational gifts	Ascension gifts
Scriptures	New Testament	1 Corinthians 12	Romans 12	Ephesians 4
Apostolic	General and specific calling that extends the kingdom	Gifts of faith and miracles	Gift of leading (by pioneering)	Developing others apostolic nature

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Apostles and the apostolic

- We are not all called to be apostles but we are all called to be apostolic
- Being apostolic means that we bring an aspect of the Kingdom to people who haven't experienced it.
- Apostles should be helping people to
 - **Enter the Kingdom and be leaven to others – We never leave this level**
 - Understand and follow their gifts and calling
 - Build an environment of faith and miracles
 - Help people pioneer new works
 - Develop people in all the ways Ephesians chapter 4 says
- These make up an apostolic culture

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Apostolic level one God's specific calling

- **Every believer is called to find and follow their specific calling**
- **Respect your uniqueness - Psalm 139:14** "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"
- The starting point to finding and following your specific Kingdom calling is to respect how you are made -your gifts, calling, personality, passions, preferences
- Not your unrenewed self, but who and how the Lord has created you.

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Calling, anointing, and appointing

Exodus 31:2-6 “See, I have **called** by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have **filled him** with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship. “And I, indeed I, have **appointed** with him Aholiab the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you.”

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Calling, anointing, appointing

Calling is the “what” of vision

Anointing is the “how” of vision

Appointing is the “where” and “who” of vision

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What questions

Write down the answers to any of the following questions that are relevant

- What are you passionate about?
- What is on your heart to do?
- What do prophetic words say you should be doing?
- What do your spiritually minded family and friends say you should be doing?
- What do you notice when it is done poorly?
- What do you like doing?
- What do you readily volunteer to do?
- What would you do if money was no object?
- What does the Spirit of God speak to you about?
- What do you daydream about?

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How questions

What gifts do you have?

Romans 12 serving gifts

- prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, mercy
- www.gifttest.org

Ephesians 4 equipping gifts

- Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Pastor, Evangelist
- www.fivefoldsurvey.com

1 Corinthians 12 spiritual gifts

- Faith, miracles, healings, prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, discerning of spirits, words of wisdom, words of knowledge

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Where/ Who questions

- What sort of enterprise are we interested in?
- What industry do we think about?
- What demographic are we passionate about?
- What age group do we feel drawn towards?
- What country do we have an affinity with?
- What city/ region comes on our heart?

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Writing a personal vision statement

- Write down as many words as you can under the three headings of “What”, “How” and “Who/Where”.
- Delete any words that are already contained in larger concepts by other words.
- Group similar types of words and replace them with one, more inclusive word. These inclusive words should not be too broad, or your vision statement may not be specific enough.

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Writing a personal vision statement

Write the following statement

- I am called to *do* (insert “what” words)
- by *doing* (insert “how” words)
- *for* (insert “who/where” words)

Write it down/ Make it plain

That he may run who reads it
(Habakkuk 2:2-3)

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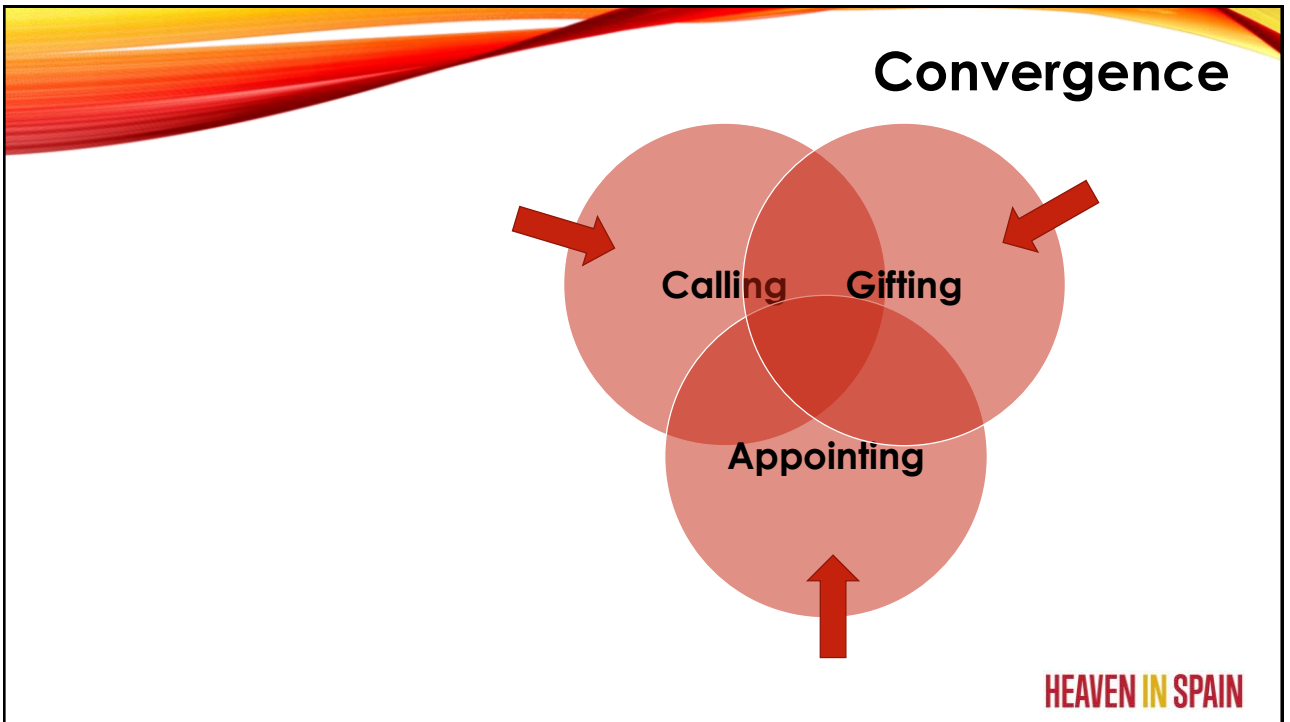
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How God's vision changes

- 1. Our “appointment” can change abruptly. We are led by the Lord from one sphere of operation to another. In these times, we ought to trust the Lord that we can leave the thing(s) we have been doing and will be provided for in the things He has asked us to do.
- 2. Our “calling” goes “upward”. (Phil 3:14). When our calling goes “upward”, it is being broadened to influence a wider range of people. It may not look more prominent or overtly successful in human terms
- 3. Our “gifts” can be revealed and can develop. Romans 11:29 says that “the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

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Laying hold of vision

- **Philippians 3:12 - 16** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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Laying hold of vision

- Paul hadn't yet
 - Attained - (get a hold of, understood)
 - Perfected - (completed)
 - Apprehended - (seize, possess, lay ahold of to make one's own)
- Paul had already
 - Done his three missionary journeys
 - Planted many churches
 - Written most of what would become the new testament
 - In his 60's
 - And still hadn't fully grasped, fully engaged or completed his calling
 - So if you haven't yet...

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Forgetting and Neglecting

- V13 – “forgetting those things which are behind – “epilanthanomai” - to *neglect*
- V14 – “Reaching forward to those things which are ahead - “epekteinomai” - to *stretch* (oneself) forward upon
- Neglecting
 - Previous understanding of calling
 - Self – imposed limitations
 - Sins
 - Failures
 - Successes
 - Age

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Stretching our mindset

- Judges 6 - The Lord got Gideon into the right mindset for the upward call
- Gideon was doing what he knew – threshing wheat in the winepress
- The Angel of the LORD appeared and said to him the same things we need to believe to pursue our upward calling
- 1. “The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!”
- 2. “Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?”
- 3. And the LORD said to him, “Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.”

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Transitioning to follow God’s vision

1. Not wise to make sudden moves
2. Become as sure or a change as you need to be – from the Lord and people
3. Be prepared for a mindset change
4. Kingdom always starts with a seed, so plant it – start something with new foundations
5. Find development – formal and informal education, growth relationships, new roles
6. Tent-making jobs are normal

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