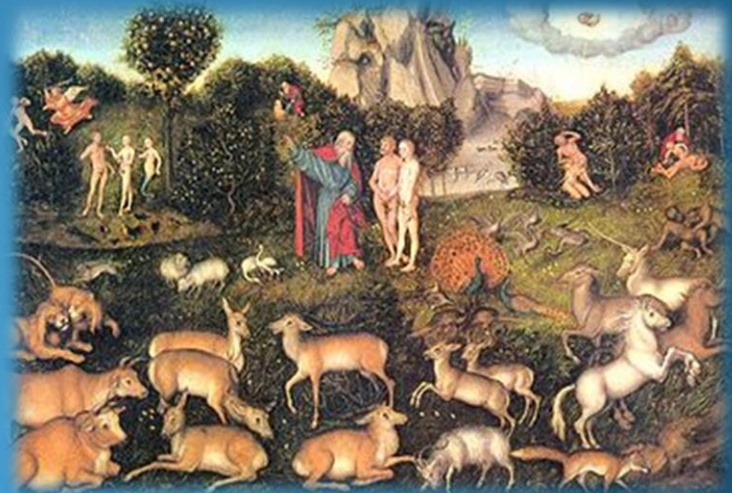




# Your Personal Calling and Transition to God's Economy

**Presenter: Rick Reese**  
December 29, 2014





# What is God's call for your life ?

- God's Word offers some insight into **His** calling and **His** plans & will for **His** people.
- **Prayerfully seek God** and...
  - Ask Him to help you to discern His special plan and calling for your life
  - Ask Him to give you the faith and courage to follow, wherever He leads you.
- We are happiest and full of joy when you are in the middle of God's will and plan.



# God's Call – Guideline 1

## 1. GOD'S MAIN CALL IS FIRST TO A RESTORED RELATIONSHIP AND THEN TO CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM:

- Only by accepting and receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior can we be **reconciled to God** and be able to have a personal relationship with Him.
- **Eternal life** and being a Christian is about a **relationship with God**, and getting to **know Him**, and **serving Him** and **obeying Him** because you love Him.

*"God's call is for you to be **His loyal friend**, for whatever purpose He has for your life."*

- Oswald Chambers "My Utmost For His Highest"



# God's Call - Guidelines

## 2. GOD HAS A SPECIAL & UNIQUE PURPOSE AND CALLING FOR YOUR LIFE:

**Jeremiah 29:11** tells us that God has **special plans** for our lives, plans to bless us and prosper us; The next two verses spell out the **necessary conditions** for us to receive the benefit of His plans,

*"Then when you call upon Me and come and **pray to Me**, I will hear you. When you **search for Me**, You will find Me; if you **seek Me with all your heart**" (Jeremiah 29:12-13)*

*"God will instruct him in the way chosen for him."*

*- Psalm 25:12*

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

*- Ephesians 2:10*



# God's Call – Guideline 3

## 3. GOD PLACES A DESIRE AND A PASSION IN OUR HEARTS TO DO THE THINGS HE CALLS US TO DO:

*“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” - **Philippians 2:13***

You will have a love & joy & passion for doing the things God has created you for & calls you to do.



# God's Call – Guideline 4

**4. GOD GIVES SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO EQUIP YOU FOR YOUR CALLING:** The purpose of spiritual gifts is to unify Christians in their faith, build each other up, and to produce growth within the church.

- Administration
- Discernment
- Exhortation
- Faith
- Giving
- Knowledge
- Leadership
- Mercy
- Prophecy
- Service / Helps
- Teaching
- Wisdom

The image shows the famous 'The Creation of Adam' fresco by Michelangelo, depicting God's hand reaching towards Adam's hand. This image is part of a decorative header with blue and white wavy lines.

# God's Call – Guideline 5

## 5. GOD'S PRESENCE & POWER WILL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU WHEN HE CALLS YOU:

*"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have **called** them." - Acts 13:2*

- The Greek word for **called** means that God "called them unto Himself", **first** to a love relationship with God, **and next** to where His presence and His power would be at work.
- We only need to respond in faith and obedience, and **God** will provide the **power** and whatever else is needed to get the job done.



# God's Call – Guideline 6

## 6. THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT GOD CALLS ALL CHRISTIANS TO DO:

*"Come follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

*- Matthew 4:19*

*"Then Jesus came to them and said "All authority in heaven and on earth have been given to me. Therefore, go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them to obey** everything I have commanded you."*

*- Matthew 28:18-20*

You are not truly following Jesus unless you are being a **fisher of men and an active witness** for Jesus Christ, telling the lost about Him and sharing His **plan of salvation** with them.





# Discovering God's Call

- We each have a unique design and specific calling.
- Pay attention to who God made you to be.
  - *What gives you life?*
  - *What are you good at?*
  - *What do you love to do?*
  - *What consistent patterns are noticeable in you that may be clues to your design and calling?*
- Noticing what you're not good at is also valuable information to discovering your calling.



*God's calling for your life goes way beyond what you do. It's who you are, where you belong, who and how you love.*

**Do you know your Personal Calling?**



*Transitioning from the World*

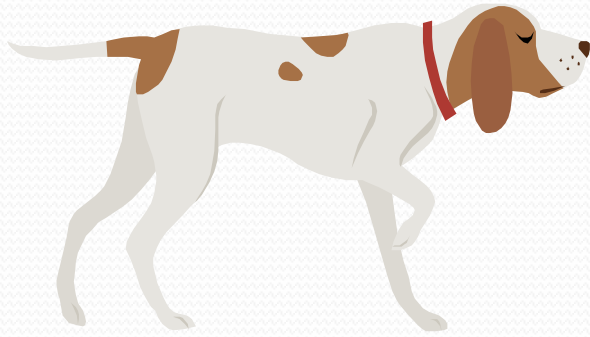
*to God's*

*Economy*





# Transitioning from the WORLD into GOD's Economy



- Discover Your Call

- Surrender to God's Will



*For he that is entered into His rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from His.*

- Hebrews 4:10



# The World Economy

## *Defined by Scarcity*



- **Sin's Penalty:** *In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return to the ground; - Genesis 3:19*
- Competition to get “my share” drives individuals and populations to compete.
- Recessions and depressions in the marketplace loom large in the minds of men.
- People fear money. They incessantly think about it and worry over it day in and day out.



# The World Economy

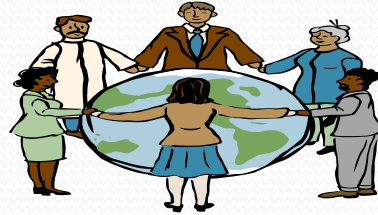
*Defined by Scarcity*



- Watched like a hawk, while men focus their entire lives on understanding it, predicting what it will do, and conquering it.
- “More” is the thing that men chase only to find that “more” is never enough.
- Woe and hardship frighten the masses
- Men worship and are controlled by a non-existent god called mammon.



# God's vs World Economy



*Money and its power belong to the one who directs the use of it. Those who possess it. It is not a force apart from the one who controls it, Satan or God.”*



**God's Economy**

**World's Economy**



*- Angels on Assignment, Pastor Buck*



# God's Economy

- Comprehend the REVELATION:

*“The silver and the gold is mine”, declares the Lord Almighty.”*

*- Haggai 2:8*

*“The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.”*

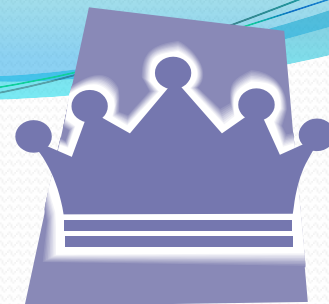
*- Proverbs 10:22*







# God's Economy



- God's economy was found long ago in the **Garden of Eden**, where man could find and have any and all he ever needed – **abundant, delightful, free gifts from God**.
- Let us be mindful of honoring and entering into God's economy. Let us live under **His rules and sovereignty**.
- True wealth lies in **our hearts** and in **our relationships** with our fellow man, our families, and with God Himself.
- His economy **blesses** - the world's economy **stresses**. It curses. It frustrates and leads to nothingness.



# God's Economy



- God says, “you are **placing your focus** on a wrong economy – the world’s; and the wrong person – yourself.
- Mammon will never treat you with respect and will always **leave you empty**. Wealth is a mere tool.
- Trust in Me - and I, and I alone will take care of all your needs and even give you the **desires of your heart**.”
- In God’s economy, **relationships are infinitely more important** than money and things.



# God's Economy



- **Bring the whole tithe** into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.
- In God's economy, you can smirk at the recession and understand that **opportunity always abounds**.
- You live in the very place where **your future is perfectly assured** – in God's kingdom, God's economy.

**Return to Paradise and  
Rest in God's Economy**





# Enter God's Rest

There is a godly rest that we are to enter. We enter it by resting from all our works. We must be diligent to enter that rest.

## A Return to the Garden

*"And the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."*

- Gen 2:15



"The Garden of Eden" by **Lucas Cranach der Ältere**,  
a 16th century German depiction of Eden

*Enter God's rest through faith in Jesus Christ*



# Rest for God's People

- Read Hebrews 4:1-10 *Enter into His Rest...*
- Jesus' rest of salvation is available to everyone who comes to him.  
*"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* - Matthew 11:28
- Rest from the weight of sin, from care and worry, from the load of daily anxiety and foreboding.
- Have you entered into that experience?

**Psalms 23**





# Definitions of Rest

- 1. To cease from action -no more self-effort
- 2. To be free from worry- free from whatever disturbs you
- 3. To be settled-grounded in the truth of Christ.
- 4. To be secure-absolute trust in God's care for you.
- 5. To have something to lean on
  - Trusting Him to supply all your needs.

***Many people do not enter into rest because of their unbelief.***



# How to Enter God's REST?

*A life of peace and hope and  
even joy in the midst of life's storms*

- The key is “Faith”-believing in his promise of provision.
- Biblical faith involves both **passivity** and **effort**
- Ceasing from your works and making every effort to trust God.
  - Passivity in the sense that you stop depending on your own resources and depend instead on God's resources. *“I cannot do this—only God can do this.”*
  - Requires effort to choose to depend totally on God. A deliberate choice that is usually against our feelings and “wisdom.”



# God's Word-Faith in Action

- God's Word searches and exposes our heart and motivates us to cry out to God: **"I have not been trusting you, God."**
  - God's Word creates a healthy "tension" that motivates us to close that gap by depending on God.
- *Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*  
- Hebrews 4:7b
- *"Let us labor, therefore, to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."*  
- Hebrews 4:11





# Impact of God's Word

- God's Word does—it shows us lack of faith, and it points us to Jesus as the proper object of our faith...
  - *“Lord Jesus I want to trust you again so I can be close to you.”*
- The Word exposes our needs and motivates us to humbly entrust ourselves to God.
- God offers us both mercy and grace through Jesus and Jesus alone. This is God's rest!

Ask, Seek, and Knock!

*And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. – Matthew 21:22*



# Definitions of Rest

- God's rest—and it is a life of peace and hope and even joy in the midst of life's storms.
- If you're discouraged because being a Christian hasn't brought you health, wealth and an easy life, meditate on Paul's instructions to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:1-10. Ask God to give you the grace to follow His way, even when it isn't the easiest way.



Are you discouraged because being a Christian hasn't brought you health, wealth and an easy life?

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# Personal Testimonies

- *What is your personal call?*
- *How did you know that was your calling?*
- *How does God speak and direct you?*
- *To you...what does it mean to transition from the World to God's economy?*
- *Are you entering into God's rest?*
- *How do you stay focused during the trials?*
- *How have you changed? How are you the same?*
- *Describe a few miracles you've experienced.*
- *What's next?*



Lord, we are willing and  
obedient...

*Have Your Way!*

