

Called, Developed, and Equipped

The fear of inadequacy keeps many people from serving their Lord. God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. Accordingly, we are called, developed, and equipped for our place in the kingdom work.

King David - Psalms 78:70-72

70 He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:

71 From following the ewes great with young he brought him to feed Jacob his people, and Israel his inheritance.

72 So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.

We see how David began as a shepherd and became the greatest king of God's people. In this scripture: God chose David, he ruled with integrity, and led skilfully. These three steps are used by God to bring us from where we begin to the planned place God has for us in the kingdom.

3 Steps toward becoming a servant in the kingdom

Choice – made by God

Character – developed in relationship with God

Competence – learned by doing for God

The same sequence is used by Jesus with His disciples.

Jesus and his Disciples - Mark 3:12-15

12 And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and callesth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,

15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

He made the choice to call them, they would be developed by being with Him, and they would learn to preach, heal, and cast out by actually doing.

So we would say, “that's great for King David and Jesus' disciples, but I'm a nobody.” Again the scriptures gives us an example of one weak made strong by the same three step process.

Luke 6:6-11 Man with a Withered Hand (also Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6)

6 And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

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We identify the three steps in the commands Jesus gave this man. Learning from this example, we can apply this process to us also.

Rise up or stand up – identify with Jesus who was standing (salvation, become a child of God)
Stand forth or Step forward – separate (fellowship as a priority, realize our rights and inheritance)

Stretch out – obey and do something new (an act of faith, good works motivated by love, rely on Spirit's guidance)

Stand Up - answer the call or choice by God

The man identified himself with Jesus apart from the religious rulers and their tradition. Jesus had compassion on this man comparing him to a sheep in a pit on the sabbath. He was disabled in his right hand (the example of strength) but he was able to stand upright. He believed enough to take the stares and wordless ridicule from the others in the synagogue. We also are required to “stand up” and make a profession of faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross for our salvation and wholeness. We lean on the strong right arm of God to become a child of God. As we grow stronger in knowledge and understanding, we see, claim, and enjoy our family rights and inheritance.

Step Forward - relationship with God builds character

The man with the withered hand moved away from his past disability and religious traditions at the invitation of Jesus. Perhaps he had heard Jesus' teachings or healings from others or recognized the authority and confidence in His discussion with the synagogue leaders. We must take our step forward to Jesus sometimes leaving family, friends, or familiar surroundings for a new life. Our life with Jesus is always better than before.

Stretch Out - begin to do for God something you can not do on your own

A withered hand is drawn up, dried-looking, and immobile in many cases. Jesus told him to do something which was physically impossible for him to do. The man acted in faith on the words of Jesus and received his healing. More than the healing, the freedom and love of Jesus changed his life for ever.

In our Christian life, we will face or be called to do something which we have not done before or think impossible. This is the time to rely on the Spirit's guidance and wisdom. We complete good works not of necessity or duty but motivated by love.