

1. **Defining the Call and the Roll of Pastoral Leadership**

# Ephesians 4:11-12(NLT)*Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.*

1. Pastoral Leadership is…caring, serving and leading the children of God, to God, for God.
2. Pastors are a \_\_**Gift**\_\_\_ to the body

**Jeremiah 3:15 (NLT)***And I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
    who will guide you with knowledge and understanding.*

1. Pastor’s are \_**Representative**\_\_ of Christ

[**John 21:17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+21%3A17&version=NKJV)**(NKJV)***He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “****Feed******My******sheep****.*

* He is the Chief Shepherd and pastors are called to shepherd His “flock” as He would **(1 Peter 5:2-4, Psalms 23:1, Matthew 2:6)**
1. Pastor’s are called to feed and protect

# Acts 20:28 (NLT) *“So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders”*

1. The Call to ministry is a compelling invitation to cooperate with God is advancing the kingdom and building the church

**1 Corinthians 12:27-28 (NLT)** *All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it.28Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church: first are apostles, second are prophets, third are teachers, then those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who have the gift of leadership, those who speak in unknown languages.*

1. We don’t position ourselves God does, and He does so when we are ready for the responsibility.
2. Everyone has a ministry position to fulfill in the kingdom of God.
3. Our gifts, passions, ability, and testimony all play a part in defining our calling.
4. Not everyone will work in a church to fulfill a calling, but we will all work in the kingdom!

“A career is what your *paid* for, but a call is what your *made* for”

1. **9 Distinguishing Marks of the Call**
2. The calling originates from God **( Jeremiah 1:4-5)**
* Because we are called by God we know we are qualified to lead His people. He will not position what He will not give provision to.
1. The calling comes to those that are listening and ready to \_**Obey**\_**( 1 Samuel 3:10)**

**Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)*“****For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

* We have a choice in our calling to answer it or not. To take up the responsibility and obey God’s will or not. Not every Singer is worshipping for Him, Not every pastor is Shepherding for Him, Not every evangelist is speaking for Him…
1. The calling is often overwhelming **(Exodus 3:11)**
* If we look at the need or our ability and try to decide if we should answer the call…we will probably run. Thankfully, we are leading and meeting needs not based on our ability, but His.
* If you could do it all, it would be a plan and not a calling. The call should be bigger than you are, that’s how you know it is God calling you.
1. Obeying the call involves leaving your \_**Comfort** **Zone**\_\_ **(Genesis 12:1)**
* Jesus left Earth and Peter had to get out of the boat…God is going
1. The calling is accompanied with the promise of God’s protection and provision **(ex. 3:12, Judges 6:16, Josh 1:9)**
* Moses stood before pharaoh and the armies of Egypt with confidence because he knew God was with him. You can face every need and opposition knowing God will be with you to provide.
1. Obeying the calling unleashes your \_**Personality**\_ and makes you bigger and better than you could otherwise be. *(ex. : Gideon became a mighty warrior, Abraham became the father of many nations, David became a king)*
2. A calling may take a long time to be fulfilled **(Gal. 1:15-20)**

# Habakkuk 2:3 (TLB) “*But these things I plan won’t happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!”*

* We turn pages in the Bible and think Noah’s ark was built in a day, that Joshua lead the people to the promise land in days, or that David became king months after being anointed, but all these callings to lead took time.
1. The calling must be obeyed **(Gen. 12:1,4-5)**

**Gen.6:22 (NLT)** *So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him*

* Failure to comply to every detail of instruction could have caused Noah to build a boat that couldn’t float, or to forget an important member of the lifecycle behind. And as simple as that mankind could have not been saved from the floods destruction, even though God had provided a way.
1. Running from your calling \_**Hurts**\_\_\_you and others **(Jonah 1: 4- 17)**
* Jonah ended up in a whale and the sailors in the sea…Answer God’s call so the consequences of disobedience can be avoided!