THE CALLING, THE OFFICE, AND THE MINISTRY

Understanding Your Divine Assignment and Place in the Body of Christ

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Dedication

To the Chief Shepherd,
the One who calls, who places, who sends —
whose voice is our summons, whose grace is our strength, whose glory is our reward.

And to every faithful minister —
those who labour in hidden fields, who stand firm in difficult seasons, who love without seeking fame, and who serve without seeking recognition.

This is for you.

May your heart never lose the wonder of the One who called you.
May your hands never grow weary in the work He assigned to you.
And may your life forever bear the testimony that His call was not in vain.

Preface

In every generation, God calls, places, and sends men and women for His purposes.
But amidst the beauty of divine calling, there often comes confusion — confusion about the difference between the calling, the office, and the ministry.

Today, many pursue ministry without understanding placement.
Many assume offices without recognising divine assignment.
And some, though sincerely called, struggle to walk worthy of that sacred trust.

This book was born out of a conviction —
a desire to bring clarity where there has been confusion,
to strengthen those who have been called,
to guide those who are stepping into their placement,
and to remind every servant of God that ministry is not a race for titles but a journey of faithfulness.

In these pages, you will not find personal ambition or theories of men. You will find truths rooted in Scripture, explained with clarity, and shared with the heart of a fellow servant who understands the weight and wonder of the call.

You are not reading a manual for ambition.
You are receiving a roadmap for honour.
Honour towards the One who called you.
Honour towards the office He entrusted to you.
Honour towards the ministry He assigned to your life.

Whether you are just beginning your journey or have laboured for years in the vineyard,
may these words refresh your vision, ground your steps, and renew your joy.

You have been called.
You have been placed.
You have been sent.

Now, by His grace, walk worthy of the calling with which you were called.

— Pastor Dr. Emmanuel Mukisa, D.D.

Chapter 1: The Call Before the Office

In the sacred journey of ministry, the first step is not a title. It is not an office. It is not even a platform.
The first step is a call — a divine summons that separates a man or woman unto God Himself before separating them unto any work.

In Scripture, the call of God always precedes the assignment.
It is not merely a function you perform; it is a belonging you receive. Before you can serve others effectively, you must be established in the reality that you have been called, first and foremost, *to Christ.*

When the Apostle Paul reflected on his life, he did not begin by recounting his labours. He pointed first to the call:
"God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling—not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace..." (2 Timothy 1:8–9).
Notice — the calling is holy. It is distinct, set apart, separate from common life. It is anchored not in human ambition, but in divine grace.

The calling is not something we achieve; it is something we receive.
It is God's initiative, not man's invention.
No one wakes up one day and decides to be called.
God is the One who chooses, appoints, and sends.

Biblical Examples:

When God called Moses, it was not Moses' idea. Moses was tending sheep in the wilderness when the burning bush drew him into destiny (Exodus 3:1–12).
The call arrested him before he ever thought about leadership.
In the same way, Jeremiah's call was established before his natural birth. God said,
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5).

What do these examples show us?
The call is older than your experience. It existed before you ever had the capacity to respond.
It is God's initiative to set you apart for Himself before ever assigning you to others.

Today, there is often confusion between zeal and calling.
Many are moved by passion, ambition, or opportunity — but calling is different.
Zeal can be stirred by circumstances; calling is established by God's sovereign hand.
Ambition can be fed by admiration; calling is sustained by consecration.

In Acts 13:2, we read that the Holy Spirit said,
"Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
Notice again — it was not men who selected themselves. It was the Spirit who called and separated.

The Sequence Matters:

- First, you are called.
- Then, you are separated.
- Then, you are assigned.

Any attempt to function in an office or ministry without responding rightly to the call results in disorder — and eventually, frustration.

The True Nature of the Call:

- **The Call is to Christ, before it is to service.**
  Before Peter was sent to feed sheep, he was called to follow (John 21:15–19).
  The order matters. Ministry without intimacy becomes machinery without life.

- **The Call demands separation.**
  Moses had to leave Midian. Abraham had to leave Ur. Paul had to leave the Pharisees.
  The call separates you from common ambitions into divine purpose.
- **The Call requires surrender, not negotiation.**
  Moses tried to argue with God about his inadequacy (Exodus 4). Jeremiah tried to excuse himself because of his youth (Jeremiah 1).
  Both were corrected.
  God does not call you based on your natural qualifications — He calls according to His purpose.
- **The Call is a lifelong identity.**
  Offices may shift. Assignments may evolve. Ministry forms may change.
  But your call — your belonging to Christ — is eternal.

Understanding the call rightly will protect you in seasons when outward ministry feels hidden or difficult.
It will anchor you when applause fades and recognition wavers.
You will know that your value is not in what you do for God, but in the fact that you have been summoned by Him.

It is critical, therefore, that every minister — before thinking about offices or ministry — first settles the call.
You must be sure that your ministry flows from the strength of a relationship, not the insecurity of needing recognition.

The call comes first.
The call builds the man before the man builds the ministry.
The call forms identity before it forms assignments.

Without the call, the office becomes a stage.
Without the call, the ministry becomes self-promotion.
But when the call is rightly understood, ministry becomes an overflow of union with God.

And only then can a life truly bear lasting fruit for the Kingdom.

Chapter 2: The Divine Placement: Recognising Your Office

After the call comes the placement.
God, who calls, also assigns — setting each one into the Body of Christ according to His wisdom, not according to human ambition.

The placement is what we refer to as the **office** — the divinely ordained position from which a person is to function in service to the Body.

It is important to understand that placement is **not the same** as calling. While the call is to Christ first and foremost, the placement defines where and how that calling is to be expressed within the corporate life of the Church.

Paul makes this distinction clear when he writes,
"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers..." (1 Corinthians 12:28, KJV).

The Greek word for "set" is **"τίθημι" (*tithēmi*)**, meaning *to appoint, to place, to establish firmly.*
It conveys the idea of intentional, strategic positioning — not random occurrence.

It is God who places.
It is God who decides.
It is God who assigns.

You do not choose your office.
You respond to your call, and then you accept your placement.

Biblical Example: