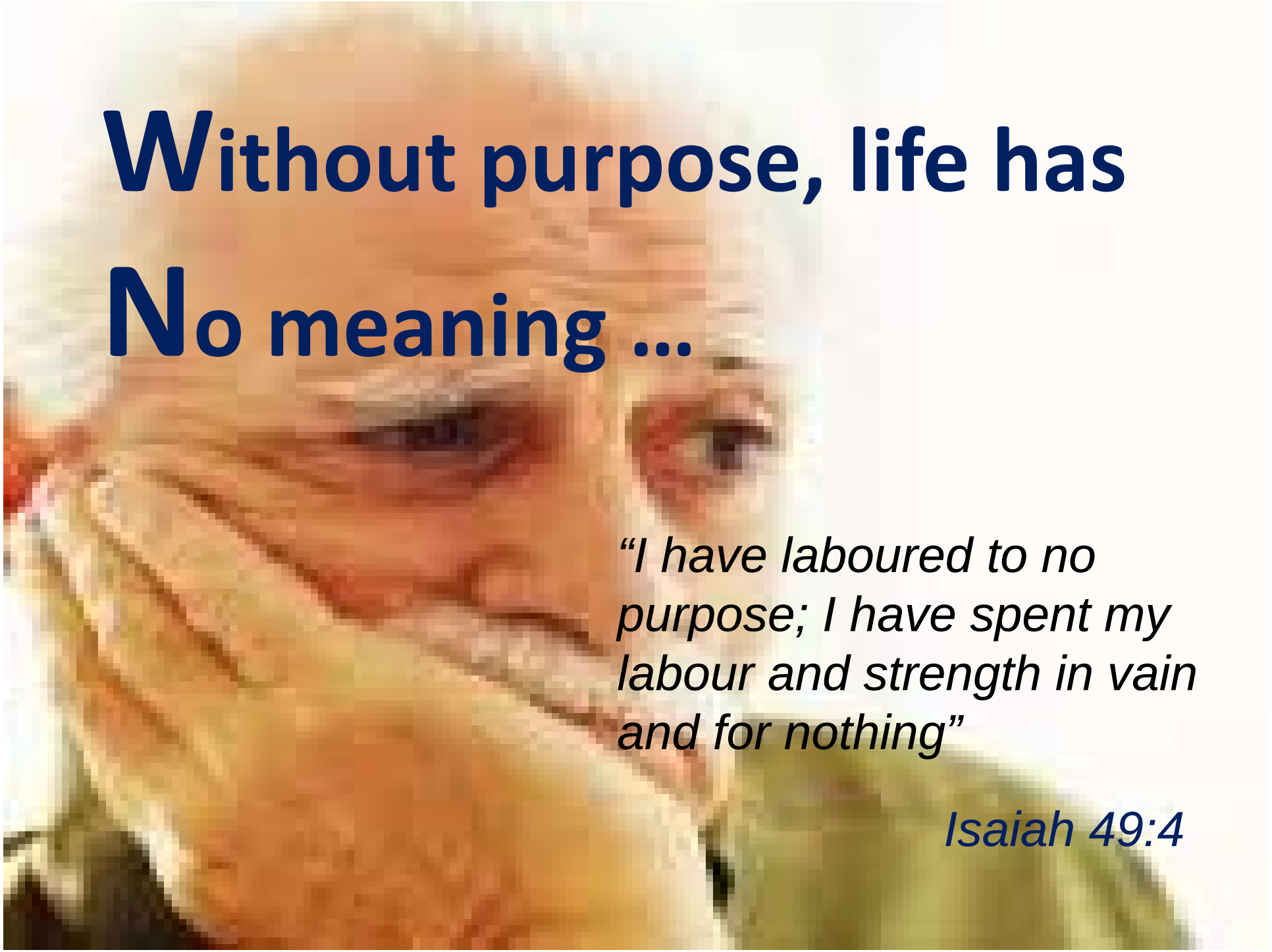
Discovering God's
Calling & Purpose for
Your Life
B & P Ministry Celebration,
Nov 12, 2011



Without purpose, life has No meaning …

"I have laboured to no purpose; I have spent my labour and strength in vain and for nothing"

Isaiah 49:4

WAYS WE SEEK TO FIND PURPOSE OUTSIDE GOD

- Work / Careers / Business – for Dignity
- Achievements – performance based significance
- Acquiring wealth / things
- Recognition from others
- Relationships
- Children / Family
- Good Life

SUCCESS …… as Purpose for Life?

Most Powerful Man in 1923	25 Years Later
• **Charles Schwab** - President of largest steel co	• Bankrupt
• **Samuel Insull** - President of the largest utility co	• Died penniless and a fugitive for justice
• **Howard Hopson** - President, largest gas co	• Insane
• **Arthur Cutten** - Great wheat speculator	• Insolvent
• **Richard Whitney** - President, NYSE	• Just released from Prison
• **Albert Fall** - Secretary of Interior	• Pardoned from Prison and broke
• **Jessie Livermore, Ivan Krueger, Leon Fraser**	• All committed suicide

Remember Jer 9:23!

The Futility of Driveness!

DRIVEN	CALLED
• Gratified only by Accomplishments	• Clear sense of Purpose
• Obsessed with Pursuit of Expansion	• Dream Big but growing sense of peace and joy
• Too Busy for Relationships	• Committed to Relationships
• Compromised with Integrity and Impatient for Results	• Honour Integrity & Trust God for Results & Timing
eg. Saul (1 Sam 10:8; 13:13)	eg. Joseph

ROOTS OF DRIVENESS

Fears & Insecurity, Past Wounds, Pride, Control

THE KEY DIFFERENCE

Letting Go and Embracing a Higher Purpose!

Biblical Success & Dreaming Big!

- **DREAM BIG!**

  Gen 15:5; Gen 37:5-10; Jer 33:3 John 14:12

- **Purpose is centred in God**

  - *"It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ, …….. He had his eyes on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone."*

    Eph 1:11 (Msg)

  - *"The Lord will fulfill His Purpose for me"* *Psalm 138:8*

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S
CALLING & PURPOSE
FOR OUR LIVES

1. The CALL OF MOSES
(Exodus 3:1-12)

"When the Lord saw that he had caught Moses attention, God called to him from the bush "Moses! Moses!" (4)

- God initiated and called Moses - Calling

"I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt …. I have come to rescue them" (7,8)

- God revealed the burden He had for his People – Significant Task

"I am sending you to Pharaoh …." (10)

- God's method to accomplish His Plan – An Available Man!

"Who am I to appear before Pharaoh …." (11)

- Moses responded with fear and inadequacy - Excuses!

"I will be with you." (12)

- God's Assurance of his Presence - Provision

2. The CALL OF JEREMIAH
(Jeremiah 1:4-8)

- God revealed Himself to Jeremiah

  "I knew You before I formed you in your mother's womb……" *Jer 1:5a*

- God revealed His Calling and purpose for Jeremiah

  "Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my spokesman to the World.." *Jer 1:5b*

- Jeremiah's Response

  "O Sovereign Lord" I said, "I can't speak for you. I'm too young!" *Jer 1:6*

- God's Assurance of His Presence

  "Don't say that …..and don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and take care of you. I, the Lord, have spoken" *Jer 1:7,8*

KEY LESSONS

- God Called Us First to Himself

  - Establishing a Relationship with God, vital to understanding our Calling and Purpose

- God Calls Us to Significant Task of Eternal Value

  - The Task ultimately related to the 2 Things that last forever

  - Word of God
  - Souls of People

- God's Method to Fulfill His Purposes is through People

  - Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Jeremiah. ….*You!*

- Everyone Feels Inadequate but God used them all to do Great Exploits!
  - Whatever Excuses we have never valid

- Our Qualifications & Destiny not determined by our Natural Heritage or Past
  - Only Qualification needed is to be Available!

- God will Empower those He Calls
  - You CAN Do it , with God's help.

PROCESS OF DISCOVERING YOUR UNIQUE CALLING

- God chose us, we respond to His invitation
  - Hear His Word / Voice / Promptings

- Circumstances designed to seek Him & His Call
  - Eg. Business Problems can lead to a Calling

➢ *The Calling of Saul as King*

1 Sam 9:1-6; 20-21; 10:1

- Gifts and Effectiveness

1 Peter 4:10

- Counsel and Confirmation by Others
  - Eg. Peter's mission to Gentiles

Acts 10:1-46

Is my Career / Business
part of God's Calling
& Purpose?

MOSES! STAFF & HIS CALLING

"Then the Lord asked Moses, "What do you have in your hand?"

"A <u>shepherd's staff</u>", Moses replied. *(Exo 4:2)*

"Be sure to take your shepherd's staff along so you can perform miraculous signs with it ……." *(Exo 4:17)*

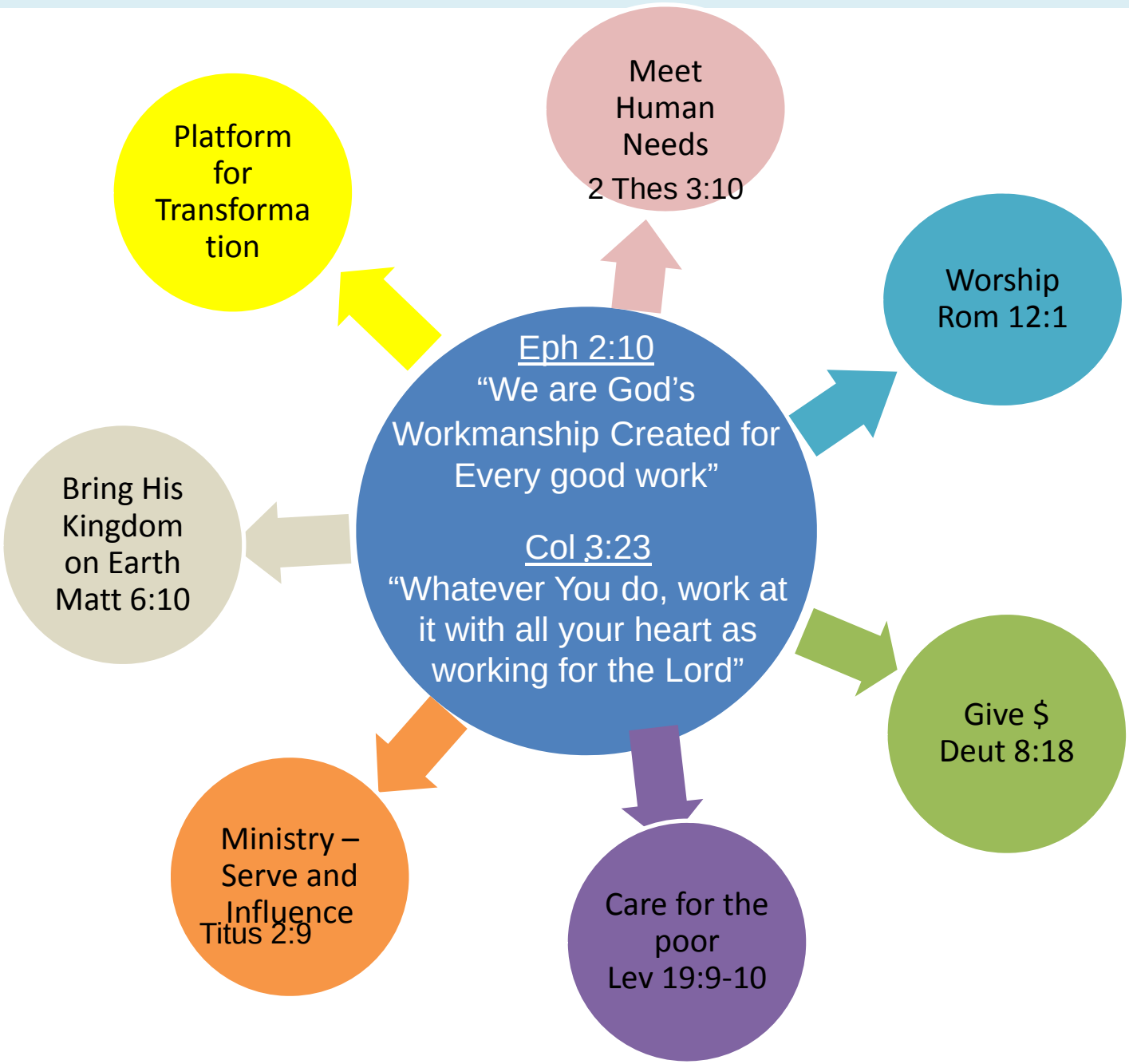
"So Moses …. Headed back to Egypt. In his hand, he carried the <u>Staff of God</u>"

(Exo 4:20)

<u>Key Observations/Lessons</u>

- God came during his work
- Called him to lay his staff (symbol of his work) down
- Changed it from "shepherd staff" (owner) to "God's Staff" (steward)
- Performed miracles through it
- Delivered people from bondage

OUR WORK IS OUR CALLING & MINISTRY



Transformation Takes Place When …….

- Ethical, Fair & Just Dealings
- Economic Increase & Financial Blessings for Many
- Work Culture is Positive
- Spiritual Awakening with Conversions, Discipleship and Changed Lives
- Kingdom of God is Advanced

FULFILL YOUR CALLING AS A MARKETPLACE MINISTER

- Professionals in Marketplace Ministry

✓ *Zenas – the lawyer – used his office.* *Titus 1:3*

✓ *Luke – doctor* *Col 4:14, Acts 16:9-11*

- Businessmen and women in Marketplace Ministry
  - ✓ Lydia – The merchant who opened her house. *Acts 16:4*
  - ✓ Acquilla & Priscilla – busy in Business and Ministry

Acts 16:2, 18, 20

- Dato Sri Idris Jala

"Its only when we understand that things are not in our control – ultimately only God is in control-we can do the best that we can. That's when we teat our work like our calling".

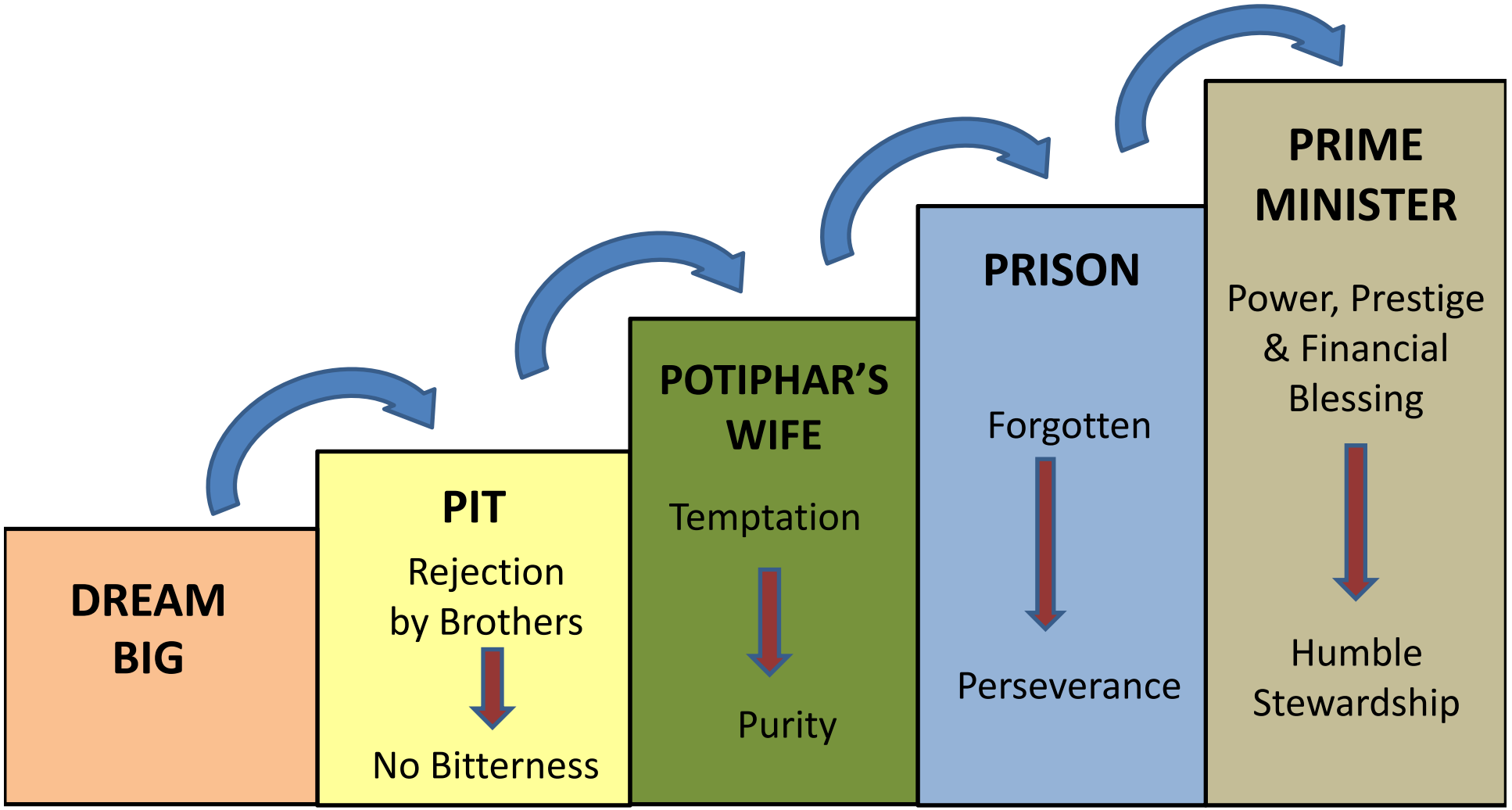
Greatest Opportunity to fulfill the Great Commission at Work!

CALLING NOT NECESSARY TO PREACHING OR BECOMING A PASTOR / MISSIONARY

	From	To
Joseph	PIT	Prime Minister
Daniel	Young Hebrew Man	High Prophet & Govt Officer
David	Shepherd Boy	Commander & Leader and King
Paul	Prosecutor	Apostle
John Mark	Unfaithful Servant	Writer of Gospel of Mark
(Your Name)	?	?

STAYING FOCUSED ON
YOUR CALLING
- Despite Challenges, Adversities &
No Fruits

Joseph's Calling & Testings (Psalm 105:17-21)



OBEDIENCE LEADS TO FULFILLMENT OF ULTIMATE PURPOSE

TREASURES OF DARKNESS

"I will give you treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, who calls you by your name, Am the God of Israel" *(Isa 45:3)*

EXAMPLES:

- Paul – hidden 3 years n Arabia before Ministry
- David – hidden in Cave of Abdullam over a decade
- Moses
  - Spent his 1st 40 years thinking he was somebody
  - Spent next 40 years learning he was nobody
  - Spent his 3rd 40 years discovering what God can do with a nobody

PROGRESSIVE FULFILLMENT OF CALL:

Convenience		**Crisis**		**Conviction**
My Business My Way	→	My Business His Way	→	His Business His Way

TESTINGS TO TESTIMONIES; MESSES INTO MESSENGERS

SATAN WANTS TO KILL YOUR CALLING & DESTINY

- Moses

  "The King of Egypt said to the Hebrew's midwives …… if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him……." *Exo 1:15,16*

- Jesus

  "Herod…..gave orders to kill all boys in Bethlehem ……." *Matt 2:16*

- You

  "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devils walks about like a roaring Lion, seeking whom he may devour" *1 Pet 5:8-9*

If he cant kill you, he'll kill your Dreams or wound you in childhood

– Accuser of Brethren *Rev 12*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

1. COMMIT TO HIS CALLING & PURPOSES

"You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Thereafter honour God with your body"

1 Cor 6:19-20

2. EMBRACE HIS DREAM & STEP OUT IN FAITH

"Don't let me remain where I am, Help me reach where You want me to be!"

Psalm 143:10

EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD

ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD