

Quotable Quotes about Vocation

I believe there's a calling for all of us. I know that every human being has value and purpose. The real work of our lives is to become aware. And awakened. To answer the call.

— Oprah Winfrey

God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, ". . . who will go for Us?" The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.

— Oswald Chambers, **My Utmost for His Highest**

If you find what you do each day seems to have no link to any higher purpose, you probably want to rethink what you're doing.

— Ronald A. Heifetz, *The Practice of Adaptive Leadership: Tools and Tactics for Changing Your Organization and the World*

Answering the call of God is not something we do after details have been laid out. Nor is it something we do because others want us to do it. It's something we do because we know it's right. Because we love Him.

— Sondra Kraak, *One Plus One Equals Trouble*

Your purpose in life is to find your purpose and give your whole heart and soul to it.

— Gautama Buddha

God's definition of what matters is pretty straightforward. He measures our lives by how we love.

— Francis Chan, *Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God*

It is not enough to be industrious; so are the ants. What are you industrious about?

— Henry David Thoreau, *Letters to Various Persons*

Here is a test to find out whether your mission in life is complete. If you're alive, it isn't.

— Lauren Bacall

Where your talents and the needs of the world cross, there lies your purpose. —Aristotle

Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you. - Mother Teresa

“Vocation” comes from the Latin vocare (to call) and means the work a man is called to by God.

There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of society, say, or the superego, or self-interest.

The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need to do and (b) that the world needs to have done. If you find your work rewarding, you have presumably met requirement (a), but if your work does not benefit others, the chances are you have missed requirement (b).

On the other hand, if your work does benefit others, you have probably met requirement (b), but if most of the time you are unhappy with it, the chances are you have not only bypassed (a) but probably aren't helping your customers much either.

Neither the hair shirt nor the soft berth will do. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet.

— Frederick Buechner

The old and honourable idea of *vocation* is simply that we each are called, by God, or by our gifts, or by our preference, to a kind of good work for which we are particularly fitted.

- Wendell Berry

Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.

— Thomas Merton

When we reduce the notion of *calling* to work inside the church, we fail to equip our people to apply their Christian faith to everything they do, everywhere they are. - Tullian Tchividjian

What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbour as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom.

- N.T. Wright

You owe it to all of us to get on with what you're good at.

— W.H. Auden

There is something in the depths of our being that hungers for wholeness and finality. Because we are made for eternal life, we are made for an act that gathers up all the powers and capacities of our being and offers them simultaneously and forever to God. The blind spiritual instinct that tells us obscurely that our own lives have a particular importance and purpose, and which urges us to find out our vocation, seeks in so doing to bring us to a decision that will dedicate our lives irrevocably to their true purpose. The man who loses this sense of his own personal destiny, and who renounces all hope of having any kind of vocation in life has either lost all hope of happiness or else has entered upon some mysterious vocation that God alone can understand.

— Thomas Merton, *No Man Is an Island*

He does not call those who are worthy, but those whom He will.

— Therese of Lisieux

Indifference destroys vocation unlike any other intangible force, for the reason that it shakes the very core of our motivation for doing what we do.

— Joyce Rachelle

What do we advertise about You by how we serve? Do we reflect the belief shown in Jesus' parable that You are a hard master taking what isn't Yours? Forgive us for even brief lapses into such churlishness. Or, do we reflect a joy in serving that radiates from an intimate and time-tested knowledge of the goodness of the One we serve? Paul and Daniel were confident of this sovereign goodness even when they were prisoners rather than courtiers, and we can likewise tap into a joy that defies circumstances. When this happens, the oft-disappointed world will notice and investigate.

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— Brian Eshleman

We want big results - sooner rather than later. And we've forgotten that God showers his extraordinary gifts through ordinary means of grace, loves us through ordinary fellow image bearers, and sends us into the world to love and serve others in ordinary callings. Michael Horton, Ordinary, 14

— Michael S. Horton

Our strongest gifts are usually those we are barely aware of possessing. They are a part of our God-given nature, with us from the moment we drew first breath, and we are no more conscious of having them than we are of breathing.

— Parker J. Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*

Your calling is to be faithful to God where you are, and in doing this all work is sacred, spiritual, and worthy of your full attention and energy. When you get to work, you are not entering a secular environment as much as you are bringing the sacred into the world by following Christ wherever you are.

— Joe Thorn, *Note to Self: The Discipline of Preaching to Yourself*

Make your work to be in keeping with your purpose.

— Leonardo da Vinci

The only significance of life consists in helping to establish the kingdom of God.

- Leo Tolstoy

The test of a vocation is the love of the drudgery it involves.

- Logan Pearsall Smith

Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

If God gives you something you can do, why in God's name wouldn't you do it?

— Stephen King