Discerning Your Calling: A Discipleship Reflection

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God often reveals a calling where three things meet: the gifts He has placed in your hands, the burden He has laid on your heart, and the need His people keep bringing to you.

Each question alone is incomplete; together they turn a vague search for purpose into prayerful, testable discernment. The reflection suits any disciple at a crossroads: young believers choosing a path, mid-life believers weighing a change, and seasoned saints deciding where to invest their remaining years and influence.

The three questions

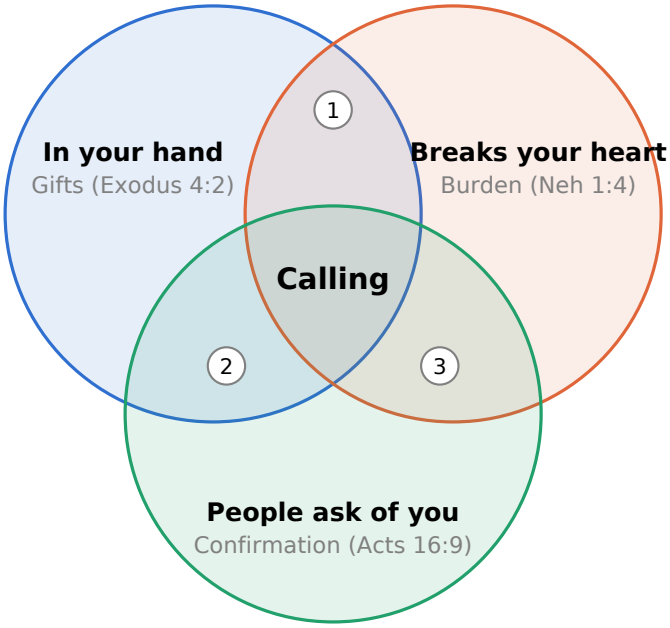
Question	What it reveals	Scripture	Prompts for reflection
What is in your hand? (Gifts)	Your capacity: talents, training, experience, relationships and position. Often overlooked because they come easily.	Exodus 4:2 — God uses Moses' ordinary staff. 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:6–8; Matthew 25:14–30.	What do I do well with little effort? What access or networks do I hold that most lack? What has God prepared me for, even through hardship?
What breaks your heart? (Burden)	Your conviction: the injustice or need you notice that others walk past. The source of your staying power.	Nehemiah 1:3–4 — Nehemiah weeps over the broken walls before he rebuilds them. Matthew 9:36; Proverbs 31:8–9.	What grieves or angers me that seems invisible to others? What problem do I keep returning to, unpaid and unasked? Whose suffering do I feel personally?
What do people keep asking of you? (Confirmation)	External evidence that your gift is real and needed, often recognised by others before you see it.	Acts 16:9 — the Macedonian plea, "Come over and help us." Acts 13:2–3; Acts 6:3.	What help am I repeatedly sought out for? What do people thank me for years later? What would the body of Christ miss if I stopped?

The first question is about capacity, the second about conviction, the third about confirmation.

The intersection

Esther shows all three converging (Esther 4:14). Her royal position was in her hand. Her people's coming destruction broke her heart. Mordecai's appeal was the call from outside: "for such a time as this."

We are "created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained" (Ephesians 2:10). Calling is therefore less invented than discovered.



Where only two circles meet

1. **Gift and burden, no call yet**
   Pray and watch for the open door
2. **Gift and demand, no burden**
   Useful, but risks burnout
3. **Burden and call, no gift yet**
   Train, partner or recruit

Centre: all three meet
Equipped, burdened and called (Esther 4:14)

Each partial overlap shows what is still missing. Gift and burden without a call need patience and visibility until the door opens. Gift and demand without burden lead to competent but draining service. Burden and a call without the gift invite training or partnership, as Moses received Aaron (Exodus 4:14–16). Only the centre is Esther's moment: sustainable, needed and life-giving at once.

Practice and pitfalls

Practice

1 **Pray for wisdom** before and during the exercise (James 1:5).

2 **List freely.** Write 10 or more answers to each question without filtering. Quantity first, judgment later.

3 **Ask others.** Invite three to five believers who know you well to answer the questions about you; they often see your gifts more clearly than you do (Proverbs 15:22).

4 **Look for threads.** Circle themes that appear in two or three lists, then write one sentence: "God has equipped me with ___ to address ___ for ___, which others already seek from me."

5 **Step out in small obedience.** Serve, volunteer, mentor or pilot before major commitments, and let fruit confirm the call (Luke 16:10; Zechariah 4:10).

6 **Revisit in each season.** Gifts grow, burdens deepen and needs shift; repeat the exercise at major transitions (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Pitfalls

- **Undervaluing the ordinary:** gifts that feel easy are dismissed, yet God worked through a shepherd's staff (Exodus 4:2).

- **Excuses:** Moses pleaded inadequacy, yet God supplied what he lacked (Exodus 4:10–12).
- **Confusing demand with calling:** Jethro warned Moses that carrying every request alone would wear him out (Exodus 18:17–18).
- **Waiting for certainty:** whoever watches the wind will not sow (Ecclesiastes 11:4); the call sharpens as you obey.
- **Burying the gift** out of fear (Matthew 25:25).
- **Overlooking seasons:** Moses was a prince, a shepherd and then a deliverer; one calling can be lived through many roles.

Key takeaway: your calling is not invented but discovered (Ephesians 2:10), where God's gifts in your hand, His burden on your heart and His people's needs converge. Name each, look for the overlap, then test it in faithful obedience.