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## APPENDIX:

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### ***Call of God***

When does a person know if God has specifically called him to be a pastor-teacher or evangelist (Eph. 4:11)? Listed below are six indicators which a person can consider in determining God's will on this issue:

1. Leading of the Holy Spirit (cf. Psa. 143:10; Acts 13:2; Gal. 5:16)
2. Gifting by the Holy Spirit (teaching, ability to lead others; cf. 1 Cor. 12:7,11; 1 Tim. 4:13-15; 2 Tim. 1:6)
3. Fruit resulting from a person's labor (cf. 1 Cor. 12:4-7)
4. A believer's personal desire (cf. Psalm 37:4)
5. Confirmation of others (cf. 2 Cor. 8:22-23)
6. Open or closed doors (cf. Rev. 3:7-8)



All six indicators should be considered together as a unit. No one or two indicators by themselves should be considered exclusively.

1. Leading of the Holy Spirit (cf. Psa. 143:10; Acts 13:2; Gal. 5:16)

The Holy Spirit leads believers in accordance with the will of God. Therefore He will lead them to do only those things which God the Father desires them to do. Knowing that God has predetermined good works which He wants each believer to perform (Eph. 2:10; Php. 2:13), the Holy Spirit leads them down these predetermined paths. This is why it is important that Christians walk by the Spirit, not carrying out the desires of the flesh. They need to be sure that they are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading, not grieving (Eph. 4:30) and/or resisting Him (cf. Acts 7:51) thereby quenching Him (1 Thes. 5:19) in their lives. If they are walking by the Spirit, then they can know His leading and God's plan for their lives.

2. Gifting by the Holy Spirit (teaching, ability to lead others; cf. 1 Cor. 12:7,11;13; 1 Tim. 4:13-15; 2 Tim. 1:6)

At salvation the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers (1 Cor. 12:7,11;13). This gifting is one indication whether a person is called of God to be a pastor-teacher or evangelist since they must have the essential gift of teaching to do their work (cf. Eph. 4:11-16). It is also important that they can lead others (cf. 1 Tim. 3:4-5; Acts 20:28) since both of these are leadership positions.

3. Fruit resulting from a person's labor (cf. 1 Cor. 12:4-7)

It is good for a person to involve himself in various types of ministries as he begins his service for Christ. By doing this he will be able to see what the results are from his labor in each. In other words, are people blessed by what he does or are they not? Does he enjoy his work, or is it difficult and drudgery for him? A person who is gifted by God and doing the work which God has called him to do should see positive results from his labor (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; Php. 1:22). Through this he will be able to see what he is gifted to do and what he is not.

4. A believer's personal desire (cf. Psalm 37:4)

When believers delight themselves in the Lord, He will give them the desires of their heart. What is the source of these desires which the believer has? God. Though this may appear to be circular reasoning, it is not. The reason it is not is because when a believer is walking with the Lord, he will desire to do the will of God. Therefore, if God has called him to be a pastor-teacher or elder (Eph. 4:11; cf. Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15), it will then be his desire to fulfill that calling. If however he is called to be a pastor-teacher or evangelist and is not walking with the Lord, it may not be his desire to fulfill God's calling (e.g., Jonah). Therefore a person needs to take into account the desires which he has, if of course he is walking with Christ.

5. Confirmation of others (cf. 2 Cor. 8:22-23)

As believers observe each other engaged in ministry, over time they will see indications of what each other is and is not gifted for. Solicited and unsolicited comments about these issues can be beneficial as believers talk about how someone may or may not be gifted, and/or what ministry God may or may not desire him to fulfill. These comments can be an indication of God's plan for this person's direction in life (Pro. 13:10; 19:20; 27:9).

6. Open or closed doors (cf. Rev. 3:7-8)

God is the one who opens doors which no one can shut and who shuts doors which no one can open. When a person is investigating God's call on his life, he needs to walk through the open doors and not try to open the doors which are closed. God will lead the one who is seeking (Jam. 1:5) down the path which He desires him to travel (cf. Pro. 3:5-6; 16:9). One does need to keep in mind that God does not always open a door immediately. If a person does believe that God has called him to be a pastor-teacher or evangelist (resulting from the other indicators above), then he simply needs to be patient and serve where he is at fulfilling the opportunities which present themselves. If the door never does open, then it may not be God's will or maybe there is another issue which needs to be considered first (e.g., sin, lack of experience, lack of maturity, etc.).

If the majority of these indicators point toward or against what a person is pursuing, then he should seriously consider their significance in making his decision.