



Joanna Meyer: Hello and welcome to the Faith and Work Podcast where we explore our everyday work in God's world. The Faith and Work Podcast is produced and hosted by Denver Institute for Faith and Work. I'm Joanna Meyer, I'm the director of events and sponsorships and I'm joined today by Brian Gray and Dustin Moody.

How are you guys doing?

Dustin Moody: Doing well, thanks.

Brian Gray: Doing well. We're wearing matching shirts today, Dustin and I. So we are twinsies.

Dustin Moody: We got the memo.

Brian Gray: On the spot.

Joanna Meyer: You guys are in your J Crew gingham shirts today and looking good.

Brian Gray: Doing our best.

Dustin Moody: Ushering and fall where we can.

Joanna Meyer: That's awesome. So today we're talking about calling, which is an important topic for believers. But it's a topic with more than a few misconceptions. And so, we're thrilled to have Mr. Brian Gray with us, the director of the 5280 Fellowship and our chief operations officer here at Denver Institute. Who also happens to be a pro at all things related to calling. So I'm curious, Brian, how exactly did you get this title of Mr. Calling?

Brian Gray: Yeah, falling out of the branch and hitting every tree on the way down, I think. Calling is an interesting narrative. I can give the quick career art that relates this idea for me. I grew up in a really solid Christian environment where ministry as done in the church was really highly valued. I looked at that, I thought that was fantastic. I didn't feel wired for it and found myself in Austin, Texas doing heart research. Loved what I was doing. Enjoyed it and was pretty well wired for it. But what I found is that a lot of folks in my world, in my church didn't have a vision to help me understand how that world in heart research, where we were going to be helping give increased medical care through cardiovascular fizz to black and Latino populations. Nobody had a vision for how that was a part of God's vision of human flourishing. Or how that was something that a Christian, because of a theology, would put their mind to, right? Or their efforts.

But when I would preach or disciple college kids or lead short term trips, they all kind of applauded. So I had this developing category as, wait a minute. God cares about one thing over the other. And God might be calling me towards

occupation in a more formal ministry setting of the church. So I had, even in my career arc earlier on, though I loved, I was a pastor for 13 years. Served on faculty as a seminary, part of my journey in was a messed up sense of calling. What is it? What does God care about? Why?

So, to call me an expert is at least humorous, from my experience.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, one thing that interests me about this conversation, Brian, is that to understand what calling is, sometimes you have to start by looking at what it's not. Because most people have a faulty view of calling, sorry folks, but it's true. So, what do you think some of the misconceptions about calling are.

Brian Gray: Yeah, let's start by being really generous with this. And that is that I think a lot of people have a really well intended God honoring starting point, that they want their lives to be, they want to take really seriously their lives before God and have their lives be a response to God.

But in many Christian subcultures, we can have maybe some less than helpful understandings of what calling looks like that can lead us in some different directions. So let me turn this around first as a question. My suspicion is that certain people doing certain things in certain places would typically use the phrase, "God called me to," fill in the blank. All right, just think, historically or from your own experience, who are those types of people and what kind of places are and what are they doing? Who is God calling to do what?

Joanna Meyer: I can think of people that have been called to Africa. Usually calling involves something hard.

Dustin Moody: Yeah, it's got to be hard.

Joanna Meyer: Africa or outer Mongolia.

Brian Gray: Bonus points if there's not English involved-

Joanna Meyer: Yeah.

Brian Gray: -in the country you go to in Africa.

Dustin Moody: Yeah, there's this idea that calling is hard things. But it's also a set of occupations typically associated with ministry.

Brian Gray: Okay. Okay. Like, give me examples.

Dustin Moody: Like a pastor being called into ministry or, you know, it's interesting I've never heard a music minister talk about being called to what they do. But that's an interesting, you know, dynamic there.

Brian Gray: Yeah. So let's just say, so typically, if we're talking about the types of people it's often people, pastors or people perhaps on church staff. Para church staff, perhaps Christian non-profits. Definitely missionaries. Right? So these are typically the people. They are usually doing the types of things that we would describe as really explicitly or really clearly gospel related work. Right? I might want to have a little of a hang up of what that actually means. But for most of us, so we think what is work related to the gospel? Occupational ministry. Right? They're doing those types of things and they are usually in organizations or in places that they are centering themselves around that type of work.

So, I think that that is a missed starting point for how the Bible is traditionally understanding, describing, and encouraging to us a sense of calling. But it's really accurate for the subcultures that a lot of people in the church grew up in. Right? So I think the first misconception is that calling is just certain people doing certain types of works in certain places. All of which are explicit Christian. That's very subculture. I don't think that's biblical. And we can talk a little bit about that.

But related though is I think the way, another misconception or starting point on calling is the way people think about the nature of God's will. So, what is God's will for my life? You've asked this before, yeah?

Dustin Moody: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Joanna Meyer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Brian Gray: Okay. What are the types of situations when you feel like people are asking God, you know, what's God's will for my life and what kind of examples?

Dustin Moody: I remember having this conversation both at the end of my own college experience and with other soon to be college grads that I've been around. This idea that they are searching for God's calling almost like a needle in a haystack that if they step on the wrong rung of the ladder, the rest of the life will be in calamity.

Brian Gray: That's it.

Joanna Meyer: I had one too recently. And this is a little bit of dose of humor for our podcast. At the start of 2018 I got a Facebook message from a guy that I haven't seen in 20 years who said, "I think God is calling me to marry you."

Brian Gray: Perfect! I hate loving that example. [crosstalk 00:06:24]

Joanna Meyer: And the irony is that a week later he rescinded that offer and got back together with a girl.

Brian Gray: Was God calling you at that point?

Joanna Meyer: No! No, no, no.

Brian Gray: Yeah, so I mean, okay. Young Christian male, this is just a sidebar. Be really hesitant with the phrase, "God is calling me to," fill in the blank, anything that is romantically involving another female. Like, young Christian guys, never do that.

Joanna Meyer: Amen, amen, amen.

Brian Gray: Or let's be an egalitarian, young Christian women, be careful about reversing that the other way. Right? So, yeah, I think to the points of these examples, there's usually some kind of big ticket life decisions that get associated with the nature of the will of God.

And Dustin, I kind of agree with you. I think that many times there's a needle in a haystack view. So, the way this works is that God has a will. It's really specific and I've got to figure it out. And if I can't figure out then either I'm missing a boat or I'm outside of His will or in some circles you'll get that there's sin or why aren't you hearing clearly from God. And I just suggest that perhaps that is a narrow view of God's will. And that the Bible extends a vision of God's will which is, it starts from God has a sovereign will as a sovereign being. Right? And in some cases he expresses that as a moral will for people that we would, there's do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God. They are ethical or moral tenants of what God wills for his people.

But this idea of this really pin point specific, the exact thing you're supposed to do is I think a category that shows up in Christian subculture that is harder to find biblically. Or let me put it in another way, and this is not to make us all not feel special, but when God does have really specific will for a certain person to do a certain thing in a certain place, it's oftentimes people who are really key figures in the unfolding story of the gospel or the unfolding story of salvation throughout the old and new testament. So while Paul might have had these experiences and they are told to us in the scriptures, we don't hear the experiences of the Ephesians, or the Galatians, or those in Corinth looking for God's will like it's a needle in a haystack in the same way. Perhaps that happens, or perhaps the nature of God's will being that specific to certain people, it's reserved in some way. It's for people that God is very specifically activating for key aspects of gospel unfolding.

Dustin Moody: Yeah, it was interesting doing a little research for this episode. I was reading through some quotes from Os Guinness. In one of his books he says there's not a single instance in the New Testament of God's special call to anyone in a paid occupation or into the role of a religious professional. And getting back to the earlier point, that we put so much emphasis around this idea of calling, particularly to ministry roles. But that is not necessarily biblical.

Brian Gray: Yeah. Well, here's, we could start with some of the misconceptions. I think the nature of God's will, who gets called where when. I think that those are, at one level helpful starting points. But maybe kind of a quick orientation to starting, what do we understand biblically as what calling means?

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, what is it?

Brian Gray: Well, the first thing if we're just looking at it as a, let's just say if you will, a word study. If we start with the concept of calling in terms of how it gets unpacked biblically, it either ... first and foremost we would use the word calling or the scriptures use the word calling as one might speak out to another person. Like a man speaking out to another person or a woman to another person. Right? So we start with that idea. We get the idea of in some places that naming, naming something I will call this animal, fill in the blank, name. So this idea of naming and calling is one, speaking out to another person.

In most cases, especially as we move in to the New Testament when the word calling is being used, it's actually a synonym for salvation. Okay. Quick parenthetical on this. I say it's a synonym for salvation because there's two predominant camps by which people think about salvation. There's a more freewill orientation or those who are in a more reformed or Calvinist tradition. And we might have a different sense, just no matter what camp you find yourself in, we may have a different sense of what's the mechanism by which God is calling his people unto salvation. But where I think we can at least for the purpose of this dialogue, where we can stack our hands and agree, is that calling when we see it, particularly in the New Testament, it's salvation. It's a salvation synonym, so the called ones of God. Right?

But the one where most of us are, this conversation about calling when most of us are getting intrigued or the way most of us use it is this idea of calling a summons and response. So biblically Jesus calls disciples or God appoints key leaders. Again, key leaders to key tasks at certain times. But predominantly for most us, the way we ought to be thinking about this is the idea of calling, when it's a summons and response like that, is that God is primarily calling his people (plural) to be a certain identity. To live into a certain nature of what it means to be his people. And he's willing a certain lifestyle overall for people.

So what we typically do, to put it maybe easier, oftentimes we think or many Christians think about calling is answering questions of what am I supposed to be doing? Or where am I supposed to be doing? Right?

But if we start from a biblical perspective of how this word, this concept, this idea is being used, calling is predominantly answering questions for us as Christians and not me as an individual. And those questions are typically, who are we supposed to be? How are we supposed to live? Why are we supposed to

do what we do? And then, kind of only in a very secondary level, what are we doing? And where are we doing that?

So the scriptures are really caught up with who we are, how we live, why we live in that way. Less so individually and far less so the what's and the where's.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, that's such an important concept, Brian. Realizing that before I'm ever called to do something specific, I'm called to God. I'm called to a life of service to him. I'm called to a life of discipleship to Christ. And even if those are the only things I can say with conviction that I'm called to, that's enough.

Brian Gray: It's the majority of it.

Joanna Meyer: Those are my marching orders for life.

Brian Gray: Yeah, that's like you're winning. I think Andy Kraft says that if you get that highest level of calling right, you've got the majority of it right already.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. And you could have a vibrant, fulfilling life of faith just living out that reality.

Brian Gray: Yeah. I mean, Dustin, you mentioned Os earlier. One of the, I read a book I highly recommend, oh, it's got to be over 20 years now, I think it's past it's 20 year anniversary, is The Call by Os Guinness. And he's got a chapter where he just basically outlines this idea is there's no such thing as a call without a caller. But this is an inherently a relational conversation. There's a lot, there's been an explosion in the last really five to ten years in executive coaching or coaching relationships where people are looking to figure out what their life purpose is and try to orient their life with greater intentionality. I think we need to celebrate that. I think that a life lived more intentionally by anyone is really important.

But it's interesting that we actually start to use calling type of concepts divorced from the idea of a Caller, capital c. Right? So this is always a response to a God who calls his people. It's a relational concept of how we steward the whole of our lives in response to God, loving him and loving others.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, so my question for you, Brian, is if we have a sense of freedom in knowing that in following Christ we're called to God's greatest story in the world, how do those nitty gritty of discerning what we're actually supposed to do play out? Cause there is some merit in wisely considering our gifts, our temperament, our situation. How do we find that balance?

Brian Gray: Yeah, no doubt. Um, so I've been speaking out of one side of my mouth, right? I've been kind of leaning back against this hyper individualistic, I'm the biggest deal in the world kind of understanding of calling. At the same time, to speak

the other way, what we don't want to take away from is the faithfulness of an individual responding to God. And really sensing their life is stewardship. So if we think of our primary calling, just maybe let's think at three levels. And theologians and people throughout history have used these kind of levels, if you will. So they're probably well known to people.

If our primary calling is actually laid out in the greatest commandment, which is to love God and to love your neighbor. So if we start from this highest motivation, and that's what unifies, that's what's most common to every person who names Christ, that's what we are all called to. In a secondary sense, when we start talking about my calling as opposed to our calling collectively, that's when I start taking really seriously, it's either secondary calling or people refer to it as a particular calling, right? That's where we start thinking about what are my experiences? What are the opportunities that I have in front of us? What are my gifts? My skills? My passions? And, as a subset of this, let's not take away God leading us really specifically, individually God leading us towards giving our lives to particular things. It's not that God doesn't do that, it's just that that's not normative in the scriptures. In fact, that's a pretty rare event in the scriptures.

So, Joanna, I guess what I'd suggest is that people need to be maybe thinking about discerning calling in a couple of different ways. Parker Palmer says, there's a video in which he talks about the way that calling is understood in the Quaker community, which is a spirituality has been a part of, and he talks about the way unfolding to people.

Joanna Meyer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

Brian Gray: Which has a sense of that this progressive, ongoing known over time kind of realization. It's not like there's this magical moment where the lightning bolt strikes and God called me to fill in the blank. But over time we have this increasing sense of what that, in their words, the way is.

But he also says that he considers it ridiculous for everyone before they're in the 50s to begin thinking in these terms, right? So, I might disagree. I really respect where he's coming from on that, but I might disagree with that. So what I want to suggest is maybe that Spirit that is getting to us, it's really hard for us with fewer life experiences to point towards what's God calling me to do moving forward when we've got less stacked up behind us we can look. Or that really pithy level, I say it's really difficult to see, to discern calling by looking through the windshield. It's best discerned by looking in the rear view mirror.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, such a good metric.

Brian Gray: Just by looking back, and saying, "Okay, where has God used me? How has this twin to motivation that we're all caught up in, how have I specifically been used

by God to love him and serve other people in all facets of my life?" So I think that idea of looking back to look forward is a key starting point.

And the other thing is that I don't have a ton of interest in encouraging people towards an individual process of discerning a sense of calling. Calling is not a lone ranger sport. I think that we ought to find ourselves in communities of discernment and dialogue around, in essence, friends, people who trust me who will speak honestly. Who do you sense that I am? How do you sense that God has used me? What has he put me on the planet to be about? I think that that ought to be, that the property of bar lives as individuals ought to be a communal discernment process.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah. That totally makes sense.

Dustin Moody: Yeah, one of the quotes I came across earlier is that one's calling in life is not found but formed. Just be kind of looking in the rear view mirror. How have I been formed? What are the things that have impacted my life in the ways that God has gifted me that I can use future looking.

Brian Gray: Yeah. It's okay, here's an example, like a personal story. I have, I've done a number of different things career wise, I've enjoyed them all. I've looked at all the types of work I've done in the past and I've got a very rare experience, I have rarely, if ever, woken up on Monday morning and not wanted to go to work.

Joanna Meyer: You are a lucky man.

Brian Gray: Yeah, I've loved my work. In every place, I'm a recovering workaholic, so I've over-loved my work, right? I've given myself the idolatry of my heart to my work, in some cases. But I've really enjoyed these things. But there's some pretty disparate types of things I've done in the past. What I've realized though over time is that the way I've looked at those, I try to think what's a common theme that has united those? And so an analogy that's made sense to me is if we think about a string of pearls, and if each one of these pearls might be a different job we've done, a different kind of set of relationships or people we've been around. Uh, seasons in life, if we string all of those pearls together, the thing that holds those pearls, this string, that animating concept is I think a metaphor for calling.

So this idea, it's not found it's formed. So over time, what has held all these things together? So for me, I could talk about cardiovascular research, I could talk about being a pastor for 13 years, being a seminary professor, what I'm doing is an operations guy in doing some leadership formation in my role now. Waiting tables, coaching fifth and sixth grade girls' volleyball which I've done in the past. Okay, so imagine these to all be the pearls. And those are either entirely disparate, how on earth does waiting tables and coaching girls volleyball

have anything to do with being a pastor? The thing that animates those and holds them together is how I've done them, why I've done them, and I feel like that's been a response to God. So I feel like God typically uses me to help create environments of reflection and conversation that take ideas and move them towards deeper meaning and life change.

So that's kind of a statement that sums up a lot of the different, that's the string for me in the past. So I had an opportunity to consider an executive leadership role in the past and I realized it's probably prestigious, I'd get paid more, people would follow me on social media, that terrifies me, I don't want to even be found on social media, but like there's all these things would seem like the typical up in the right narrative. But that role would have been a departure from that string, that sense of calling. I don't know, I couldn't see that being the next pearl that would hold and thread in that same way. At age 46, if that makes any sense.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, and what stands out to me, Brian, is that when you have this broader view of all work mattering to God, you can be waiting tables or coaching girls volleyball and still feel it is significant.

Brian Gray: Oh, absolutely.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah.

Dustin Moody: But I feel like we need to take that one more step farther. Cause I feel like it is significant, Drew and I agree, but what do we say to the person who doesn't feel like that right now? For the carpenter who is listening to this on their way to the same job they've had for 25 years, what role does calling factor into their life broadly and specifically today?

Brian Gray: Yeah. I think that there's certain, I was having lunch with a friend today, we were reflecting on this friend of ours and she works in a non-profit organization where they're helping poor, underemployed people move into job training to get at least living wage jobs with a career move. This is a really easy role for someone to find significance, kingdom value, and etc. Right? So, let's start by saying it is clearly in some types of jobs and some types of work, it's easier to find these themes to be more obvious than others.

But I would suggest that one of the things that limits most of us in various types of work, let me talk about waiting tables. I'd say that waiting tables, at least for me, was probably more similar to your illustration or your question about being a carpenter or certain types of work that might feel less obvious or overtly God oriented or people serving. Right? I think that most of us have never paused to actually reflect on the realities that are a part of that work. It's just very easy to be about the day in, day out aspects of our job without pausing to say, "Well, what is it for me?" Let's be frank, waiting tables was a way to make money to

pay for seminary so I could just get done with that job so I could get to the real thing that I wanted to do. There's the full narrative, right? At it's worst.

But other moments, when actually paused, it was a place to express a spiritual gift of hospitality in serving other people. I'll forever remember like two stories that at least might be common in every day to most people, but they moved table waiting up to a response of calling for me. There was this couple that came in, young couple. This guy clearly didn't know what he was doing in a nice, high-end Italian restaurant. So I'm thinking date, anniversary, something. And he goes and picks a nice bottle of wine off the menu to try, I'm thinking to try and impress this gal. I said, "Listen, that's a \$65 bottle of wine that's really, really good. But can I recommend this other one that is \$40? It's a Chianti and it's got tons of like dry black cherry and some of this really interesting like white pepper notes. It's so great. I think you'd really enjoy it." They were thrilled.

Okay, that's \$25 less off my bill. I was used to getting tipped 20%, I just lost five bucks doing that. But this motivation inside of me, I just looked at this couple and I was like, this is an opportunity for hospitality. This is an opportunity to serve. This is an opportunity to love neighbors. I'll may never know and see them again, but this is a response to God with what I know about this wine verses this wine in this restaurant.

So, at one level that's a mundane little event. I think that's a calling thing that God was somehow my spirit animating in me. The one that always kind of drives me nuts in the moment that just made a huge mark is, if you've ever waited tables you put silverware out. You do side work, you set up everyone's section. I distinctly remember this one day when I was putting silverware down and all the other waiter sections were just kind of throwing it on the table. But I got to mine and man the forks were straight, the knives were straight, the spoons were in line. Think about the way an Enneagram one would set a table. Like it was high-end tight. And as I was doing that, I paused and it dawned on me that in all you do, do it all to the glory of God. And I feel like God was literally speaking in a sense what the motivation of the way I was setting other people's table sections ought to be.

So, again. Here's this common, everyday occurrence, but that was a missed opportunity to worship God and it was a missed opportunity to serve my other co-workers in the restaurant.

Okay, those are two anecdotes. I think those anecdotes are there for the carpenter. I think they are there in retail. I think they are there for the barista. I think that they are in a ton of places but we lack the imagination or the reflected upon life to actually slow down and get to them.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah, so we've been dancing around something that I just want to call out and that's the cultural norm that we have, this expression of do what you love and

you'll never work a day in your life. I see it all the time, I'm a Pinterest and Instagram follower, and you'll see it on these hip designer's websites, you'll see these images with a picture that says, "Do what you love," on like this hand scripted sign. And I actually think that's a misconception we've touched on a little bit. But I'm wondering, could you clarify how that might be bad advice?

Brian Gray: It sounds really good, doesn't it? Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life?

Joanna Meyer: It looks great in the hand drawn calligraphy.

Dustin Moody: Are we to assume that you guys aren't doing what you love?

Joanna Meyer: Don't even go there.

Brian Gray: Actually, it's really funny you say that. I kind of am, but there's plenty of other things I might love better than what I'm doing if that's the only value or the only rubric behind that.

Yeah, let's say a couple of things about that. One, that is an entirely modern, western, individualistic affluent statement.

Joanna Meyer: Totally.

Dustin Moody: Yeah.

Brian Gray: Okay, so the majority of human history and then the majority of the world today in population would look at that statement and could, at least, find that to be utterly confusing. I think that there's some, certainly opportunities for those who are in the west who have the affluence to have some upward mobility to think in those terms. But we have to at least say that is rare air privilege. Right? So there's at least a starting point on that cautionary tale.

But the other thing is that do what you love does a couple of things, at one side it undersells the nature of fallen and frustrated work. Right? So if we look at Genesis 3, so in Genesis 1 and 2 there's human purpose connected to work. But when we come to Genesis 3 it's interesting that thing that which got purposed humanity for is now frustrated, the curse is cursed by God himself.

And so I say at one level that there's, we can't underestimate the impacts of work in general and the things that we find ourselves called to in life being an aspect of the not yet. Right? The end redemption, the fallen nature of the world. So I think do what you love just can be a little too Pollyanna for me-

Joanna Meyer: Mm-hmm (affirmative)-

Brian Gray: -about some of the realities of the fall. But on the other side, if we look at the other side of the coin. I think it's got a hyper-realized or an over-anticipated sense of that everything that I love doing is going to be ultimately fulfilling to me. I've just seen too many people for whom that's not the case. It's like, well, if you put all your eggs in the basket of doing exclusively what you love, I think that's a rigged game.

And let me connect back to the fall. If in Genesis 3 we see that work continues on but now it's work done by the sweat of one's brow, thistles and thorns, right? Now these are metaphors that come out of an agriculture environment. Uh, that makes sense for that. But if we start thinking about for the types of work that most people listening would do, what are the thistles and thorns? What are the sweat of your brow were? They look like frustrations. They look like email. They look like bad meetings without agenda. They look like missed deals, right?

Dustin Moody: Expense reports.

Brian Gray: Do they look like expense reports? For sure. Yours is due in three days, by the way.

Joanna Meyer: Before you go on vacation.

Brian Gray: Before you go on vacation. Yeah, so it looks like these, whatever these frustrations on that list would like. But I want to suggest that, okay this is theological imagination, why did God curse work? Like, why would he have done that thing Genesis 3 which he just purposed to be part of the cultural mandate for humans in Genesis 1 and 2. Okay, this is reading between the lines, so heretic alert. I'm not coming straight out of scripture, but by my hunch is that God has frustrated that thing or that place where we most often go to look for meaning and purpose and value outside of him.

Joanna Meyer: Wow.

Dustin Moody: Yeah.

Brian Gray: So, if do what you love is an equation for an enhanced sense of meaning in my in own purpose, I think it's rigged game. I think God has frustrated in the life of the family, in child bearing, in work. When we read these aspects of the curse in Genesis 3, I think he's created frustration in the places where we most naturally look for life, meaning, value outside of him.

Joanna Meyer: Yeah.

Brian Gray: So, I think that's a problematic equation right from the beginning.

Joanna Meyer: Powerful words, powerful words and change how I look at the next Instagram influencers, calligraphy about do what you love. I think we could probably talk about calling all day. And I hope that our conversation has helped spark some interest in you that you've identified maybe some misconceptions that you had about calling, but you've also had a broader view that helps you realize that what you're doing really is significant, that it matters to God.

I hope that you get to experience that sense of being called to God in all things. And a sense that what you're doing now, it could very well be part of his broader calling in your life.

And also an invitation to spend time discerning, to look in the rear view mirror a little bit to see how the different elements of your life may reflect God's on-growing development of his direction and call in your life.

Brian, thanks for being Mr. Calling for us today. I am curious to know if, what one thing you'd like our listeners to do based on this discussion?

Brian Gray: Yeah, parting shots, I would say a life unreflected upon is not as worth living as one more deeply reflected upon. So I would suggest two exercises. One, just start with what you are doing for work, work for money and in all different environments. What are all the things you find yourself doing and how are those ways that you love God and love others? This is just a reflection to start to get to these twin motivations of our calling.

But then the second one, and this is a haunting one, is write your own obituary. Sit down and write your eulogy. What are those words that you would want spoken about you at your funeral? And my guess, if you wanted to discern an sense of calling, is one of those things when you are at your best, when you're living, when you're really fully human if we can mean that in a theological way. Who are you? How are you impacting other people? How are you touching and impacting the world?

So, sit down with haunting experience. Write your eulogy and I bet you your sense of calling is going to unfold somewhere in those words.

Dustin Moody: Yeah, thanks Brian. If you're listening and you've been interested in anything we've mentioned today, whether it's an author or a scripture passage or resource. We're going to be putting together a list of everything we've talked about on our show notes page. You can visit denverinstitute.org/podcast to find notes on all of our podcast episodes. And if you're listening and enjoy what you hear, we'd love for you to subscribe. Subscribe, leave review, and share this podcast with a friend, especially on the topic of calling. It's something that we all need to understand better and figure out how it impacts our work and our lives.



So, thanks for listening. Thanks, Brian.