

# VOCARE

Discover your Purpose

Vocare

How Are You to Do It?

Acts 13:1–3

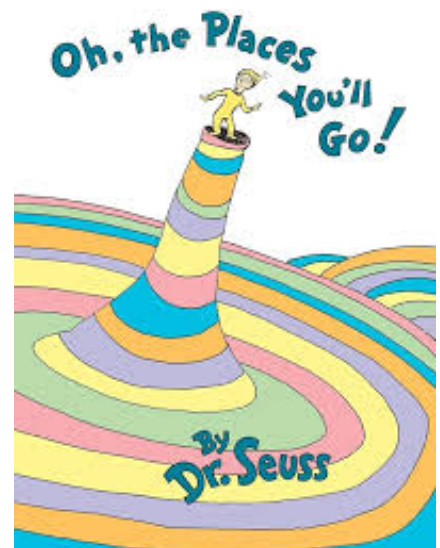
*Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss

You will come to a place where the streets are not marked.  
Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darker.  
A place you could sprain both your elbow and chin!  
Do you dare to stay out? Do you dare to go in?  
How much can you lose? How much can you win?

And *IF* you go in, should you turn left or right . . .  
or right-and-three-quarters? Or, maybe, not quite?  
Or go around back and sneak in from behind?  
Simple it's not, I'm afraid you will find,  
for a mind-maker-upper to make up his mind.

In order to understand calling, you must answer four questions:

- Who am I? (Identity)
- What am I made to do? (Purpose)
- **How am I to do it? (Assignment)**
- Where am I to do it? (Location)



### Acts 13:1–3

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3** Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

### His purpose is pursued through your assignments

- “13 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, 14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.' 16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said” (Acts 13:13–16).
- Paul’s assignment began with the Jews
  - “4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 9:4–5).
  - “Your missional calling is a way of acknowledging that God has wired you to serve in a particular, sustained way over a lifetime” (Doug Koskela, *Calling and Clarity*, 2).
- Your calling is His purpose pursued through your assignments.

### His purpose rarely changes but your assignments can

- “44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. 46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ 48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region” (Acts 13:44–49).
- Paul’s assignment changed with the Gentiles
  - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16).
  - “11 For the Scripture says, 'Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.' 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of

all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Romans 10:11–13).

- Your calling is His purpose pursued through your assignments.

#### How do I discern when God is changing my assignment?

- Use wisdom
  - “Sometimes when I desperately want ‘God’s will,’ what I *really* want isn’t God’s will at all. What I really want is what I want. Or it’s to off-load the anxiety of decision making” (John Ortberg, *All the Places to Go . . . How Will You Know*, 107).
  - “God wants us to learn to choose well” (John Ortberg, *All the Places to Go . . . How Will You Know*, 107).
- Watch for open and closed doors
- Make a decision
  - “Choosing doors always involves a process: I recognize opportunity, identify options, evaluate, choose, and learn” (John Ortberg, *All the Places to Go . . . How Will You Know*, 114).
- Be bold

#### Prayer Reflection: How are you to pursue your purpose?

Your calling is His purpose pursued through your assignments.