

Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom Vision

Calling and Career: Finding Purpose in Your Vocation

I want to tell you a true story and explain why Highland Park is in my blueprint to be my living headquarters and a sanctuary for me as a Bishop and man of God because I have been a proven stakeholder for the Highland Park area based most of my cheerful giving. I provided direct service and cheerful giving to help the homeless in Highland Park in 2017 to 2019. Highland Park is my buffer zone and Barn of Plenty. Highland Park is my permit to lead the city into 2026 revival. It is time for me to become a visible architect in the city. In this message, I will talk about our vocation and our jurisdictional assignment. The Greek word for vocation or calling is *klesis*. It means to have a professional invitation to a specific station. Worship in God is not going to come to you. You have to work for it through hard work to be obedient and humble to God. When I worked for summer youth jobs in Chicago starting 15 years old was my first spiritual apprenticeship. Starting at the age 15, I was tasked with order, instruction and mentorship. It matches my volunteer experience as a Life Skills and Self-Sufficiency Coach in Cleveland. That is how I got my critical thinking and logic to think with new ideas as a project manager. The summer job youth programs have translated my skills and background to guide people in communities and among the congregation, maintained order and sovereign independence from hate, and are code compliant. I did not start as a Bishop with eight spiritual gates. I started out as a teacher aide during a summer youth program in Chicago during my high school years. My small job that I did in the past was my professional internship for my calling to preach and start my congregation. God was guiding me and mapping out my life as a teenager saying that attending a law career and being a lawyer was not a career for me. It is like what the song says that God was trying to tell me something. God was trying to tell me something as a teenager trying to guide the right career and calling for me.

We need to stop listening to other people in the world and let God guide us in our life. He did it for me and he will do it for you. I am still that teacher aide leading this flock. I am still that teacher's aide from my childhood in Chicago guiding and mentoring you to teach you how to live your life in the righteousness of God. We need to start looking at the private sector to trade our talents for the kingdom. I did not do that by thinking working and volunteering was a prison sentence. First Lady Jennifer did not think that either. You do not have to choose to be spiritual and successful. Your college degree is a building permit. This is important advice that I will share with you about your vocation. If someone in a city or community tries to ban your vocation, you can move your vocation to a city and community that will take your trade and welcome it. That is how Manhattan, Chicago, Hattiesburg, Biloxi, Highland Park outside of Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia and Cleveland became my trade and tested me in those cities. Say to the person next to you: do not bury your talent. I want to tell you my calling was bad in Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey and Kentucky because people in those states did not welcome my calling. I did not get my authority in Highland Park by asking for a paycheck. I got it by giving my service. I want to find someone in your life that serves for free to prove they are ready to lead for a fee. The Master Architect is hiring and your career is a crane that lifts the weight. Your calling is your blueprint that tells the crane where to move. You will become self-sufficient when your calling and career align.

"and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." -1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

The scripture is like an occupancy permit for our successful life. This scripture provides us with the building codes for our life to be spiritual and successful so we can carry ourselves while working in the private sector. We need to look at the scriptures as an executive order for our life. Paul wrote to the church in a busy and multi-cultural city called Thessalonica. Thessalonica was dealing with static when Paul wrote the letter to the church. Some people in the town were getting caught up in spiritual talk that

were neglecting their pragmatic responsibilities. People were becoming busybodies and spiritual slumlords. We need to understand that that is not about being silent. It is about avoiding drama and political hate. This scripture is our mandate for self-sufficiency. It means you need to follow my playbook to build your own life and business, not in other people's business. The next thing that I will talk about in this scripture is the lack of nothing. This is called economic integrity. Paul said work with your hands. You and my calling is to find a trade that funds the kingdom. We need to study to be quiet. We need to stop looking at what the government is not doing for us. We need to start looking at what our blueprint is doing. Our goal is to have a lack of nothing. We are building a Barn of plenty, not a shelter of dependency. The scripture says that a man or a God should be orderly, hardworking and quiet in their excellence to the people without. We are not living our life. We are walking honestly for God. Your life is a witness of structural integrity. Your calling is who you are. Your career is what you do to fund the vision. At 15, my calling was to lead. If you do not work for the career, you cannot afford the calling.

The Five Funding Streams of a Vocation

1. Money that keeps you out of the slumlords house.
2. Capital that pays for your mission
3. Having enough to be a cheerful giver without being a burden to others.
4. Protecting and adding to your income.
5. Investing in the treasury

We have to understand that a career without purpose leads to messed up priorities. It is good to get a job or career with a purpose with a blueprint. It is good for us to have a Barn. I started out with a vocation at 15 that led to my calling to my personal community projects and volunteering to help the homeless. My calling started with a vocation at 15. If you currently work on a job in the private sector, we need to treat the job we have as a work study program for our blueprint for our life to serve God. We need teachers, nurses, engineers to fund the gates we are opening. I received my calling and prosecutor eye from Howard Brookins, Jr Cook County State's Attorney campaign in 2007-2008. This gave me the training to seek the truth. My volunteer work experience from the Barack Obama campaign in 2007-2008 was a master build for my calling and career. My volunteer experience from the Barack Obama campaign gave the training for providing a national vision. It helps me build my congregation from a small congregation in 2014 to a growing congregation over 13,000 members. I want to let you know that I was practicing pragmatic trade in 2007-2008. Service is a permit for God's kingdom and his authority at the throne in heaven. After God was looking down on me and serving a powerful movement without a paycheck with high motivation and commitment, I was granted the Bishop mantle to lead a jurisdiction and congregation as an overseer as my own Barn. Part of my calling was to preach and govern as life moved on up to 2011 when I got ordained for the first time to preach. I want to share with you that I did not just knock on doors in swing states and Chicago. I did not just walk into a Bishop office. I performed phone banking and data entry by serving at the bottom so I could design at the top. My blueprint is spiritual and validated by civic leaders. In 2011, God called on me to be a regional statesman to a large scale of people in more than one city or town. 2007-2008 was my great commission. I was standing at the intersection of my biological father's side of the family when I met former Education Secretary Arnie Duncan in DC. I was performing my stewardship at work in March 2009. My blueprint proved that I had documented diligence because the campaign staff saw my teachers aide work ethic. I took the skills I learned from the Obama campaign and applied it to building God's kingdom. I have the mayoral and gubernatorial anointing according to my stewardship and serve to communities.

I educate people on what I learned as an undergraduate student in Chicago. If you do not have a degree, people are allowed to present a one-page resume with their work experience, education and other skills. People that have a stronger higher education with a college degree, those people are allowed to present

a resume more than one-page like myself. It is like I said about myself that I have a stable foundation and vocation. I accomplish what I have done in my life based on hard work and responsibility. A pastor in Grand Rapids, Michigan told me what Pastor John Johnson told me in Houston in 2023 that I need to stick to preaching because I am gifted and unique. He told me in 2023 I will continue to do what I am doing. Do not let people tell you are not good at something. We need to look at our own blueprint and Barn in our life. I worked at temp agencies previously. Most of those jobs I quit at a short period of time because my heart was not in them. My calling to serve God was already zoned to serve his kingdom. I believe it did not zone me to do jobs all about static. I believed I used the temp jobs in Detroit and Chicago as a bridge and buried my talents at the warehouse jobs. It is like the female pastor in Grand Rapids was telling me not to hide my talents because I was called to preach and I should stick to what I am good at. When I was working at a temp at warehousing jobs, I was trying to hide my calling and talents by working with employers or seeking second job opportunities. The heart is like a compass. Next Bible study service, you will receive more information and hard copies on how to build your blueprint and Barn. I used my blueprint in the documents as a template to start working on your own legacy blueprint and Barn.

1. If God were to walk into your workplace tomorrow, would you find a masterbuilder finishing the masterpiece or a slothful servant burying their talent?
2. Is your current job your destination or is it a foundation that is funding your true purpose?
3. When you look at your paycheck you see bills or stress or do you see bricks or mortar for the Cathedral God told you to build?
4. Are you living a code-compliant life or is your character full of structural leaks that keep your treasury empty?
5. What are you doing with your hands while you wait for God to open your gate?
6. If the prosecutor checked your bank account and statement, would they find a treasurer investing in the church and God or a slumlord spending the kingdom capital on static and hate?
7. Are you trying to build a high rise vision in a low-zoned environment?
8. Does your workplace support your calling or do you need to relocate your gate?
9. How many of you letting people look down on you blocking you from calling?
10. Are you a volunteer in your community or are you waiting for a handout before you offer a hand-up?
11. Are you ready to pick up your tools in 2026 or are you going to stay in the rubble?
12. How many of you are working on a job right now where your heart is not in it?

Heavenly Father,

Bless the hands of the teacher's aide.

Bless the hands of the chaplain.

Bless the hands of the 13,000

Give them the pragmatic wisdom to trade their talents in the marketplace so they can build your cathedral on earth.

Let no slumlord spirit steal their increase

In Jesus name, Amen.

The Masterbuilder 2026 Self-Audit

Inspecting the foundation of your vocation

Section I. The Site Inspection (Environment)

- Is my current gate open?
- Does my job respect my dignity or is it static?
- Am I zoned for growth?
- Have I identified my vocation?

Section 2: Structural Integrity (Integrity and Trade)

- Am I trading my talents?
- Is my character code compliant?
- Am I avoiding hoodlum static and keeping my priorities in order?
- If the prosecutor audited my time, would he find hard work or rubble?

Section 3: The Treasury (Oikonomos)

- Is my paycheck funding my calling or is it just paying for survival?
- Do you have an escrow for independence?
- Am I a Treasurer for my resources or letting my capital leak into static?

THE MASTERBUILDERS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CURRICULUM

From The Assembly Line to the Seat of Government

Module 1: The Foundation of Local Governance (Alderman Level)

- **The Blueprint:** Understand who zones your life. Members learn the roles of the City Council, Alderman and County Commissioners.
- **The Task:** The Site Visit. Members must attend one local council meeting or school board meeting.
- **Bishop's Insight:** "I served an Alderman to learn how the streets are paved. You must learn who signs the permits for your community's future."

Module 2: The Treasury and Stewardship (Treasurer Level)

- **The Blueprint:** Understanding the public talent (Taxes and Budgets). How is the city money being traded or buried?
- **The Task:** The Budget Audit. Members learn to read a city public financial summary.
- **Bishop Insight:** "As a student Government Treasurer in DC, I learned that if you do not track the money, you cannot build the mission. We must be the Treasurers of our own neighborhoods."

Module 3: Mobilization and The Hard Work (Campaign Level)

- **The Blueprint:** Moving the 13,000 members. How to organize spiritual and friendly volunteers for a common cause.
- **The Task:** The cheerful service project. Members volunteer four hours at a local nonprofit.
- **Bishop Insight:** "I campaigned hard in 2008 because I knew hard work provides high-rise results. We don't vote. We build."

Module 4: The Sovereign Voice (The Arnie Duncan Level)

- **The Blueprint:** Navigating Higher Education and Advocacy. How to speak to architects of policy without fear.
- **The Task:** The Executive Letter. Members write one professional letter to a state representative on an important issue, homelessness or education in the 8-state artery.
- **Bishop Insight:** "I stood before the Secretary of Education because I had academic weight. We train our members to speak the language of power with the heart of chaplain. I stood before the Mayor because I had the leadership of a statesman and chaplain with Rahm Emanuel. Rahm Emanuel was friendly because people said to me that they saw me on camera with him and saw him on the train in Chicago while he was mayor. Also, I became friends and met State Representative Lashawn Ford on sometime basis and at events in Chicago"

Module 5: The No-Static Policy (Ethics and Integrity)

- **The Blueprint:** Maintain a Code-Compliant Reputation. Avoiding human static and discriminatory rubble.
- **The Task:** The Background Audit. Ensuring all community leaders in the ministry have clean records and orderly priorities.
- **Bishop Insight:** "We do not build on thug foundations. We build on mishpat. If you want to govern a state, you must first govern your own house."

THE MASTERBUILDER QUIET LIFE AND WORK CHECKLIST

Study to be quiet, and to do your own business

I. The Acoustic Shield (Study to be Quiet)

- Silence the Static:** Have I removed myself from the Democratic Party Hate and political noise that does not build the kingdom?
- Zero Drama Zoning:** Am I avoiding the young thug landlords and hoodlum environments that create mental rubble?
- Emotional Insulation:** When I face discrimination, do I keep my peace instead of reacting with static?

II. Sovereign Jurisdiction (Do your own business)

- Focus on the Blueprint:** Am I minding the 13,000 members mission rather than being a busybody in other people's chaos.
- Maternal Responsibility:** Am I keeping my own house in order so that I never have to move back home?
- Independence Audit:** Is my business independent of people who do not respect my academic weight?

III. The Manual and Executive Labor (Work with your hands)

- Diligence in the Aide Phase:** If I am in a warehouse or assembly line season, am I still working with the same integrity I had as a teachers aide at 15?
- Skill Expansion:** Am I using my hands to sharpen my treasury skills and organizational certificates?
- Volunteer Equity:** Am I still “campaigning hard” to keep my spiritual permits?

IV. The Treasury Goal (Lack of Nothing)

- Funding the Vocation:** Does my work provide to live in Detroit as my sanctuary and seed my Highland Park apartment?
- Self-Sufficiency Protocol:** Am I living on my income in a way that provides I am a “master of the talent” rather than a slave to debt?
- Honest Walk:** Would the Arnie Duncans and Presidential staffers of the world at my current work and see a man of integrity?

THE DECREE OF THE MASTERBUILDER

I decree and declare that my life is a sanctified construction site and the great architect is the lead engineer of my soul.

I renounce the static of my inaction. I refuse to bury my talents in the warehouse of fear. Like a Bishop, who campaigned hard and served as a Treasurer, I will trade my talents in the marketplace until my increase is manifest.

I decree quiet zoning over my mind. I shut the door on Democratic Party hate, slumlord mentalities and discriminatory rubble of the past. I study to be quiet, I mind my own business and I work with my hands to fund the kingdom's purpose.

I declare sovereign independence. I am a high-rise vision in a world of low-zoned people. I will not be moved by prejudice or hoodlums of disorder. My foundation is deep. My character is code-compliant. My priorities are in order.

I am a civic architect. I walk honestly toward people and places that are without. I am a Treasurer of truth and governor of peace.

I shall lack nothing. My vocation is my funding, my calling is my crown, and my hard work is my witness. 2026 will continue to be my masterbuild and I will continue to pick up the tools.

THE MASTERBUILDER HEART CHECK AUDIT

I. The Acoustic Test (Inner Peace)

- A. **The Question:** When you are at your place of work, is there static in your spirit or do you hear a quiet voice of purpose?
- B. **The Diagnostic:** if you feel like a gear in a machine rather than a leader of men, your heart is signaling a zoning mismatch.
- C. **Bishop Insights:** "My heart was not in the warehouse because I was designed to move people not boxes. Listen to the acoustic of your heart."

II. The Load-Bearing Test (Endurance)

- A. **The Question:** Does the work energize you to build more or does it leave you in rubble at the end of the day?
- B. **The Diagnostic:** purposeful work produces good tiredness. Purposeless work produces soul fatigue.
- C. **Bishop Insight:** "I could campaign hard for Obama for 18 hours a day because my heart was in it, but 8 hours in a warehouse felt like a prison sentence. Check your energy levels."

III. The Treasury Test (Funding vs. Fulfillment)

- A. **The Question:** Am I here because I am trading my talent or just burying my time for a check?
- B. **The Diagnostic:** It is okay to be in a warehouse for a season to fund your move to Highland Park. it is not okay to make it a permanent site if your heart is calling you to the 8-state mission.
- C. **Bishop Insight:** Use the warehouse to buy the tools, but build your home there.

IV. The Structural Integrity Test (Identity)

- A. **The Question:** Does the job require me to hide my academic weight or chaplaincy or p does it allow my Bishop mantle to shine?
- B. **The Diagnostic:** if you have to act like a hoodlum to fit in at work, your heart is in code violation.
- C. **Bishop Insight:** I was a Treasurer and Teachers Aide. I never took a job that forced me to compromise the responsibility that my mother taught me.