

## Os Guinness, The Call...Entrepreneurs of Life

We may retire from our jobs, but never from our calling. We may at times be unemployed, but no one ever becomes uncalled. Most important of all, the Last Call of death is a termination from the secular perspective, but from the spiritual perspective it is the culmination of life. After a lifetime of journeying, we are arriving home. After all the years of hearing only one voice, we are about to see the face and feel the arms. The Caller is our Father and the Last Call is the call home. Until that day comes, our task is to **keep on** and to **keep on keeping on**.

As entrepreneurs of Life, we respond to the call of our great Creator by seeing all life as an enterprise transformed by His call to "Follow me." We therefore count the cost, consider the risks, and set out on each day as a venture to multiply our gifts and opportunities in order to bring glory to God and add value to His world.

In so living, we find the fullest meaning of our lives in answering the Call. We seek our identity solely in our naming by the Caller. We pursue excellence defined as "My utmost for His highest" [playing our best for Him]. We count our deepest companionship among our fellow-followers of the Way. We look for final approval only from one audience-the Audience of One. We break down every false barrier between the sacred and the secular, weaving all life into a seamless web of faith and love in action, and we work for no other accomplishment of legacy than the Caller's own "Well done."

The menial and humdrum we elevate because of the One for whom it's ultimately done. The dangerous and sacrificial we bear as the privilege of high calling. The siren sounds of ease, success and popularity we shun for a trustworthier voice. And, the temptations of conceit coming from being so chosen we answer with a gratitude humbled by grace because we have been chosen at all. Thus we are fully engaged in the world on realistic terms, but empowered by vision and energies from a world that is unseen but even more real and realistic.

In all things, and in all vicissitudes and seasons of life, we know that, primarily, we are called not to somewhere or something but to Someone. That there is no true calling without the Caller. That calling is not only being who we are but becoming what we are to be. That no self-made goal can ever rival the Ultimate Why of the mystery of the Creator's purpose for each of us as His creature. That we will never rise higher than when we follow the call not knowing where the path may lead-so long as the Caller is God.

And that while we may lose our jobs and our health, or retire from a career, we will never retire from our calling-until that Final Call, which is death, leads each of us to the climax and consummation of all calling. For on that day, for the first time, we will not need to listen only to a word, we will see the Caller face to face and find ourselves in our Father's home forever.

In the meantime that is our journey until our life's last day, the passion of our lives is to go further, higher, deeper, always closer to the One who called us once and calls us still – to Himself, and to all the joys that knowing Him can mean.