

# OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS

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“No idea short of God’s call can ground and fulfill the truest human desire for purpose and fulfillment.”

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From the moment we are born, we find ourselves in different situations. We are born to a specific family, in a specific town, during a specific time. As we grow, life brings us through unique circumstances, and day by day our access to different areas and people become more refined. We learn a certain language and perhaps pick up a new language or two along the way. We may finish school and continue to attend college, which might lead us other opportunities. At times, we make a mistake and find ourselves in a setting which creates an entryway into a place or group of people that most people aren’t naturally around. Simply put, the further we journey through life, the more particular we become thus making us “insiders.”

As we think about what we are called to, where we are right now has a great effect on discerning where or to whom we are called. Someone who finds himself in prison for example most likely won’t be called to reach out to secondary school



students. It would be more likely that he would be called to prison ministry. Prison then becomes not a hindrance to your calling but an opportunity to reshape it in light of the needs you have access to. You might find yourself teaching second level education equivalency to prisoners instead. Likewise, someone who finds herself house bound most likely won't be called to reach athletes. It would be more likely that she would be called to reach those who she is around in her daily life. Where we naturally find ourselves says a lot about where we are called.

However, this is not to say that just because we aren't in the perfect situation now that we can't be called to minister to those we aren't around. Some people are called overseas, but it isn't the right time for them to go. A classic example of this could be the college student who feels God leading them to serve out of this country, but needs to finish their degree first. This does not mean they are not called to a certain country or people group, but that they may have an interim calling between then and now. If one is called to Asia but is unable to go, then their calling might be to ready themselves at home by learning the language and culture and spending time with Asians in their city.

Consider Paul's statement in relation to this principle:

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“Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.”

1 Corinthians 7:17

# RESPOND THE PAST

Where do you come from?

Does that place of origin connect you to a particular group of people? Who?

Have you been through anything in your past that defines you in some way (good or bad) putting you in a group of people who have been through or experienced the same thing? List.

Where have you seen fruit in your life and ministry in the past?

## **THE PRESENT**

Where do you live, work and hang out? What are the places you find yourself on a daily or weekly basis?

Where is your first place (where you find yourself most of the time, typically a workplace)?

Your second place (the place you next find yourself most of the time, this is typically home)?



Your third places (the places you go when you aren't at your first two places, this is typically places like the gym, the coffee shop, the park, etc.)?

Are there needy people or non believers in those places? Describe them.

What unique missional opportunity does your presence or access there afford you?

What is the population of people that you have access to right now that you would say is in greatest need?



# THE FUTURE

Do you have any set plans, courses of study, or opportunities in the future that will effect where you are or what you could do? list. As you look over these answers what stands out?

Is there a group of people that emerges for you? is there an opportunity that you realize might be important or special in some way?

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Write a few of your unique opportunities in the notes section at the end of this booklet.

# NOTES