Step Into Your Calling. Break Through Your Limitations!
Sunday Sermon, November 01, 2026

God is a God of purpose & plan
Psalm 33:11,15
11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations.
15 He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works.

The word 'counsel' can also mean plan or purpose.

Notice, God's purposes, and plans go across generations (vs 11).

He reveals His plans to all generations.
It's not just individual, it's collective as well. God has a place for each time period. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. He has a plan for our generation as well, our times.

Also that God fashions our hearts individually. Each of us has been personally and individually fashioned by God for a purpose. We see in Scripture that God has a purpose and plan for His people.

Right from the beginning…
- Adam & Eve: "Be fruitful and increase in number fill the earth and subdue it."
- Abraham: Go to the land that I have promised
- Noah: Build me an ark
- Moses: Lead my people out of slavery and into the promised land

And so on…

We are Designed & Created For Purpose

Psalms 139:13
For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalm 139:16-17
16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.
17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

Ephesians 2:10 (the new testament version)
For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

God Reveals His Purposes
1 Corinthians 2:9-10
9 But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

We must get a sense of His purpose and begin to plan and pursue His purpose.

Psalm 32:8
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

Ephesians 5:17
Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Jesus taught us to pray "your kingdom come, your will be done…" (Matthew 6:9)

Knowing your purpose is one thing. Walking in it is another. Along the way, we'll be faced with limitations, some inside us and some around us. Today we'll look at two passages: Jeremiah, who struggled with an internal limitation, and the early church, who faced an external one.

Internal Limitations: Jeremiah's Story (Self Image)
Very often, we ourselves can be the biggest barrier to stepping into God's purposes.

Jeremiah had every excuse ready when God called him to be a prophet. But let's look at how God deals with his limitations.

Jeremiah 1:5-10
"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."
6 Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth."
7 But the Lord said to me:

"Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.
8 Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord.
9 Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.
10 See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."

Countering each limitation was a promise from God.

#1: God Called Jeremiah
Jeremiah was called to be "a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5),

Jeremiah's calling was unique, not a priest like his father and his grandfather.
A prophet was a chosen and authorised spokesman for God who declared God's Word to the people. This was indeed a big assignment. God may assign you a demanding task but God knew Jeremiah was the right person for this assignment at that time.

God had this plan for Jeremiah in eternity past, to set him apart right from his mother's womb, just like for each one of us, as we saw earlier in Psalms 139.

#2: The Obstacle: Internal Limitation (Self Image)
Jeremiah 1:6
But I protested, 'Oh no, Lord, GOD! Look, I don't know how to speak since I am only a youth'

"I don't know how to speak"
Jeremiah felt inadequate as a public speaker. This was the same limitation Moses had (Exodus 4:10)

"I am only a youth"
The word youth denotes a young, unmarried man in his teens. His reply is not so much revealing his age but shows he felt inferior, inexperienced, and intimidated by the size of the task to which God was summoning him. He looked within himself and saw limitations. What we see within, (our self-image) is important.

#3: God Will Empower Us
Jeremiah 1:7-9

"Then the LORD said to me: Do not say, 'I am only a youth,' for you will go to everyone I send you to and speak whatever I tell you. Do not be afraid of anyone, for I will be with you to deliver you. This is the LORD's declaration.
"Then the LORD reached out His hand, touched my mouth, and told me: I have now filled your mouth with My words"

God says "do not say"
It's important how we think of ourselves (self-image) and what we declare over our lives. There is power in our declaration.

"for I will be with you…"
"Then the Lord reached out…"
God promised that He himself will be Jeremiah, and He touched his mouth. The touch was not so much to purify as it was to inspire and empower.

This is how God chooses & works.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29
But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

As New Testament believers, each one of us are gifted, graced by God and anointed by the Holy Spirit.

(can quickly summarise this section)
Each one of us has the grace of God.

- Romans 12:6 — Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them…
- Ephesians 4:7 — But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- 1 Peter 4:10 — As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

We are empowered by the Holy Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 3:16 — We are the temple of the Holy Spirit
- John 14 & 16: The Holy Spirit is our helper, He will guide, teach, lead us…
- Acts 1:8 — "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."

- John 7:37-39 — “out of his heart will flow Rivers of living water”

For us as New Testament believers, we need to capture this — God's call may come at a time where we may feel not ready/equipped, but His grace & Spirit will enable us to fulfil His call and purpose!

External Limitations: Circumstances, Opposition, Obstacles

Consider these two statements from Jesus.

John 16:33 (the world)
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

The amplified version says “trials, distress, suffering, frustration”

John 10:10 (the enemy)
The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

As long as we are on this side of heaven, we will face challenges, obstacles, opposition, mountains, storms and so on. This is a reality, but we must break through and step into God’s purpose for our lives.

We want to look at a passage from the Early Church to demonstrate this.

Acts 5:17-21
17 Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, 18 and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. 19 But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, 20 “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.”
21 And when they heard that, they entered the temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest and those with him came and called the council together, with all the elders of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

The apostles were doing exactly what Jesus had commissioned them to do: preach the good news. They were in the center of God’s will. And that’s precisely where the opposition hit.

The Obstacle: PRISON!
Look at what happens in Verse 18: the high priest and the Sadducees were angry. The Bible says they literally laid their hands on them and put them in prison. Right in the middle of following Jesus, they are faced with opposition and worse, put in prison.

What do we do when we face opposition, mountains, challenges?

#1 Trust God's Plan
Verse 19, the angel of the Lord comes to break open their prison doors. God will make a way where there seems no way. He will break every chain of limitation.

Side note: They had prayed before in Acts 4:29-31, for God to give them boldness in the midst of opposition and persecution. They would have remembered their prayer to God. They trusted God would help them. In the same way, in the middle of our challenges, we need to trust God, we can do this in prayer, seeking Him.

#2 God Will Speak
Ending of verse 19 and Verse 20, Then the angel of the Lord spoke to them. God will speak to us in the middle of our challenge. This is why we must hold on to God's Word, His promises. We should not allow limitations to dictate our path, we must get a hold of God's promises.

#3 Step out in Obedience
Verse 21, when they heard, they stepped out early in the morning. This is obedience, to follow God in spite of the limitations. We have to take a step of faith, step out boldly to experience God's purpose.

We must break through our limitations, to step into God's promises.
Know that God has called us, equipped us, we must trust and obey to fulfil God's purpose.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Step Into Your Calling! Break Through Your Limitations.
Sunday Sermon, November 01, 2026

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references*:*

- *Psalms 33:11,15*
- *Ephesians 5:17*
- *Jeremiah 1:5-10*
- *Acts 5:17-21*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Q1, God has a purpose for each of us (Psalm 139:16). What do you sense God has been calling you toward in this season of your life?

Q2, Jeremiah looked within and saw "I am only a youth." What is one thing you tell yourself that makes you feel not ready or not enough? What does God say about you instead? God promised Jeremiah, "I am with you," and touched his mouth. How have you experienced God's grace or the Holy Spirit's help when you felt unequipped?

Q3, The apostles faced a prison but trusted, listened, and stepped out in obedience (Acts 5). What obstacle are you facing right now, and what is one step of faith you can take this week?

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
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WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
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CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
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SERMON OUTLINE

This message reminds us that God has a unique purpose for every person and every generation, and He has fashioned each of us for it. Along the way we face internal limitations, like Jeremiah's "I am only a youth," and external ones, like the apostles' imprisonment. God answers the first with His call, His presence, and His Spirit's empowerment, and the second by making a way, speaking to us, and calling us to step out in obedience. We are called, equipped, and enabled to break through our limitations and step into God's purpose.

This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS

Step Into Your Calling, God's Call, Breakthrough, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.