

Steve Whitacre  
**SESSION 4 | Calling & Other Gray Matters**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**Four Steps to Christians Decision-Making** (adapted from *Just Do Something*, by Kevin DeYoung)

1. Know the counsel of the Lord (read the Scriptures)
2. Get the counsel of wise and godly friends
3. Pray & depend on the Holy Spirit
4. **Decide**

**II. "CALLING"...**

A. "Calling" according to Scripture

- Raise your voice
  - "And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'" (Acts 7:59).
- Often = "named"
  - "While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is *called* Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen." (Matthew 4:18).
- Bestowal of a title
  - "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be *called* sons of God." (Matthew 5:9).
- A summons to follow
  - "And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them." (Matthew 4:21).
- A calling to a specific ministry or service

- “Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, *called* to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,” (Romans 1:1).
- A call to salvation
  - “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are *called* according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also *called*, and those whom he *called* he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” (Romans 8:28–30).
  - Note: theologians distinguish here between general calling and effectual calling
- B. “Calling as we often refer to it today

### **III. ... AND OTHER GRAY MATTERS**

**Doctrine drives discernment.**

**What is your motive?**

**What is your purpose?**

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

Ps 37.3 “Trust in the Lord and do good.”