Ministry Lift 2014

# *Freedom Session*

Stand strong…Walk in truth

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Authentic Leadership

Au.then.tic.i.ty[[1]](#footnote-1)

* Conforming to fact [reality] and therefore worthy of trust, reliance or belief
* Having a foundation,...an undisputed origin
* Genuine...the **REAL** thing...

Track #1: An Authentic Mission

***As best I understand it today, my personal mission is to…***

It is important to have a good grasp on our personal and God-given mission because:

1. We only get one shot at this life.
2. Each of us have been created for “good works” (Eph 2:10)
3. God has uniquely wired each of us and determined the exact places and times we should live. (Psalms 139.13-16; Acts17:26)
4. If we don’t get a grasp on our personal and God given mission, we will either…
   * default to a very narcissistic, hedonistic and selfish life.
   * default to our “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** mission”

a *distorted version* of my true mission thrown 15 degrees off centre by my ambition, pride, thirst for comfort/security/pleasure, secrets and by my personal woundedness.

**To ponder**: If God would reveal *a sense* of your personal mission/calling or at least the direction you will find your unique, ***would you give the rest of your life to pursuing it*?**

As best I understand it, my personal life mission is found by prayerfully discerning my:

* **S**
* **E**
* **R**
* **V**
* **E**

**S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** mix:

**The Motivational gifts**  (Romans 12:3-8)

**Prophecy: “*propheteia*”**

* the ability to receive and communicate a timely message from God usually accompanied by a strong sense that God is imparting the message and often an accompanying burden to share it.
* key concepts are accuracy and confirmation by God (through anointing / signs / fulfillment) and confirmation by others (others “hear” God speaking through a prophet’s words).
* “Prophets” generally have a keen sense of right and wrong, truth and error or deception. They tend to see beyond and through what others see into the deeper issues or problems.
* Those with this gift are also used by God to “awaken” the spiritual gifts in others and help them learn to hear God’s voice.

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* should not claim the title of prophet publically on one’s own accord.
* would be wise to also pursue the ministry of intercession. They should also begin serving in their next strongest gift and let their prophetic gifts be tested and emerge “naturally.”
* ask God for compassion. The gift of prophecy, like other spiritual gifts, is given for the strengthening of the body and building up of His people.

**Service: “*diakonia*”** (servant)

* an inner desire to meet physical and practical needs of individuals and / or organizations.
* “Servants” do not need or particularly enjoy serving in the spot light. They see the mundane and the routine assignments as important as the “big moments.”
* This gift encompasses a wide variety of expression, most often identified with those who have practical, mechanical or hospitality skills .

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* should be careful to not criticize those who don’t tend to see or meet practical needs.
* should be careful to not over-commit and later become resentful for not being appreciated.
* consider finding an area of ministry within the church or society they feel passionate about and make themselves available to the leader to help.

**Teaching: “*didaskilia*”**

* the ability to communicate and explain biblical truth they have researched (and/or believe to be true) in a logical and convincing manner.
* Teachers need to know the reason behind ideas or concepts and be able to prove their statements.
* Teachers have the unique ability to synthesize information from many sources into a credible argument.

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* should realize not everyone is as interested as they are in the information being presented.
* should be careful to ensure the ideas they believe and are teaching are, in fact, true.
* Should not exalt this level of learning and revelation over other means by which God also communicates.
* Should be careful of using their gift to communicate their own ideas or too frequently focus on their own favorite topics.

**Exhortation: “*paraklesis*”**

* to call near to one’s side in order to strengthen (by imparting courage: hence “encourage”), comfort, correct or teach.
* Exhorters have the ability to call forth the best in others, motivating them by bringing attention to what they are doing well.
* Their motivation is to strengthen another and help them fulfill the calling, mission or purposes of God in another’s life.

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* should ask God for the courage to practice both sides of exhortation.
* should work hard at being specific with their encouragement (or correction) and share the impact the positive (or negative) actions of another are having on them or the community.

**Meta-Giving: “*meta-didomai*”**

* to impart (monetary and other resources) liberally. This person finds fulfillment in giving to meet personal needs and/or special ministry projects. They think about ways they can earn more or liquidate or leverage what they already have in order to free up funds for others and kingdom ventures.
* this person doesn’t wait until they have great means – it is intuitive.
* They have a very different perspective on the wealth entrusted to them. They don’t generally see it as their own.

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* Should ask God to also give them wisdom on how to make large sums of money with the intent of leveraging their wealth in kingdom ventures.
* Should look for special projects and kingdom ventures to invest larger sums of money into inside or outside their own local church. After looking, they should pray and ask for God’s leading.
* should not attach strings to their giving, whether intentional or sub-conscious strings.

**Leadership / government: “*proistemi*”**

* “to rule” and/or govern. Those with this gift must usually earn the right to lead in the church / community through proven character and love for their people.
* This gift comes with the ability to see the bigger picture, to determine priorities and even strategies by which to move a group of people in the right direction. One of the roles of a leader is also to warn and protect those they lead from dangers or error.
* The leader intuitively sees possibilities and solutions to obstacles.
* The leader often uses or moves in the other motivational gifts but the difference is their desire to move a group of people towards a common goal.

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* should be careful and honest about his/her own ambition or goals.
* should ensure their devotional and prayer life is kept strong and that they are being led by God.
* should realize that while God may have given you the responsibility to lead, you cannot demand respect or submission. These must be earned. Love and character are the currency that earns either.
* would be wise to develop ministry (and leadership) teams with a variety of the other gifts present.

**Mercy: “*eleeo*”**

* a deep capacity to feel compassion for people and to relieve their hurt or discomfort.
* The person with a mercy gift desires to listen and fully empathize with all that others who hurt are feeling. This is considered a valuable use of time.
* Such people make great counselors, social workers, physiotherapists, etc..

**Suggestions:** *Those who have been given this gift or sense they have…*

* should seek those who are hurting and make themselves available to minister hope
* should develop the gift or discipline of intercession, allowing the diving sense of compassion to motivate them to “travail” in prayer.
* should discipline themselves to not enable those they are ministering to.

**PUTTING MYSELF in the PICTURE**

1. **Self: Place an “S” along the continuum of each motivational gift where you would rate the presence or strength of that gift in you.**
2. **Others: Place an “O” along the continuum of each gift where you believe others would rate you. For this you will have to think back to words of encouragement or affirmation.**
3. **God: Place an “A” along the continuum of each gift to indicate the level of “anointing” or power level with which you believe God has used you while you were acting in this manner.**

Prophecy: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Service: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Teaching: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Exhortation: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Meta-Giving: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Leadership: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Mercy: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Support spiritual gifts**: In addition to the seven motivational gifts, the Holy Spirit also imparts the following gifts/abilities. While we all have the priviledge and responsibility to “move” in all of the gifts, there are usually 2-3 one experiences particular and consistent “anointing” or effectiveness in.

**Administration**: steering the body of Christ or individuals towards effectively fulfilling God’s purposes through planning, organizing and supervising others.

**Discerning of spirits**: clearly distinguishing truth from error by judging whether the teaching/behavior is of God, satan or human.

**Faith**: an extra-ordinary and unshakable belief in God’s power to accomplish His revealed will that supersedes obstacles, past experience and, at times, human wisdom.

**Healing**: the supernatural ability to impart healing (physical, emotional and mental) to another individual. When this gift is operating and a person pronounces healing, it happens. Healing is defined as the restoration or making whole of that which has become unwell.

**Word of knowledge**: a direct “word” from the Lord, information imparted into one’s mind that one could otherwise not have known. Sometimes the one receiving the word KNOWS it is from God; other times, it is confirmed once shared.

**Miracles**: the act of speaking into existence deeds or realities that could not otherwise occur.

**Tongues**: the speaking (or praying) in unknown languages so that unbelievers might hear God’s message.

**Interpretation of tongues**: the supernatural ability to interpret the message God is bringing through the speaking in tongues.

**Spiritual Offices:** some designate these as spiritual gifts whereas I see them as positions or titles individuals are given in the church with a commission to prepare God’s people to exercise their own spiritual gifts and fulfill their mission. (Eph 4:11-13). While God is the one who establishes spiritual anointing and authority, it is the church (usually elders & leaders) that assign the titles.

**Apostle**: a recognized leader of a movement, other leaders or group of churches that is considered by others to have spiritual authority over those under their care.

**Prophet**: one who is recognized as having a consistently credible gift of prophecy and whose character has been proven faithful enough to carry it.

**Evangelist**: one whom God has uniquely anointed his/her teaching to penetrate the hearts of unbelievers and bring them to repentance and faith in Christ.

**Pastors**: elders or leaders who have been assigned spiritual and emotional watchcare over a local body of believers.

**Teachers**: one recognized as being faithful and consistently anointed in their teaching.

**E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

*“And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.”* Romans 8.28 *(NIV)*

*"Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel"* Phil. 1:12 *(NIV)*

* **Painful Experiences:**

Painful experiences often expand, temper or even change what have the motivational energy needed to cause us to act. These painful experiences often have a permanent effect on our minds, causing us to be sensitive and aware of similar situations or others suffering as a result.

Think through and list the painful experiences of your life in four stages:

Childhood (prior to age 12)

Adolescence: (12-17)

Early Adulthood: (18-25)

Adulthood (26+)

In which of these experiences or areas do you have a strong passion to do something about and are willing to sacrifice for?

* **Positive Experiences:**

In the same four life stages, list any “aha” moments when you felt most fully alive or fulfilled.

Childhood (prior to age 12)

Adolescence: (12-17)

Early Adulthood: (18-25)

Adulthood (26+)

In which of these experiences or areas do you have a strong desire to return and invest more time or energy into?

R**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

*“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works…which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* Ephesians 2.10 *(NIV)*

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*  James 1:5 *(NIV)*

* **Prophetic Words:**

As you look back over your life, have there been any prophetic words spoken over you? As best you can, quote them below:

* **Prophetic Moments:**

**In the 5-8 most significant spiritual “aha” moments of your life**, when you sensed God speaking to you through His word, prayer, another speaker, retreat or other uniquely spiritual experience, **what were the messages you received**? As best you can recall and articulate them, what is your sense of what God is/was saying to you?

**V\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

*“Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.”* Psalms 37.4 *(NIV)*

*“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”* Phil. 2.13 *(NIV)*

The “mission values” question helps us define the location or various “arenas” in which we are most motivated to serve.

The following questions can help determine our “mission values” or where we would most like to direct our personal mission energies.

1. If you knew you would succeed and had the resources to do so, what would you like to accomplish in life?
2. In 10, 20 or 30 years, when you look back over your life, what cause will you have wanted to have made a difference in?
3. If we were to poll your family and friends, what would they suggest you are passionate about?
4. What topics would you stay up late into the night talking about?
5. For what cause, purpose, people group or mission would you willingly suffer or sacrifice time, resources and leverage your reputation for?

(try to narrow this down as best you can. i.e. you may feel drawn to work with “youth” but as you look back on your experience, you realize that you are most drawn to the rebellious and/or misunderstood “youth.” This is helpful because it might also mean you could likewise feel fulfilled working with children raised in broken and dysfunctional homes, or even adults who’ve served jail time.)

**EXERCISE**: Think about what you’ve learned about your motivational spiritual gifts, your experiences, revelation and your ministry values or passion area.

Select your strongest (in your opinion) spiritual gift. Think through various ways you might use that gift in one the two areas you would most like to make a difference in. (once done, repeat the exercise with your next strongest gift.)

**1st Strongest Spiritual Gift**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ministry Value “arena:” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Possible ways I could exercise this gift in my Ministry Value “arena” in a way I could get excited about.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2nd Strongest Spiritual Gift**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ministry Value “arena:” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Possible ways I could exercise this gift in my Ministry Value “arena” in a way I could get excited about.

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Note: most spiritual gifts require us to be part of a team to be effectively expressed.

* i.e. for one having a strong serving gift, they would be wise to find and make themselves available to a leader who is leading/serving in an area of their passion. Same with giving, etc..
* Those with leadership gifts would be wise to begin serving in any area where this is a need and let one’s leadership gifting “rise” to the surface.
* Those with a prophetic gifting/calling should find their way into community and begin interceding and, when appropriate, sharing the words/messages they sense God is giving them. If the anointing is there, it will become evident.
* Keep in mind that most of us have a “gift mix” of where we tend to shine brightest.

Optional: negative values

**EXERCISE:** look back on your painful experiences and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any commitments or protective values you embraced as a result of these experiences. List them below. (note: most of them will start with *I will never…* or *I will…*)

Go back over each one and ask the Holy Spirit which of these negative values/commitments is limiting your willingness or ability to embrace your life purposes and “good works” God has given you to do. Do not give yourself permission to justify and explain your reasons. Just ask and write them down.

**E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**:

*“From everyone who has been given much, more will be, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.”* Luke 12.48 *(NIV)*

Considering education is a ***stewardship*** issue.

Our education and training expands the ways we can make a significant contribution in society and/or the church. It often opens doors to “arenas” in which we can have influence. It also often makes us effective.

For example:

Formal education includes anything past high school such as college, university, work training seminars, church ministry training seminars, etc..

Informal education includes “life skills” training we received on the job or skills/information learned through significant life experience where one feel competent.

**EXERCISE: on the following page, take a short inventory of your formal and informal educational training:**

**My Formal training:**

**My Informal Training** (life skills I’ve learned “on the job” and developed competence in):

Now ask yourself for each item listed:

* how could I *leverage* what I’ve learned from this educational experience in my favorite “ministry value arena?” What need is in this area (favorite ministry value arena) that my expertise could help fulfil?
* How could what I’ve learned in this educational experience enhance one of my two strongest spiritual gifts?

**Bringing it all together with commitment and opportunity:**

Filling out the next statement will take courage, faith and sober judgement (little room for false humility or hiding behind past mistakes). It is not a *final statement* of what your mission is but a direction you are willing to pursue and invest yourself into so that God can guide, confirm or correct. Fill out as many of the lines as you can. If you don’t “know” the answer, give it your best “guess.”

***As best I understand at this point, God has uniquely gifted / equipped me to*:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(write a statement of what you feel God has gifted you or trained you in, including a sense of your spiritual gifting)

***The two “arenas” in which I would feel most excited about investing my time and energy are*:**

“arena 1”: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(values or passion “arena” enhanced by prophetic revelation and + / - experiences)

“arena 2”: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(values or passion “arena” enhanced by prophetic revelation and + / - experiences)

The potential opportunities I see before me to invest in either of these two arenas are:

“arena 1” opportunities I can see:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“arena 2” opportunities I can see:

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current life stage and/or previous commitments I must factor in:

(this may include children, community involvement, other commitments, etc.)

**Moment of Truth:** *As a result of these exercises and revelations, I will…*

**Authentic Mission Track 1 Follow up EXERCISE A: My True & My Shadow Missions**

Most of us are familiar with developing mission statements for our churches or ministry organizations. Many of us have attended workshops stressing the importance of crafting a personal mission statement. Only a few of us have actually done so and had the courage to put it on paper. This is your opportunity.

1. **Draft a *personal mission statement* into a single but focused statement**

* Use all of the exercises and questions on the previous pages to do so
* If possible, include a “what” you are called to do, “who” you feel primarily called to minister to and “how” you best see yourself doing it.
* Factor in spiritually giftedness, passions, natural abilities, spiritual revelation, experiences (educational, vocational, painful), burdens, temperaments and opportunities God seems to have placed before you.

If creating a mission statement is new to you, it may not be as defined as another’s. That’s OK. Mission statements tend to become clearer over time.

**As best I understand it to be** at this point in my life, **my *God-given* *(or true) mission*, *calling* and/or *purpose* in life is:**

1. **According to John Ortberg, *our shadow mission is*** [most often] ***my true mission “hijacked” by my ambition, pride, thirst for comfort / security / pleasure, my secrets and personal woundedness.*** It is the mission satan wants me to live for in order to distract me from my *true calling* *and purpose* in life.

If possible, purchase and read John Ortberg’s book “Overcoming Your Shadow Mission.” In the mean time,…

**As best I understand it to be, my *shadow mission* is:**

### Past wounds, painful events &/or failures that fuel my shadow mission are:

### Fears that fuel my shadow mission are:

### The way my pride fuels my shadow mission is:

1. American Heritage Dictionary [↑](#footnote-ref-1)