

IS LEADING YOUR CALLING?

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The essential leadership question is not “What do you want to be when you grow up/” It is the more demanding “What is your calling?” As we lead with this question in mind, we not only uncover the joy that every follower seeks, we help affirm our life’s work, our contribution to the world. Whether we ask this question during adolescence, during midlife, or in elderhood, it is the big question, and, it is *the* question we must continue to ask and answer ourselves Because what shapes and directs our leadership more than anything else is the questions we ask, fail to ask, or never dream of asking ourselves. It is our own questions that guide the paths our followers ultimately travel.

Most of the true callings I have studied take their shape through questions and actions that are natural by-products of ordinary living, not special things we do for “spiritual development.” Heeding life’s calling is a core thread of living a life, not a process with a life of its own. By following the inner voices that call us to try this an to go there, we discover the path that we clarify, in hindsight, as our calling.

What Is Our Seed of Destiny?

Seasoned leaders help people heed their life callings. They help them uncover their DNA – their embedded

destiny. Great leaders help people see beyond what they are today to what they can become tomorrow.

“Always the beautiful answer. Who asks a more beautiful question?” asked the poet e.e.cummings. Great leaders know to ask the more beautiful question to open their followers’ minds and spirits to their larger potentialities. And their questions always exceed their answers. The very best can intuitively sense the potential of people and help them tap into it.

There is a raw self within each of us, too, that is our seed of destiny. Like acorns, we are oaks-in-waiting, raw potential waiting to find our calling. At the core of our destiny lies the necessity of choice, the potential to choose to become something that has never existed before. When we fail to express our embedded gifts, we starve our seed of destiny. We fail to give our authentic, God-given gifts. A calling is the inner urge to give our gifts away. Calling gives us the sense that we are evolving according to a larger design – a realization that makes our lives feel purposeful.

Old Answers Make Us Restless

Heeding our calling means giving our gifts, naturally,

