

Summoned: Stepping Up to Live and Lead with Jesus

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Leadership coach **Daniel Allen** knows what it's like to be summoned by God. This honest guide gives practical, real-life advice for shaping a godly view of manhood, building character and growing in spiritual practices and leadership. From his own experience, Allen addresses common pitfalls that trip men up and shows how you can thrive in your faith, vocation and relationships.

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Are You Being Summoned?

To be clear from the outset, here's where I'm coming from: The world is broken; Jesus wants to heal it; Jesus has a role for you in that work; and Jesus is at work even now – in your life story – preparing you for that work.

Not a day goes by without reports on the brokenness of the world – reports of homelessness, poverty, hunger, climate change, contaminated water supplies, the abuse of natural resources, the global HIV/AIDS crisis, the abuse of power, the effects and aftereffects of colonialism, human trafficking, slavery, terrorism, genocide, racism, militarism, displaced peoples, broken families, broken economies, toxic leaders and workplaces, broken educational systems, corporate espionage, moral failures on a grand scale and other blatant manifestations of evil. Some of these tragedies have touched you personally. You might already be working to change them or to mitigate the misery they cause.

Jesus wants to heal the broken world. That's why he came. Jesus came to inaugurate God's kingdom life for all who would receive it, and he called and prepared a dozen followers to join him in that work (see, for example, Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 4:18-22; 10:1-14; John 10:10). He went about preaching, teaching and demonstrating how God's kingdom was actually breaking in through his life and work (Luke 4:14-30). Through Jesus, Paul wrote, God is at work on a grand scale, restoring the cosmos and all that is in it (Colossians 1:15-29). Jesus came to heal the broken world and still works to heal it.

Jesus has a role for you in that work. The apostle Paul wrote that we've been created in Christ to do good works – works prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). Works that renew and restore the world. Works that fix what's been broken. And this work is not just for those with paying jobs in the institutional church or support-based ministries. This work is for all of us and is needed in all sectors of society: the arts, sciences, education, engineering, manufacturing, business, government – you name it. All sectors belong to Jesus, and he summons each of us to work with him in one or more of those sectors.

Jesus is at work even now in your life – in your story – preparing you for that work. He works in your life through significant people, events and circumstances, through your natural abilities and through your spiritual gifts to prepare you for the work he has for you to do. Jesus may have already summoned you to a place in the work he's doing. You might know what it is and you might not, but since he's the good shepherd of John 10, you can trust him to make it clear to you when the time is right.

Perhaps now is the time to get clarity and a path for hearing and following God's call, or to refine and advance what you already know.

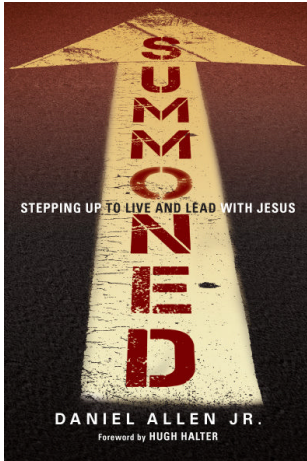
– Taken from the Introduction

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Being Summoned? Answering God's Call? Surrendering? What Does It All Mean?

- Who is *Summoned* written for?
- *Summoned* is drawn from case studies of four thousand leaders. Describe the research and results of the case studies, and how they apply to the ideas in *Summoned*.
- What does it mean to be summoned?
- What exactly does the term "God's call" mean?
- What is the difference between vocation and occupation?
- What are the five ways in which God speaks, or, summons us?
- What are some of the obstacles that get in the way of accepting God's call?
- What does surrender look like once you recognize God's call?
- What did surrender look like in your own life?
- What role does character formation take as we are summoned?
- How did you personally struggle to obey and have your character formed?
- What does respect for authority figures have to do with being summoned and with one's calling?
- What are blind spots in our lives? How do they affect our ability to grow and lead?
- How are transitions important for our growth and calling?
- What do you hope young men take away from *Summoned*?

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