

## Working With A Counselor, Coach, Pastor or Mentor

Now that you've invested your time in doing The CALL, you may benefit from discussing your options with someone who is experienced in educational or career counseling. Counselors, coaches, pastors, advisors and mentors can help you gain insights and objective information to help you make better decisions. Many professional advisors will help you for little or no cost, while others charge a fee. You'll need to choose one that's right for you.

To make the most of the services of a counselor, it will help if you do some prep-work. Take some time and write out your answers to the following questions:

1. If you could have any job in the world, what would it look like?
2. If money was no object, what would you do for a living?
3. What do you enjoy doing so much that you would do it for free, or as a volunteer?
4. What are your 3 strongest motivational gifts, and how have you used them in other areas of your life?
5. What kind of jobs or tasks have you done that you particularly enjoyed doing or that gave you a feeling of satisfaction or accomplishment?
6. What occupations identified in The CALL appeal to you the most?

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7. Which of these occupations seems to best match your spiritual gifts?
8. Which of these occupations makes the most sense, given your background, experience, talents and ability to obtain the specific education or training required?
9. Do you have an obvious advantage in one of these fields?
10. Which of these occupations makes the most sense to people who know you best? (Ask your friends, co-workers, parents, mentors or teachers to give you their observations and insights here).

Professional counselors can provide you with additional help in career selection and related services. They have titles such as academic counselor, career placement services counselor, employment counselor, guidance counselor, pastoral counselor and vocational advisor. These professionals counsel individuals and provide educational and vocational guidance services. They collect, organize and analyze information about individuals through records, tests, interviews and professional sources, to appraise their thinking styles, occupational interests and

behavioral traits for vocational and educational planning. Your report contains much of this information about you.

Counselors also compile and study occupational, educational and economic information so they can assist you in making and carrying out educational, training and career objectives. The counselor will want to review your report with you, so take two printed copies of it with you when you go.

Use the space below to note the questions you would like to ask a counselor:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
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13. \_\_\_\_\_

Finding your ideal career is worth an investment of your time, money and effort. Make your career choice carefully.

There are many sources of information available through independent research. You might, for example, read biographies of people who engaged in the occupations you are considering. You can also read business publications and journals to learn about trends in specific fields. Look for signs that opportunities in the job or profession you choose are expanding.

Think about your personal interests. What do you enjoy doing? These feelings may be a reflection of your special gifts and abilities. Whatever it is that you enjoy doing, there is a good chance that some people do that as a part of their occupation. Sometimes there are support roles that can be discovered as you explore an occupational area. Expand your thinking, and you widen your opportunity.

As an example, if you enjoy singing, you might find an occupation as a professional singer. Or you might enjoy singing in the choir of your church or teaching those in a youth group how to sing.

Talk with friends, your family and your pastor about career possibilities. Carefully consider their input, and then make your own decision. And if you have a dream, don't be afraid to pursue it.

This assessment tool is a great beginning. Use it wisely and put real effort into getting as much information as you can about the businesses, professions and occupations that interest, stimulate and excite you. Remember, "Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."

The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:3 to think of ourselves with sober judgment:

*"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you." (NIV)*

God wired you for a career in secular organizations or ministry. Your wiring can be aligned with certain careers to increase job effectiveness and satisfaction. Therefore, the goal of this assessment is to bring your unique spiritual gifts, cognitive abilities, career interests and behavioral traits in alignment for greatest job satisfaction and ministry impact.