

# **PART ONE**

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Take Time to Ponder  
Your Possibilities

## TAKE TIME TO PONDER YOUR POSSIBILITIES

I HOPE YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR LIFE and what it can teach you. I hope you are the kind of person that enjoys reflecting and looking within for your own wisdom. I hope you are one of those ready to say “yes” to a fulfilling and satisfying life that matters in the world. I hope you are one of those who have come to a place in your life where you find the following questions interesting, provocative, fun, and even necessary.

- A younger reader may be considering, “How can I craft a life that makes a difference?” wondering how you might have more influence over bringing your dreams to life.
- A reader in mid-career may have been attracted by the title tag line about the world being hungry for your gifts, and may be wondering, “What part of my own personal hunger might be assuaged by giving more of what I have to give?”
- A reader nearing retirement years may be asking, “Did my life have any meaning?” wondering whether their time on earth mattered and if there is still time left to make it meaningful.

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Curiosity is,  
in great and  
generous minds,  
the first passion  
and the last.

— SAMUEL JOHNSON

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In Part One, you’ll have a chance to check in with yourself and explore the terrain of calling and contribution with a wide lens. You’ll have a chance to consider the notion of “calling” and begin to contemplate how it might relate to your own life—your talents and passions and skill sets. Through the many examples from the lives of others, you’ll have a chance to see calling and contribution in action.

Remember, this is a time to relax and ponder possibilities for yourself through the stories of others. Not only is it important to note the variety of

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As we find our way into our authentic self, the  
community of life will blossom forth.

— BRIAN SWIMME, COSMOLOGIST, YOUTUBE VIDEO —

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skills and talents on display in the following chapters, it is intriguing to note on what stage individuals are “called” to play their game. Some play their game with their family and friends, making a decided difference mostly visible in a very local setting, such as a school or community.

I also highlight people whose gifts call them to a larger arena, that of business, managing large organizations, and even changing the way the world works. As I will say in other places, callings do differ in scope of impact, but there is no difference in importance. **What’s important is that you do what is yours to do on this planet at this time.** I hope you’ll be genuinely amazed and excited by the stories, and I invite you to ponder options and possibilities for yourself as you begin to consider where and how you want to play your life game with the time that remains to you.

At the end of each chapter you will find a box containing either questions for deeper REFLECTION or further RESOURCES for your enjoyment.

Since the answers that will best work for your life are always and only your own, I encourage you to set aside some time and space to sit with each chapter as you read it and see what ideas and insights emerge for you.