

***Even sin has a vocational aspect***

by Mary Sharon Moore

*This column appeared originally in Awakening Vocations' News & Views, Apr-Jun 2009.*

If our theology of vocation is correct—that God’s calling penetrates every aspect of our being—then, amazingly, God’s calling lies somewhere, somehow, even in our sin.

Now be clear on this: I am not encouraging you to go out and sin so that you can experiment with vocation discernment in the dark and hidden elements of your life. But let’s reflect for a moment on what this might mean—that God’s calling lies somewhere, somehow, even in our sin.

God’s claim on your life is total, complete, omitting nothing, because everything within your being is from God, of God, and for God. Your personhood comes to fullness only in God. Your willing, your desiring, your understanding, your doing, your capacity to reflect and integrate and make meaning of the circumstances of your life—all of that is from God, of God, and for God, all subject to God’s claim.

So let’s say I go out and live a dissolute life, squandering my inheritance in the most demeaning ways. In the moment when I come to my senses and realize that I have sinned, that I need to return to God, in that precise moment I understand at some level,

in some way, that I have turned from God’s calling and God’s willing in my life. I may even say, when I acknowledge my sin: “I don’t know what I was thinking; I wasn’t myself.” This is a theologically and vocationally accurate statement.

So the sinning does not please God, but that awakening, that awareness, that turning back to God is all the work of the Holy Spirit bringing my willing back into harmony with God’s willing.

So it’s helpful to look at sin in your life not only as morally wrong but as vocationally wrong, as missing the mark not just morally but vocationally. God offered you the opportunity to grow more fully into your unique personhood, and you settled for something pathetically or even tragically less.

But if you still have a heartbeat, God still has a plan for your life. Turn your heart around, today, right now, and take up the words of Isaiah: “Here I am, Lord, I come to do your willing.”

**MARY SHARON MOORE, M.T.S.**, is founding director of **AWAKENING VOCATIONS**, author of *Touching the Reign of God* (Wipf and Stock, 2009), and creator of the L.A.S.T. Workshop for workteam development. Her work in vocation discernment spans from Church ministry to animating organizations for work that touches the soul of the world. For more, visit [www.awakeningvocations.com](http://www.awakeningvocations.com).

|||

© Mary Sharon Moore, 2009 | All Rights Reserved.

For permission to use, please contact Awakening Vocations | [info@awakeningvocations.com](mailto:info@awakeningvocations.com) | 541.687.2046