



Foundation Stone #2: Calling May 2006

What Does “Calling” Really Mean?

The call is possession of a “knowing” that is initiated and sustained by the Holy Spirit and validated by Scripture. Each of these three components – knowing initiated, knowing sustained and Scripturally validated – exist in a genuine call. While God’s call will be unique to you and specific to His plan for your life, these three elements are part of every calling.

Initiated by God – The called possess a confident knowing that God is speaking to them. In the knowing, there comes a point where you realize there is absolutely nothing else you *can* do. Paul possessed this knowing in his call to minister to the Gentiles, an undeniable certainty about God’s leading. Paul possessed many skills and could have fulfilled any number of professional roles, yet he was consumed by a calling he did not initiate. Within the knowing resides a consuming passion that emanates from deep within the soul. The only reasonable response is surrender.

Sustained by God – The knowing is not only initiated but also *sustained* by God. It is the certainty of the knowing that never really goes away. This conviction is from the Holy Spirit, who purposes to instruct and teach you in all things. This doesn’t mean there won’t be times you’ll doubt the call. Dark days will come and cloud your vision, perhaps distracting you from your calling. However, the Holy Spirit plants a seed deep inside, one from which you cannot run no matter how hard you try.

Validated by Scripture – The call should also be confirmed by Scripture, God’s revealed word to you. He will speak through His word and will not be silent for the one who seeks Him. Of course, this requires spending time in God’s Word – more than just going to the Bible to prepare for ministry time or a sermon. The Holy Spirit will use the pages of Scripture to not only confirm your ministry calling but also His purpose in calling you. God will not be silent for those who intently listen for His voice.

Thoughts to Ponder:

- Have you ever experienced a clear sense of calling from the LORD as described above?
- If so, write it down in as much detail as you are able and compare it with your current ministry activities. To what extent is your current “busy-ness” out of line with your true calling?
- Where discrepancies exist between your calling and any current activity, what would the LORD have you do to streamline your activities and to focus more singularly on your unique area of calling?

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