

When God Calls... He equips

Your place on earth is related to an assignment that God had in His mind before you were born; that makes you critical to His global plan. So before you let that fear and doubt rob you of your place in His plan, remember that the task ahead of you is never as great as the Power behind you.

When you find yourself at a place of fear and doubt, or with that nagging emptiness in your soul that seems to have no answer, "**When God Calls**" will become your guide through the treacherous storms of life. In this book you will find inspiration to take that leap of faith towards your destiny.

As Wole Adeyi unveils the reality and power of the call of God, you will be challenged to the core of your soul, as you are exposed to realities that few are declaring in these days. "When God Calls" will defy almost every concept you have about God's calling, as he shifts the focus away from mere religion towards the ultimate issue - 'the call of God for your life'.

The weaknesses of random service will be exposed as you tap into a spiritual reality that will rearrange your thought pattern and empower you in these turbulent times.

As you open the pages of this book, you will enter into a brand new world of God's truth; and you will discover the 'Call' that is yours to answer.



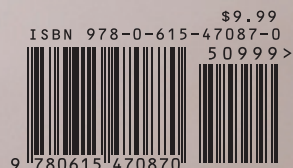
Sam Wole Adeyi serves in the leadership office overseeing Church Workers. He is a bold, disciplined and Holy ghost revival church worker, who has been involved in raising dynamic church workers for over fifteen years. His dramatic demonstrative style and down to earth practical messages have endeared him to thousands of people who have found inspiration, encouragement, and zeal in his services.

Sam Wole Adeyi whose first book "**CHURCH VOLUNTEERS: "God's Workers"- The Strength of the Church.**" published by Author House, continues to be a blessing to so many Workers and Leaders.

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Wole and his wife, Bambo, got married in 1999, and are blessed with children.



WOLE ADEYI

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Foreword by Evang. Mike Bamiloye

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WHEN GOD CALLS...

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ISBN: 978-0-615-47087-0
Printed in the United States of America
©2011 by Wole Adeyi

Trendy Africa Publishing
Mansfield TX 76063
www.trendyafrica.com

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my Lord Jesus Christ for calling me into the ministry. Unto Him only be all the glory, honor, and praise forever.

Also my family, who have always been there for me, and have never, doubted my dreams, no matter how obsessive they might be. And to all of the amazing people who helped our family get through the storms that we have weathered. Without all of you I would not be in the place I am right now.

Lastly to anyone who finds himself or herself at a place in life where the question of “why” seems unanswerable, you are not alone. May this book give you inspiration and direction.

Acknowledgements

I gratefully acknowledge God my Father; Jesus Christ my Lord; and my great helper, teacher, supporter and friend, the Holy Spirit for His inspiration, wisdom, guidance, and enablement.

Many people have had an impact on this volume; from those who have made suggestions, to those who have given encouragement, and to those who have influenced my life and ministry. I thank the Lord for placing you in my path

A word of appreciation goes to my Pastor and Pastor (Mrs.) Abiodun Coker for allowing me to share some of my ideas and experiences as a leader. Much more than this, thank you for being wonderful parents to my family. Thanks for the great job you did in editing this book. I am deeply indebted to you Sir. I cannot but thank my spiritual parents and mentor, Evangelist Mike and Gloria Bamiloye of Mount Zion Faith Ministries, Nigeria.

Of those especially close to me during the long writing, editing and review of this manuscript, I would like to thank Pastor Taiwo and Bidemi Ayeni, Pastor Chris and Margaret Anenih, Deacon Sunday and Ijeoma Orie, Pastor Johnny and Moyo King, Sister Moniyi Afolabi and Ebony Laoye, for their honest criticism and unwavering support of this entire project. Words are inadequate to qualify your love and special interest in this book. Our God, the great rewarder of those who diligently seek Him will indeed reward you a million fold. Thank you!

Thank you Tosan and Winnie Aduyi for the beautiful cover you created. My special thanks to all my siblings, who had greatly afforded me their invaluable support and insights. Thanks a lot for your unrelenting efforts to see this book published.

Most of all, of course, my greatest debt is to my wife; Bambo, for her careful reading and for suggestions that made the critical difference in several passages. Her emotional and spiritual support made the writing of this book possible. Without her standing beside me and encouraging me during these eventful years, this book and the message it proclaims, would not have been possible.

With my heart full of joy, I say thanks to you all.

Wale Adeyi

Foreword

With great joy in my heart and absolute willingness, I count it a great privilege and honor to be called upon to write something about this book. I am a drama minister and I try very hard to be focused. I turn down many invitations to preaching engagement in churches, revivals and crusades in order not to be distracted from my calling into drama and film production ministry. However, whenever I accept to minister in churches and programs, it is mostly when I have to talk on callings, gifts, ministries and purpose for living. That is why I am very delighted about this book and count it a great honor to be called upon to write a Foreword on this great book.

Reading through this book brings back into my memory many striking lessons I have been taught by the Holy Spirit in my little ministerial journey. I have discovered truly, according to the book that: *“A gift makes a way when it is exercised and developed”*. I never went to university to learn Theater Arts or the arts of film productions, yet by His divine grace, I have developed the gift of my calling into drama ministry over the years and this has made a way for me in life. That statement in this book is a striking undiluted truth.

The book lays bare, the principles of God’s calling into ministry when the author drew lessons from the calling of David on God’s emphasis on the inner virtue of the called rather than the displayed outward appearances of David’s brothers. And it talks further on the types of people God finds usable on His field when the author expounded before the readers how Jesus Christ chose his disciples; David and his great army of vagabonds; how Joshua followed Moses; etc.

It is true, according to the book: *“Every child of God has something very special which is meant to be used for His glory and was reserved for the manifestation”*. I have always taught this wherever I go to challenge

people to enter into the areas of their calling and ministry. I have always taught this to the students of the Mount Zion Institute of Christian Drama. I have always believed that if I had not discovered the calling of the Lord for my life, there is no way the glory of God can manifest in my life. So, this book contains many striking truths which have been relevantly proved in my personal ministerial life.

Some of the striking points that are truths in life and ministry, which I find very relevant to every worker and minister of the gospel are:

“And the fact that your ministry is doing well according to the standard of men does not mean it gets God’s approval because God is never pleased with disobedience.”

And look at this:

“...your calling is not about you. God wants you to make name for Him not for yourself.”

And for those who are still procrastinating the call into ministry, there are many valuable golden words like this:

“God’s calling never brings failure but success.”

This author has displayed deep knowledge of the Word of God, and a man does not give what he does not have. The content of this book reflect the heart of the author and the evidence or reflection of his own personal life of ministerial preparation. I have been tremendously blessed reading through this book.

I would like to suggest that a person reads this book with a pen or light marker in his hand, to underline striking points and prodding truths hidden inside the sentences and statements in every page. Equally significantly used in this book are very relevant scriptural verses and passages buttressing the striking truths and golden facts about ministry and life.

This is not a book containing shallow philosophical ideologies and statements; it is embellished with deep relevant scriptural examples and accurate Biblical verses and passages for all those who desire to know more about the gifts, callings and ministries as children of God; and for those already in ministry, who love to sharpen their minds and broaden their knowledge more about their calling and ministry.

I strongly believe you will be blessed and transformed reading this book.

MIKE BAMILOYE

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A grayscale photograph of a hand cupping an ear, symbolizing listening or hearing. The hand is positioned in front of the ear, with the fingers spread and the palm facing the ear. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

***Do you sense that God is calling
you to ministry?***

Introduction

Has God called you to ministry? Though all Christians are called to serve the cause of Christ, but each call is specific. God calls people to serve uniquely. It is a high honor to be called of God into the ministry. The question is how do you know if God is calling you?

If you are a Christian, you have probably heard a thousand times about doing God's will or listening for God's call. Many of us are perfectly content to believe that obeying God's will means going to church every Sunday and putting a check in the offering box. God's plan is bigger than that.

These days, many Christians think of careers rather than callings. The biblical challenge to most Christians is an extended call from the call to salvation to the call to the ministry. The longer I am a Christian, the more I realize that God does not need super stars. He doesn't! He simply needs ordinary people

**If God only used
perfect people, who
would get used?**

who will say, "Here I am, use me." Consider the disciples; "A bunch of losers".

They were not even excellent fishermen as they have some down times. Every time Jesus would go to them they were MENDING THEIR NETS. They could not even keep their nets in good shape! Stop focusing on what you cannot do. Let God decide what you cannot do. You just be available. If God only used perfect people, who would get used? God uses ordinary people who are ready to be used by him. When God calls you, He is giving you the free-will to say 'YES' or 'NO' but when we call to Him, He has only two answers; 'YES' and 'NOT NOW'. The choice lies with the one being called.

Do you sense that God is calling you to ministry? Do you burn with a compulsion to proclaim the Word, share the Gospel, and care for God's flock? Has this call been confirmed and encouraged by those Christians who know you closely? All these will be answered in this book.

Did I actually hear from God or was this just some sense of service coming from my own desires?



Chapter One

THE CALL

“I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corner I called you. I said, ‘You are my servant,’ I have chosen you and have not rejected you.” Isaiah 41:9.

Growing up in church, I was quite familiar with the term “called” even though I had very limited understanding of the meaning. However, when God’s call on my life began to look like the inevitable, the term took on new meaning and dimension. The emotion I had felt most was fear! I was like Moses, I thought of everything that could disqualify me for ministry. I thought about my diffident nature, fear of crowd, and fear of being insulted or ridiculed and above all, fear of failure.

As my life journey progressed, I realized these fears were only excuses. God who calls, enables, equips, and empowers! Though I understood

**Calling into the ministry
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titles: ‘Reverend’, ‘Pastor’,
‘Priest’, or ‘Teacher’.**

this truth, but I still wrestled with fear. Anxious thoughts race through my head uncontrollably: Did I actually hear from God or was this just some sense of service coming from my own desires? I eventually found peace in Paul’s words: *“Paul, an*

apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Timothy 1:1). I noticed that Paul was called “by the will of God.” In essence, ministry is not something you choose. God makes the choice. (1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 10:17-31). We can choose to do any profession on earth, but not ministry. To do ministry, you must be

chosen by God. Meanwhile, it is also possible for you to serve God in your profession and that then becomes ministry.

The purpose of this book is to open your heart to the possibility of His working in you and calling you to work with Him and to the possible ways God has spoken to you in the past or may speak to you in the future. We must take away some of the mystique around what we call “ministry.” Calling into the ministry has nothing to do with the titles: ‘Reverend’, ‘Pastor’, ‘Priest’, or ‘Teacher’. Every Christian who humbly and contritely works with the Lord in any capacity is answering the Lord’s call to be a servant in ministry. Therefore, the call to ministry, in all of the forms of ministry, is to be taken seriously. One must look deep within his or her life and prayerfully ask the Lord’s direction about the Lord’s call. The forms in which the Lord calls us to ministry are as varied as the circumstances of life. Some people actually hear a direct audible voice they identify as God. God may speak to you in an audible voice but do not be disappointed if He chooses some other method to call you into His service. God cannot be limited by one method. He is sovereign. He calls people in different ways. When you experience the Lord’s touch upon your life, go to Him in prayer. If, while you are in prayer, He assigns you a specific task, you have most likely received a call to serve in that area of call.

How can you be certain that you are called to the ministry? The answer to this question is that you will certainly know through an inner witness. Spiritual walk is by faith, not by sight; because we receive a call to serve in faith. What is most important is not the method the Lord uses to get your attention but the assignment that He has for you. If the Lord called you to the ministry as a child, you may have shoved this call aside due to the challenges of growing up into adulthood. However, once the Lord calls you, it is unlikely that He will change His mind. ***“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance”***. (Romans 11:29). Even if you push His call aside it is unlikely He will change His mind about your value to Him in His service. When God calls, he also sends. He calls and then sends based on His appointed time for each and everyone. The period between when you were called and the time you were sent is the period of preparation for the work He called you for. He wants us to grow before He sends. What each of us must do in every aspect of our relationship with God is to remain open to His will for our lives and never discount His will for us. What is most common is that you will experience a “knowing” deep within your heart about the Lord’s will and call upon your life.

Proverb 18:16 says ***“A man’s gift makes room for him, and brings him***

before great men.” I have heard this verse used for years in the context of God opening up doors for a person’s ministry. From this passage we see that two things happen because of the gift. A man’s gift will make room for him and that he will be brought before great men. The gift is a pass code. It grants you access into the presence of great men. The word “gift” means a present while the word “room” means to broaden. So, it could read this way: “A man’s present will broaden, cause expansion, or create opportunity for him, and on top of all that, a man’s present will bring him before great men.” A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into

A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.

the presence of the great. It is this gift that will enable you to fulfill your vision. Your gift has a divine connection into your calling. For example, Daniel was given the gift

of wisdom and interpreting dreams, and he used his gift to save, not only himself, but the wise men of Babylon and his friends. His gift and the favor of God opened doors for him to witness to an ungodly king and show the amazing power of his God. Daniel was elevated to a place of honor and he became a trusted leader in the king’s service.

However, if the gift is not allowed to be used it will not make way for anyone. A gift makes way when it is exercised and developed. Paul encouraged Timothy to “fully deploy” the gift given him. Romans 11:29 says, *“For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”* Therefore you need to figure out early what your call is all about and get to work. If you spend your life doing another task or call not associated with your gift, all in the name of serving, you would most likely struggle and be unfulfilled. When the Lord comes back, what will you say of the talent He had given you? What call did you answer? What will be your excuse?

There were some who grow into their calling as they remain faithful in the little that God has given them.

It is very unfortunate that many who are in the position of authority in ministries do not want to encourage the younger ones in the faith to discover

Nowadays, many leaders find it difficult to ‘let go’ even when it is certain that God calls the younger ones under them

the will and call of God for them just as Eli did to Samuel. In this instance, as resourceful and useful as Samuel was to Priest Eli, Eli helped Samuel to walk into his calling. Nowadays, many leaders find it difficult to ‘let go’ even when

it is certain that God calls the younger ones under them. In business, I personally have no greater joy than seeing someone I have trained become a greater talent than I could have ever wished to be.

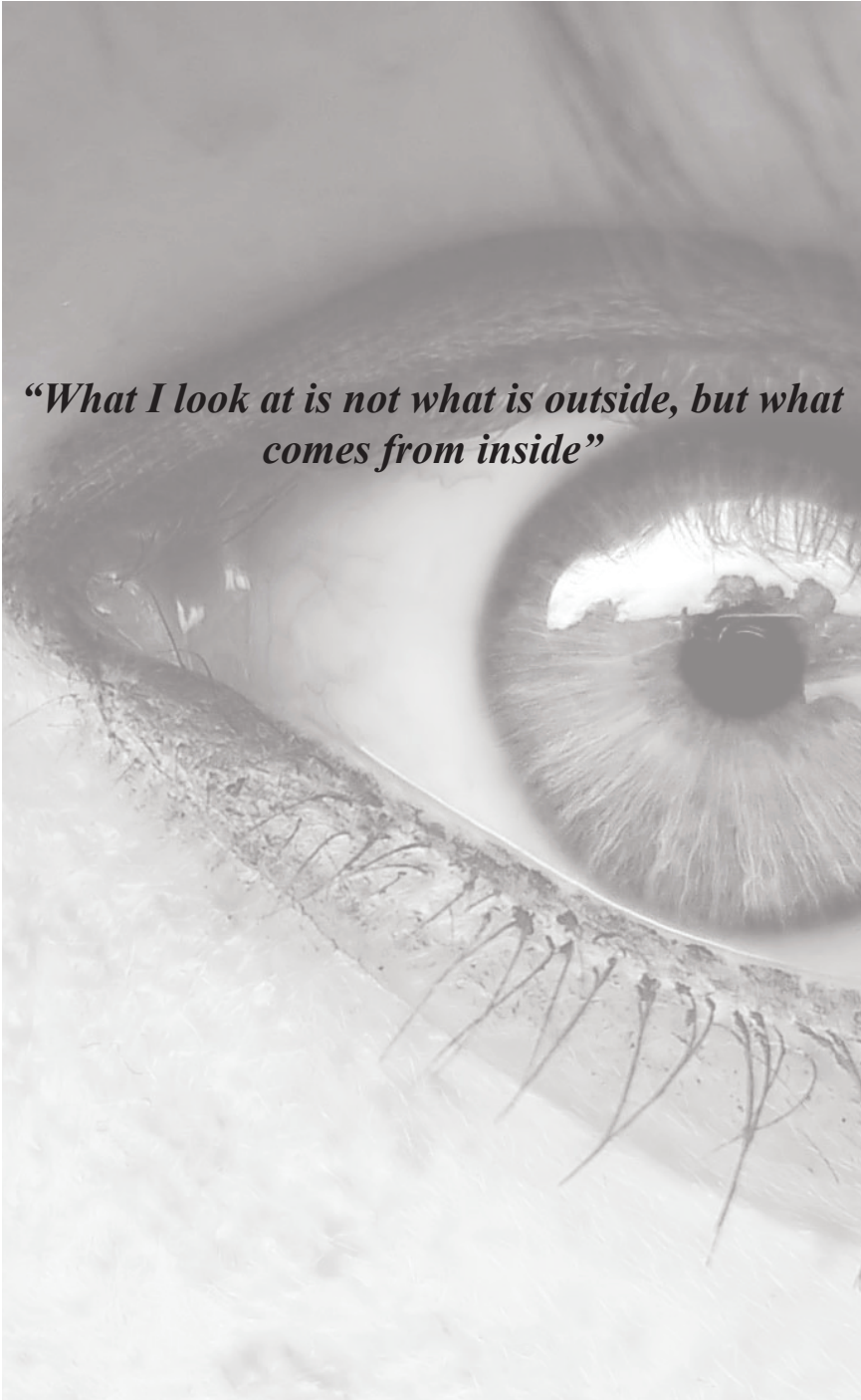
But at times it could also be that the younger ones are too eager for independence which is even more dangerous. This is zeal without knowledge, fire without light, it burns but illuminates nothing. Here is what the apostle Paul said about this in Romans 10:1-3; *“**Brethren, my heart’s desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.**”* I have known many people who have not obeyed the gospel. I have known many people who were involved in some denominational religious practice but they were not obeying the teaching of Christ. In some of these people there is apparent sincerity, zeal and apparent compensatory behavior towards religion. They are moved by religious ceremony. They have an obvious interest in some aspects of bible teaching. They give generously of their money and time. It simply cannot be denied there is a peculiar passion and zeal they have for and about their faith. The problem is, they are not continuing steadfastly with the word of God; the BIBLE.

He always graces with three things: A Voice, A Capacity, and A Task.

When God calls, He also equips!

Whenever God calls a man, He always graces with three things: A Voice, A Capacity, and A Task. He gives you a voice (sound) to hear before you speak; a capacity (ability) to carry before you birth; and a task (vision) to see before you do. These three things must be evident and they work together. For instance, if God gives you a voice to minister through drama and you spend your time doing something different, you will never achieve the task He sets for you. If the vision is to plant churches, then the ‘capacity’ inside will not be fulfilled by sitting in one location. The voice with a task will be the voice that has the capacity to hear from Heaven and only speaks what it has heard.

This book is birthed out of a burden I have for people who were being confused about the call of God in their lives.



“What I look at is not what is outside, but what comes from inside”

Chapter Two

WHO GOD CALLS?

God is sovereign and does as He likes, that is the reason His thoughts are not ours. When God calls a man, He sees what you do not see. There is one major thing God looks for in a man He calls. God looks at a person's character as regards to individuality. The Oxford English dictionary defines character as the complex of mental and ethical traits marking a person. Character is said to be the stable and distinctive qualities built into an individual's life which determine his or her response regardless of circumstances. Character is who we really are. It is what we do when no one is looking. Our character is a sum total of thoughts, values, words and actions.

Reputation is the shadow.

Character is the tree."

It has been said that character is the foundation for all true success and determines our destiny. A person may have money, position,

or power, but unless he has "good" character he or she is not considered to be truly successful.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Reputation is the shadow. Character is the tree." Our character is not just what we try to display for others to see, it is who we are even when no one is watching. Good character is doing the right thing because it is right to do what is right. Also, character can be developed and tested. Character will always be tested in one's service to another. David's character was tested by the pressures of life upon him. Though he was anointed to be king but he needed to serve before becoming the king. Likewise our Lord Jesus Christ, to be what he was ordained to be, he was tested on all sides. When God laid out the qualifications for elders and deacons in the church (1 Tim. 3: 1-13; Titus 1:7-9), integrity, faithfulness,

and self-control were emphasized more than skill. Though these passages deal with specific positions of leadership, but yet the character of whoever God is going to call would be important to Him. A man that God calls is a potential leader who must be ready to serve others and tends to be great. Jesus said whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant (Matt. 20: 25-26). A servant, as seen in Jesus' own example, has a heart of humility and a selfless attitude. (Phil. 2:5-8).

David's story in 1 Samuel chapter 16 is a long one that tells us God does not look for something outward in appearance. He looks for something which is real and precious, deep down in the hearts of individuals. What God is looking for is deeper. David had a deep response in his heart toward God. He loved God, and here he was doing this for God. When God sent Samuel to anoint a king for Israel, He said to Samuel of Jesse's eldest son, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).

God does things in ways that we sometimes do not understand. Here we perceive a family of eight, Jesse's family. No doubt they were all good outwardly, upstanding young men, who were able to do many good things. But God had chosen someone we least expected. Why? This is because God looks deeper than our appearance. He looks deep down into the heart. All of these sons who passed by might have had something good in their outward appearance, but God is not so interested in what a person looks like outside, although He would not want him to look sloppy. Samuel the prophet was looking upon the outward appearance. But God said, 'No. What I look at is not what is outside, but what comes from inside'. The Bible says that out of the heart are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23).

Just like David's brothers, many people today are just like that, displaying the virtues of an outward appearance, but deep down there is nothing inward that responds to the overtures of God's grace.

Apart from what God looks for, there are also certain things He does in a man He calls...

***God can make use of anyone irrespective of ability or background:**

God can, and often chooses to, work with raw material. God prepares his chosen ones in the quarry of discipleship before empowering them for the work. He does not need to call people who have the natural drive, train-

ing, or good background. He does not need to use people who are already popular.

“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.” (1 Cor. 1:26-27).

The disciples that He called were fishermen and tax-collectors by trade. Many were not highly educated or from influential families. They were said to be “common men with no educational advantage” (Acts 4:13 Amp.). Some had strong, driven personalities but others did not. Be careful not to limit God. Take Him at His word when He says, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness”* (2 Cor. 12:9).

The disciple started out as ordinary men and Jews who believed in God as they understood Him at that time (Mark 3:16-19; Matthew 10:2-4). Through their tutelage under Jesus, and the extraordinary gift of love and understanding that He gave to all of them, including Judas, they were soon enough a fitting vessel whom God chose to use in amazing ways. There were fishermen, a tax collector (a scorned profession among the Jews of the day, due to the collection of tax on behalf of the Roman occupiers) and even a potentially-violent revolutionary (Simon the Zealot) among them. In the hands of Jesus and His Father, they all became something much more useful.

***God prepares those He calls:**

Joseph was sold into slavery and falsely imprisoned during which time he gained life experiences that prepared him for a position of prominence. Moses grew up in Pharaoh’s household and then spent 40 years as a fugitive before he was ready to lead the people out of Egypt. Joshua served

God uses life experiences to mold, shape, and develop perspectives and passions in the called essential to the capacity of the work to which He calls.

as Moses’ servant for several years to prepare him to take Moses’ place of leadership. Joshua was one of only two men from the older generation of Israelites still alive forty years after Israel’s departure from Egypt (Num. 14:29-30; Deut. 1:34-38). During those forty years he had

gained much valuable experience as Moses' assistant. In the early days of the journey Joshua served as a military commander, defending his people against the Amalekites, the terrorists who attacked the weak and infirm at the rear of Israel's ranks (Exod. 17:8-16; Deut. 25:17-19). When Moses ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the commandments of God, Joshua accompanied him part way and was not involved in the sin of the golden calf (Exod. 24:13; 32:17). Joshua was one of the twelve scouts who explored the land of Canaan (Num. 13:8); he and Caleb were the only two of the twelve to give a positive report and resist the people's demands to appoint a new leader and return to Egypt (Num. 14:1-9). At the end of the forty years, God chose him as Moses' successor (Num. 27:18-23). By the time the Israelites reached the banks of the Jordan, Joshua had learned some important lessons. For example, he once protested to Moses about some unauthorized "prophesying in the camp" (Num. 11:26-28). Here Moses corrected his loyal assistant, instructing him to let God be in control (v. 29). Such lessons would have helped Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land.

You will serve the best when you put all of who you are into all of who He is.

In Joshua's example we see another key to success: When God chooses us for a task, he gives us the experiences we will need in order to carry it out. These experiences teach us valuable lessons. In Joshua 1:1-9, God encourages Joshua in his new role as leader of Israel. These verses lay out a program for the success of Joshua and the Israelites in taking over the Promised Land and thriving there.

David worked as a shepherd and then as a soldier under constant pursuit before ascending the throne as a king. The disciples spent three years with Jesus to prepare them to be the leaders of the early church but even then, they were instructed to wait for the Holy Spirit before they went out to fulfill their call. God uses life experiences to mold, shape, and develop perspectives and passions in the called essential to the capacity of the work to which He calls. Be careful not to short-circuit this preparation time due to impatience. God's ways and timing are the best.

***God equips those He calls:**

Whether by personality or gifting, God will equip people to serve how and where He calls. Be aware of your God-given design. You will serve the best when you put all of who you are into all of who He is.

HIS PURPOSE: WHAT?

“Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto nations.”- Jeremiah 1:5.

The fact that you are alive is a testimony that God has a purpose for you. Therefore, every man or woman that is born and alive is a product of purpose and not a product of accident. For the greatest tragedy that can befall man is not death but being alive without a purpose.

Purpose can therefore be summed up to mean goal or destination. That is to say God has a planned intention for everyone. Just as Jeremiah was formed and ordained a prophet (Jer. 1:5); Pharaoh was formed that God might show His power in him that the name of the Lord might be declared throughout all the earth by his destruction (Rom. 9:17 or Exod. 9:16).



***Every child of God has something very special
which is meant to be used for His glory***

Chapter Three

HAS GOD CALLED ME?

“¹ And Moses went and spoke these words unto all Israel. ² And he said unto them, I am a hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: and Jehovah hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan. ³ Jehovah thy God, he will go over before thee; he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt dispossess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as Jehovah hath spoken. ⁴ And Jehovah will do unto them as he did to Sihon and to Og, the kings of the Amorites, and unto their land; whom he destroyed. ⁵ And Jehovah will deliver them up before you, and ye shall do unto them according unto all the commandment which I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be affrighted at them: for Jehovah thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”
Deuteronomy 31:1-6.

Talk about filling big shoes! Moses, the leader of Israel, had turned water into blood and seen the sea divide in front of him. He had watched God write the Ten Commandments, and had seen and spoken to God repeatedly. He had directed the rebellious Israelites, led the people in battle, and settled their disputes. But now, Moses was one hundred and twenty years old. It was time for him to appoint a successor. He chose Joshua, his second in command. Joshua, not Moses, would lead the people across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land.

At that time, you could imagine what was going on in Joshua's mind. After

When God calls you to do a job, He does not abandon you.

all, God had assigned him a big job. But as the story of the conquest tells us, Joshua was not alone. Moses promised the people that God and Joshua together would lead them across the Jordan. When God calls you to do a job, He does not abandon you. Instead, He stays beside you and walk with you; just as He went with Joshua and the people of Israel, fighting beside them until the Promised Land was theirs. God gave Joshua the wisdom and strength to lead Israel. But most importantly, He gave Joshua His presence. He will do the same for you as you answer His call. (Joshua 1:1-9).

“¹Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ minister, saying, ²Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast. ⁵There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. ⁹Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” -Joshua 1:1-9

Jesus does not choose us because of what we are, but because of what He makes from us.

God wants to use you to touch other peoples’ lives through your calling. The notion that God placed on my heart is that He wants every Christian to do greater things than what Jesus did on earth. ¹²

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because

I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12). Every child of God has something very special which is meant to be used for His glory and was reserved for the manifestations. ¹⁹ *“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.”* (Romans 8:19). Whoever you are, wherever you may be, if you are a child of God, He wants to use you to change the world through that special gifting He has bestowed on you. The truth is that God does not only use specially talented people. He also uses ordinary people to touch the world so that the glory belongs to Him alone. None of us is special in ourselves. The only special thing we have within us is the power of the Holy Spirit inside of us. Jesus does not choose us because of what we are, but because of what He makes from us. For the disciples, Jesus said “¹⁹....., *Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*” (Matthew 4:19).

I discovered that Jesus is the number ONE and when I as number ZERO stand next to Him we make a ten (10).

Jesus did not go to any seminary to pick His disciples; rather He chose ordinary people. Among those chosen were fisher men, a tax collector and so on. God does not need superman, He makes you a supernatural man. I discovered that Jesus is the number ONE and when I as number ZERO stand next to Him we make a TEN (10). The more we are standing next to Him, the more valuable we become because He puts value into every zero. The moment we take Jesus away, we are all but zero again. So whenever He calls, it does not matter who you are or what you are; He makes you valuable. Yours is to answer His call. The one who calls you will equip you. The one who equips you sends you and will be with you all the way right to the end of time and to the end of the earth.

Too often we assume that we need to become somebody special for God to use us. Nothing could be further from the truth! For God is looking for an empty vessel to be filled with His power and let His power flow through him. The more we are full of ourselves, the more blockages we put up to stop God from using us. God uses people who have a simple trust in Him, like children. There is no lack on God's end of the equation. He made it possible for His Kingdom to come in fullness. *“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need...”* – 2 Peter 1:3

The more we are full of ourselves, the more blockages we put up to stop God using us.

The only thing that can stop you is to think you do not have everything that Jesus already died for. A friend once said: “if you believe that lie; you empower the liar!”

Remember you have everything you need if you have put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior and the Holy Spirit lives in you. Therefore let the power of God flow through you, nothing of your own strength, but only the strength of God that empowers you. Walking in God’s power is not created by following a formula. It is born of an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit who leads and guides us to change the world.

STOP GIVING EXCUSES

God calls! All the time, we find God calling people to carry out specific tasks. For instance a wealthy and settled Abraham was called to leave everything and go to a land that God would show him to become the father of faith. The reluctant Moses was called to lead the people of Israel to freedom. Also, the shepherd boy David was chosen to be king; while Gideon, who wanted proof that it was really God who was speaking to him, was called to lead an army against Israel’s enemies. Likewise, the cheat and thief Matthew was called to be a disciple; and the Christian hater, Saul of Tarsus, was called to be a missionary to the Gentiles; and so many others. Samuel did not recognize God’s call at first. Not until Eli guided him in to say, “Speak Lord for your servant is listening.” But you know, like the people whom God called in the Bible, our first reaction is: “Who? Me!”

Just like the people of the old, it is not hard for us today to find every excuse under the sun to explain earnestly to ourselves and to God that this is not the best time, that there are others who are able to do this well. The truth is that we are in good business when we respond to God’s call like that of Moses, Jeremiah, Gideon and others. God knows our nature and how we are, but that does not mean He lets us off the hook. He still loves us. He assures us that we are His beloved children; He forgives us and promises to help us, to guide and to give us the skills we need to fulfill the challenge before us. Moses, Jeremiah, Gideon, Samuel, and all the others God called in Scripture received God’s help when he sent them to carry out the task God had called them to do.

You may wonder why God chose some of the people he did, in fact, not some, but almost everyone he called to do a specific task would not have

been our first choice. When God called Jeremiah to speak to the people, he was just a lad. He lacked confidence and the eloquence required to stand against God's enemies but God called him anyway. When God called young Mary to be the mother of the Savior, it seemed so wrong. She was too young, unmarried, too ordinary, but God called her anyway. When Jesus called Peter, James and John they were fishermen with no special qualifications. At times they were extremely slow to catch on, but he called them anyway.

What is evident in all these examples is that the people whom God calls to do his work are ordinary people, people with weaknesses and handicaps, people with their fair share of challenges, people who do not have much going for them from a human point of view. This is because it is not beyond God to seemingly call the wrong people, for the wrong jobs at the wrong time and place. Even if all seems wrong, yet God knows what He is doing because in every case He is fully aware of their lack of confidence and skills. Why? My view is because He sees emptiness in them and He wants to fill and equip them. Many who were not called then were too full of themselves so there were no spaces for God to fill and equip them. For God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called.

**He still challenges us;
he still confronts us
and tests us**

God said to Moses, *"I will be with you."* (Exodus 3:12); to the doubt filled Gideon, God said, *"Peace. Don't be afraid."* (Judges 6:23); to young Jeremiah, God said, *"Do not be afraid, I will be with you to protect you.... I am giving you the words you must speak"* (Jeremiah 1:8,9); and to the disciples, Jesus final words were, *"I will be with you always to the close of the age"* (Matt 28:20). Can you see how God can equip?

God has not changed; He is the same yesterday, today, and forever more. He is as real today as He was to Moses and the disciples. He still does "unwise" things (so it seems) and calls ordinary people like you and I. He still challenges us; he still confronts us and tests us. He still calls people to do His work in this world, even though we can think of a million reasons why He has chosen the wrong person.

The summary is that when God calls you, do not say 'No'. When God calls, you have to listen because when He calls He also provides. And when God wants something done He will get it done with or without you and I. Therefore, it is a privilege to be called by Him.

***Like a Good Shepherd who knows the flock, God
knows and calls the sheep by name***



Chapter Four

WHEN GOD CALLS YOUR NAME?

I Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-51

“Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

1 Samuel 3:10.

“⁴³The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. ⁴⁴Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! ⁴⁸Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. ⁴⁹Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. ⁵⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. ⁵¹And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” John 1:43-51.

Let us think for a few moments; what does it mean when someone calls your name? Most of us are familiar with the fear that strikes near the heart when our name is called suddenly in a public setting, unless you are the winner of a grand prize! Nevertheless, having your name called in a public

setting can cause a rise of fright. But you must respond. You have to answer. And once you do, you will no longer be anonymous.

Psalm 139:1-3 says, ***“O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways”.***

In a very different sense, God calls our names when we are least expecting it just like He called Samuel in the middle of the night through God’s audible voice. Abraham was called by God through a divine visitation (Gen. 12). Joseph was called by God through a dream (Gen. 37); Moses was called by God through a voice in a burning bush (Exod. 3;4); while Aaron was called by God through his brother Moses (Exod. 4). Also, Joshua was called by God through Moses (Exod. 17);

We were called to be agents of His light, justice and peace in the world.

while Gideon was called by God through an angel (Judg. 6). David was called by God through the prophet Samuel (1 Sam. 16); Paul was called by God through a vision while he traveled (Acts 8); and Timothy was called by God through Paul’s preaching and mentoring (1 Tim. 1; 2 Tim. 1:2).

Our calling as Christians is to constantly return to our new identity as children of God. Remember that you are not your own. But were claimed by God and washed in the cleansing waters, even the blood of Christ has made you pure and holy. You and I have been fully known; even before we were born. We were called to be agents of His light, justice and peace in the world. The question is; will you respond when God’s unmistakable voice calls? Or will you be like willing and anxious to serve like Samuel said, “Speak Lord, for your Servant is listening.”? You may hear God at a time you least expect

God is calling you by name. Sometimes, like Samuel, God has to call more than once. But, be assured God calls and will continue to call in many different ways. God knows you to your inner most being and He calls you by name. God is calling out your name. It would be harder for God to forget you than for a woman to forget the offspring of her womb, or the child nursing at her breast. Your names are written in the palm of God’s hands. Like a Good Shepherd who knows the flock, God knows and calls the sheep by name and leads them through the gate. You have but to listen to the Voice. You may be asking yourself a question: Does God knows my name? You may even be among the plenty of people who have never

heard God call their names. They may doubt whether or not God even knows their names. The Creator of the universe, the Sustainer of life, the Architect of history has your name inscribed on His palms! God sees no crowds and knows no strangers. To God every face is a special child with a special name. ***“I have inscribed your name on the palms of my hands.”*** (Isaiah 49:16). The God of heaven and earth has inscribed your name on his hands.

To hear God call your name is to ask whether or not you are doing what

**Since the beginning
of time, God has
been calling.**

God wants you to be doing with your life. Does God really call? As impossible and improbable as it may seem, the scriptures answer that question with an emphatic, “Yes! God knows your name. And He has been calling out that name from the burning bush and the shining stars of heaven. Since the beginning of time, God has been calling. “Adam, where are you?” “Moses, who are you?” “Saul, why are you...?” Have you heard God asking how are you? You are not just another birth in the ever flowing stream of time. You are a child of God with a special story, a special calling and a special name. You matter to God. God knows who you are, where you have been, and where you are going. Samuel could have done many things, but Samuel did the wise thing, he listened. Samuel put his agenda on hold. Samuel stopped doing what he was doing. Samuel opened his mind and heart and said, “Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening.” What Samuel said to God is exactly what you need to say to God as well.

Jesus, speaking to His disciple in John 15:14 – 17 said, ***“You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer because the servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you, and I appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”***

What friendship is most important? I might say a spouse’s friendship; but

**God knows who you are,
where you have been,
and where you are going.**

I would be wrong. You might say your parents, but you would still be wrong. The most important friendship you can have is the one to which Samuel got introduced to in 1st Samuel chapter three. God is your most important friend. The relationship with God

comes before all others. It is basic; it is foundational; and it is fundamental to the abundant life! God is calling to you. He desires a growing relationship with you. You might have missed the call. You might have been too busy. You might yet still be resisting the call. But, do not be deceived, God is calling you. Every day God is calling. Are you willing to listen? Samuel was young when he heard God. Eli was older and more aware of the ways of God. But, whether old or young, God did come, and He desired a relationship with Samuel. After all, Scripture says we are created in God's image. God is relational. God created you in such a way that you are unfinished, you are at a loss, you are deeply lonely until you are in a relationship with Him.

Friends! Jesus calls you to be a friend. And friendship with Jesus is real now and for eternity.

FAITH OVER YOUR DOUBT

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8.

“The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it.” 1 Thess. 5:24.

People go into ministry for various reasons. Most are thankful for their salvation. Others have a genuine desire to help others. Many are merely following in their parents footsteps. And some desire the respect that comes with the profession. These are all good

reasons, but the peace-giving key to being in ministry is to know that you were called there by God. Each person should be able to pinpoint a time in which they became certain God called them into a lifetime of service. This is the first step to overcoming fear.

The important thing is not how you were called but that you were called.

Doubt often means our focus is on self instead of God.

Each person should be able to pinpoint a time in which they became certain God called them into a lifetime of service.

Moses had doubts and fears about his ability to be in ministry. In spite of Moses' doubt, God's purpose for his life did not changed. God knew He is the one who called him, and

that He will be the one who will equip him. When you recognize the reality of His calling, then you will understand that you are not working for God but with God. There is a huge difference.

Many have been called, but few answered the call simply because of fear, worry, and anxiety that came from doubt. Doubt often means our focus is on self instead of God. You can be confident that God will provide all you need. If you do not know your purpose, seek God and wait and watch for the ways in which He answers. If you sense God has called you into ministry, make certain you were chosen by Him. Relinquish your fear and commit to His will. There's no need to fear.



***God is looking for people who have
the right hearts before Him***

Chapter Five

BE READY WHEN GOD CALLS

¹ And Jehovah said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? fill thy horn with oil, and go: I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite; for I have provided me a king among his sons. ² And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And Jehovah said, Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to Jehovah. ³ And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee. ⁴ And Samuel did that which Jehovah spake, and came to Beth-lehem. And the elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

⁵ And he said, peaceably; I am come to sacrifice unto Jehovah: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice. ⁶ And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely Jehovah's anointed is before him. ⁷ But Jehovah said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have rejected him: for Jehovah seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but Jehovah looketh on the heart. ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath Jehovah chosen this. ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath Jehovah chosen this. ¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Jehovah hath not chosen these. ¹¹ And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he

is keeping the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him; for we will not sit down till he come hither. ¹² *And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look upon. And Jehovah said, Arise, anoint him; for this is he.* ¹³ *Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of Jehovah came mightily upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.”* -1 Samuel 16:1-13

There have been a number of times in my own life where I have said to God, “Whatever you want to do with my life, God, I am yours. Use me as you will.” Oh, I remember the enthusiasm with which I rejoiced when

Many Christians want to do something special for God but are not just prepared.

I first received His call. In spite of all my fears, I was still ready yet. I was so glad and I said to myself then that if God should just give me a chance to do something special for Him, I would go, serve, and sacrifice. Whatever it took, I was ready!

I know many people have had similar experiences who have said to God, “God, I want to do something significant with my life, something that makes a difference and so on.” The question to ask is: “What can you do to be ready when God calls you for something special?”

Many of us could be used by God in very significant ways if we were just ready at the time of God’s call. There is so much work to do all around us for the cause of the kingdom! And, as has been the case since the days of Jesus, *“the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.”* (Matthew 9:37). One of the reasons for that shortage of workers is that many of us are not ready when God calls for special things. Many Christians want to do something special for God but are not just prepared. Perhaps we are distracted or inattentive or spiritually disqualified, so He has to pass us over. The passage above (1 Samuel 16:1-13) answered the question I have posed. David was a young man who was called to do something for God that was very special. Yet he was not really prepared for the assignment. According to 1 Samuel 8:18-20, we knew Saul to be the king of Israel but was not the choice of God to lead the people.

“¹⁸And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. ¹⁹Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; ²⁰That we also may be like all the

nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.” (1 Samuel 8:18-20).

Although it was God who directed Samuel to anoint both Saul and David divinely, but the idea of a king was a rejection of God by the Israelites and that is what I consider a problem. (1 Samuel 9:15-16). It was Israel who demanded a king so they could be like the nations around them. Saul was man’s choice for a king, not God’s choice. The people had demanded a king, so God gave them exactly what they were demanding for. When God does this by giving us just exactly what we insist on; He also lets us live with the consequences. ¹⁵“*And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul*”. (Psalm 106:15). Israel suffered for about 32 years as a result of having a wrong man to head a Godly city/ministry. And the fact that your ministry is doing well according to the standard of men does not mean it gets God’s approval because God is never pleased with disobedience.

“The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to your neighbor who is better than you.” (1 Samuel 15:28).

This period of ups and downs is what I refer to as the period of character testing for David.

Meanwhile David was chosen by God for a king not by men. It should be clear that no man would ever have chosen David because the small-boy “so called” was a nobody in man’s eyes. Somehow, God called him but the scepter of power did not go directly to David. It took a number of years before he could ascend to the throne of Israel, years that were filled with many challenges. This period of ups and downs is what I refer to as the period of character testing for David. Upon the pronouncement of God that the Kingdom would be taken away from Saul till the time David was enthroned, it took several years of preparation. God was using those years to get David ready to be used by Him in a special way. In verse one of chapter sixteen, God declared: “*...for I have selected a king for MYSELF.*” This describes the calling of a man chosen by God.

Let us examine some basic issues for anyone to be used of God:

***Determine to be God’s Choice, Not Man’s:**

Becoming a man’s choice and becoming God’s choice are two different things. If you are looking for men to call on you and notice you and promote you, you are going to do things that please men and ignore things that please God. Besides, you are going to be competitive with others, not

complementing others. You are going to be jealous when it seems that others are being used and you are not, or that others are being promoted over you.

“¹My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.” (James 3:1).

“¹³Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

¹⁴But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” (James 3:13-18).

“¹⁰Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up”. (James 4:10).

I remember a very painful incident. A man had spent several years serving and teaching under the tutelage of a Pastor until he discerned God’s call for another task. The Pastor vehemently opposed the calling for selfish reason. He did it so that the man will continue to serve the Pastor’s agenda. The Pastor knew the man in question was sold out to God and in pursuit

But when it is God who calls, whoever opposes is merely fighting God and not man.

of kingdom cause. The whole thing caught this man rather flat-footed. The calling became more confusing to him when this same Pastor began to challenge and accuse him openly. But when it is God who calls, whoever opposes is merely fighting God

and not man. This man continued to wait on God until the Pastor pushed him out cunningly.

The truth is that man was not there when God called you, therefore man might not really understand your calling better than you. Every God’s calling comes with covenant; and since God is a covenant keeper, therefore no man can make Him fail by changing His divine plans over you. In an attempt to frustrate him, this gentle man was sent out of the church in an uproar and the Pastor started a campaign against him and the ministry. They also tried to push a few people out with his family. This gentle man was hurt when he thought about the loss of his friendship and the hatred

his Pastor manifested continually toward him and the call. The Pastor in question tried all he could but the more he thinks he could pull down, the more the Lord pushes up.

Many Christians today are men pleasers. Rather than pleasing God, they go for men. Most of them are much more concerned with impressing other people than with pleasing God. In serving God, you do not have to force or demand places of responsibility but if you are pleasing God, then He will make you His own choice.

Someone who wants to be God's choice will not try to open up doors on his own.

You will not have to call attention to yourself before men. If you are looking for others to choose you and notice you and promote you, you are going to do things that please men and ignore things that please God.

When you determine to be God's choice, then you are able to wait on the Lord, with peace until God opens up the doors of ministries. Someone who wants to be God's choice will not try to open up doors on his own. He will be contented with waiting on God, and only going through the doors that God opens up for him. David did not go out seeking to be the king of Israel. The call came to him. Do not go out seeking positions of leadership and influence. If God wants you in those

positions, he will open the door for you. Determine that if you are going to be used by God it will be by His choice. James 4:10: *"Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you."*

If God wants you in those positions, he will open the door for you.

Let God be the one who calls; not man. Man is man, man is not God. Man can make mistake but God is not a man. For instance, Samuel, using human judgment, immediately notices the one he thinks God will pick. Samuel probably thought himself to be a pretty good judge of character, just like some of us does. But he was dead wrong! God told Samuel: "Do not look at his appearance or his height...." Eliab was tall and good looking just like Saul (Samuel 9:2), and was the oldest in the family. A natural choice! But not God's choice! Our natural tendency is to look at the externals when we judge a person because that is all we can see.

***Put Your Effort Into the Things God Looks At:**

".....Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at

the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Sam 16:7).

The limiting factor when it comes to being used is that God is looking for people who have the right hearts before Him. He is the one you need to please.

⁹***"For the eyes of Jehovah run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly; for from henceforth thou shalt have wars."*** -II Chronicles 16:9.

Do you see what God is looking for which He did not find it in the seven older sons of Jesse? If you want to be used by God for something special, then take an inward spiritual inventory. In your heart of hearts, whom do you serve? When sin finds its way into your life, do you grieve or do you harbor it? Do you hate it or do you love it? Are you genuinely interested in promoting God's cause or is it really your own cause that you want to promote? Are you laboring for the kingdom sake or for the expansion of your personal empire? These are some of the issues that God looks at as he looks at our hearts. David was "a man after God's own heart." That was the stated conclusion after God's inventory of his life. Would that be yours as well? Apparently David was not significant enough in his family for them even to consider that he might be God's choice.

I remember when I first laid my eyes on my wife. I noticed her in the fellowship and then continued to watch her as she walked by. You can guess what I was looking at. Whoa! She had some mighty fine ankles with a beautiful upright posture. Unfortunately, because we know that man looks at the outward appearance, we spend much more effort taking care of the things man looks at. Yet all the while, neglecting the things God looks at. Samuel also looked at Eliab outwardly because he was tall, impressive, and was a qualified soldier and army man.

I wish I could see people as God sees them, not by face, but by heart because man could look good on the outside but lacked divine substance on the inside. Consequently, God also loves good things but much more inwardly good.

"¹²And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and altogether of a beautiful countenance and goodly to look upon. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." -1 Samuel 16:12.

So Jesse sent for him! He had a healthy complexion, attractive eyes, and a handsome appearance. Then the Lord said, "*Go ahead and anoint him, He is the one.*" Though David was a good looking young man, it was his heart that caught the attention of God.

“For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.”-2 Chron. 16:9

The Lord's eyes scan the whole world to find those whose hearts are committed to him. God did not find hearts committed to him in the first seven sons. He only found that in David, and that was why he was God's choice.

When God is looking for someone to do something special, He looks for the one who is faithful in what he is currently doing.

***Renew Your Faithfulness to the Tasks You Have Now:**

It's pretty interesting that when Samuel the prophet invited Jesse to this event, Jesse brought all of his sons, except David. Apparently, Jesse was so sure that there was no way under heaven that David would be the choice; so he ignored David as he was tending the sheep. Meanwhile, David did not know but rather continued doing his job faithfully.

And did you notice where he was? He was with the sheep! He was doing his job faithfully. And by the way, that was a job that was always done by the servants or the women or the youngsters. In other words, it was a menial task in that culture. There is a principle illustrated here that appears elsewhere in Scripture as well. It is very important to understand if you are looking to be used by God for something special. When God is looking for someone to do something special, He looks for the one who is faithful in what he is currently doing. In Matthew, chapter twenty-five, the faithful

servants in the parable of the talents were told, *“Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things.”* This is because God promotes faithfulness and not skills nor talents.

While we may feel that some jobs are too menial for us, no job is too small or too menial to prove faithfulness.

God reached out and took David right

out of the sheep pens of his father where he was faithfully doing what he was charged to do. David was God's choice because he was faithful to the task he presently was involved in.

If God finds you idle when He is looking for whom to call, He will definitely not call you. What God is looking for is faithfulness not idleness. While we may feel that some jobs are too menial for us, no job is too small or too menial to prove faithfulness. It could probably even be said that

the smaller and more insignificant the job seems by human standards, the greater the opportunity to prove faithfulness. ***“Whoever wishes to become great among you shall become your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all.”*** (Mark 10:43-44).

If you have a task you are doing right now for the Lord that seems unimportant or unnoticed, and you would like to be used for something greater, the pathway to that greater task is to redouble your effort in what you are doing now. David went back home to his father’s sheep to work simply because that is where he would remain until God called him to his actual service many years later. David never raised a finger to force God’s timing. At one point he was even in a position to kill Saul in a circumstance where no one would have blamed him for doing it. Yet he passed it up. David was content to wait on God.

***Accept God’s Timetable; Don’t Insist On Your Own:**

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time.” -II Peter 5:6.

If God wants you to do something special for Him, He certainly has the power to make it happen.

This is so hard to do sometimes especially when we are brimming with enthusiasm for something. Meanwhile God has a timetable for everything because He is in control. In the interim,

I am not suggesting here that you sit back and do nothing to further God’s will, saying “I’m waiting on God’s timing”, instead you must keep striving to advance His kingdom. That is faithfulness! If God wanted David to be king immediately, He was certainly capable of making it happen. If God wants you to do something special for Him, He certainly has the power to make it happen. You should never resort to forcing a situation by using methods of the flesh. Wait on God’s timing, wait on his call.

King Saul is an example of someone who was impatient with God’s timetable. The Philistines has assembled to fight Israel. Their army was bigger and better equipped than Israel’s. Samuel had told Saul to wait for seven days. At that time Samuel would offer a burnt offering before the battle. Saul waited and waited for Samuel to appear. He watched his army dwindle in size and his men become more and more scared while the Philistines became bolder and stronger. Saul became impatient and offered the sacrifice himself. Of course, just as Saul finished Samuel appeared on

the scene and rebuked him for his impatience. Saul's impatience showed a distrust of God and a spirit of self-assertion in the face of God's commands. Samuel had to declare that Saul was no longer fit to be king. This impatience with God's timetable needs to be rooted out.

⁸ ***“And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.”*** -1 Sam 13:8.

*Some calling may take you out of your
comfort zone*



Chapter Six

GOD'S CALLING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. ² I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³ I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you."⁴ So Abram departed as the Lord had instructed, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran." Genesis 12:1-4.

The fact is that we all like to be comfortable. At times, you become complacent. But, when God calls you out, be obedient because you never know what blessings await you. When God calls you out, it is not going to be easy. It will require you to leave the people and places that are familiar and comfortable behind just like Abram did.

God calls you out to upgrade you. He will bless **God calls you out to upgrade you.** you and make you a blessing to others.

In verse 4, Abram took Lot with him. Lot was his nephew. When God called Abram out, He did not tell him to bring Lot. You cannot take everyone with you. God gives very specific directions. Do not add anything to the instruction He gave because everyone is not called to go where God is taking you. Some calling may take you out of your comfort zone such as your geographical area, your location, your family, even out of your local church to reach a larger community. You may have

to leave friends and family members behind because if you take them, they may prove to be a hindrance, not a help. Everyone is not going to be happy about the things God is doing for you and through you. The fact is that

Everyone is not going to be happy about the things God is doing for you and through you.

God is calling you out of your comfort zone. If you come out, He will bless you beyond measure and make you a blessing to others. Therefore follow the directions God gives you, do not add anything to them.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

According to Jeremiah 29:11, it is obvious that God has special and unique plans and callings for our lives, plans to bless us and prosper us.

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." - I Peter 2:9

"For we are God's workmanship ("valuable masterpiece"), created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10

God will always equip us to carry out His will. When God gives us a vision for something, we often wonder how it could be accomplished when we do not have what is necessary to get started. But when we take small steps toward doing it, God takes care of what we need. He begins to 'equip' us. The first step we need to take is to get out of our comfort zone. He is always working in us, making us what we ought to be in order to 'accomplish' that which is pleasing in His sight. I have found that even in

We are still works in progress while carrying out the work God has for us to do.

doing what God has called me to do at this time of my life, He is still there working in me. I have heard it said, "I can't do this or that because I need to get myself right first". The

only problem with that is we may never end up doing anything significant; because we may never 'get ourselves right'. God makes us right. We are still works in progress while carrying out the work God has for us to do. Though we are works in progress still we can carry on doing God's will for our lives.

WHEN HE CALLS; FAITH IS NEEDED

I look at what God is calling me to do daily and it amuses me because the things He is having me do are things I have always said I would never ever do. Things that I strongly disliked and did not feel I was “gifted” with or “equipped” for. When He called me into the drama ministry, my response was; I cannot get in front of the people; I am not even gifted; and besides I am a man of few words. Not thinking of script writing, editing, directing, and producing.

However, may I tell you, it takes faith to follow God. It takes courage to obey Him. Anyone who lacks faith lacks courage and will be full of fear; and if you are afraid just like I was initially,

**Being fearful is human
but focusing or dwelling
on your fear is deathly.**

you cannot take any progressive stride. Being fearful is human but focusing or dwelling on your fear is deathly. Do you know that even great leaders suffer from fear as well? One outstanding leader with a great congregation who lacked boldness was Joshua. As near perfect as he was, Joshua was afraid. He was afraid to step into Moses’ shoes. He was afraid when he realized that he was asked to finish the assignment that his predecessor; Moses could not finish. He was afraid whenever he thought of the sudden promotion he got from being a servant to becoming a national leader with millions of people under him. He was afraid when he remembered he was called to lead a recalcitrant and impossible congregation who were capable of revolting and stoning their leaders to death. The question is why are you afraid? ***“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord...”*** ~ 2 Timothy 1:7-8

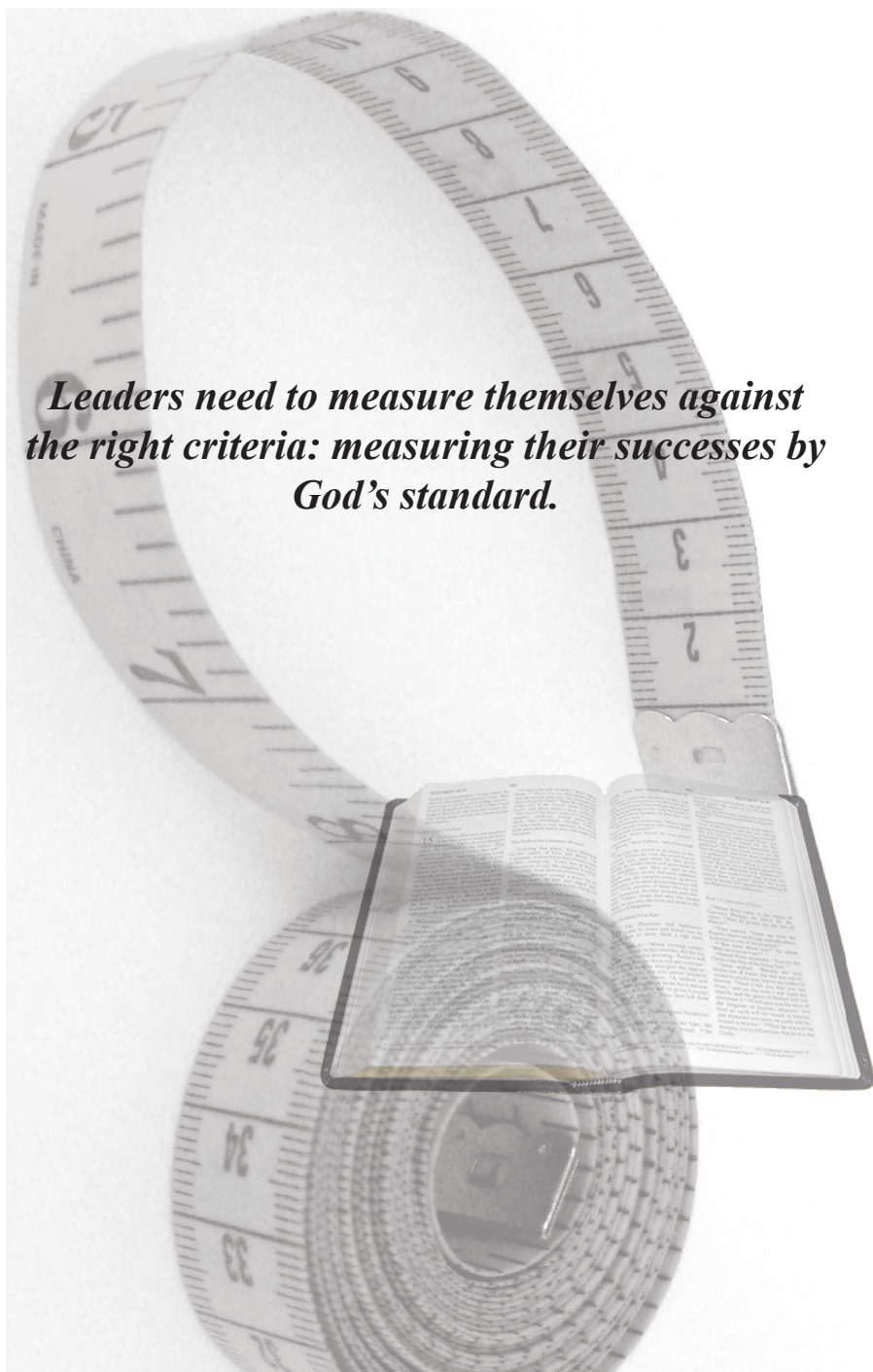
Do not look at the nature of the assignment. Do not look at the size. Do not look at the fierce looking faces. Do not focus on the situation or lack of resources. Only focus on the One who has called you. He will see you through. He will not call you without equipping you. And He will not call you to fail because when He calls; He also equips. Shockingly, when I allowed Him to do

**He will not call you
without equipping you.**

whatever He wanted me to do, I realized I was not at all nervous again and not even when the D-day came; I stood in front of a large audience as God’s vessel and allowed His words to flow from my lips in confidence

and in boldness as I played the lead role in one of the drama skits. Only through Him could I physically get enough courage to stand in front of a large audience and share His word and His truth to those who were hungry for more of Him. Today I found myself doing the work with passion and zeal. Who would have thought I would be acting? Not even myself! I strongly disliked acting and never had the right words to speak when I was trying to explain things. Oh, but how God has equipped me and called me to do this specifically I do not know, and is beyond my comprehension.

It was in this practice I realized God has already equipped and prepared me ahead for the call awaiting a day of manifestation. Only through Him was I able to gain enough patience, wisdom and guidance for the day to run smoothly and effectively in the ministry He has called me into. He most definitely gifted me and equipped me for the things He has been calling me do. Paul encourages Timothy to be faithful and not to be ashamed of Christ. He urges Timothy to stay true to his calling and to continue to teach others as well. All you need is to be faithful to your calling!



***Leaders need to measure themselves against
the right criteria: measuring their successes by
God's standard.***

Chapter Seven

GOD'S CALL FOR YOUR LIFE

The utmost question many Christians wonder about and seek an answer to is: "What is God's call for my life?" First, it is important to know that God's word offers some insight into His calling, His plans, and His will for His people. The happiest child of God is the one who discovers that is in the middle of God's will and plan.

I often wonder what the disciples thought when Jesus first called them to follow Him. Were they full of joy, zeal, or excitement? I think especially of when Jesus said to Peter and Andrew, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19). If I were in their place, I am sure I would have initially celebrated the occasion of being chosen among many. That must mean I've got what it takes! I would have assumed that Jesus called me because I was equipped for the task. Most likely I would have overlooked the fact that Jesus said "*I will make*" in

Many had been Christians for a long time, but found themselves insecure when called to lead.

His invitation, which implies a process to get me from who I am currently to the what He wants me to be: A FISHER OF MEN. I am sure that over the next few years, much like Peter, I would have had many opportunities to realize my own foolishness and lack of understanding.

When you are called, you need to prayerfully seek God and ask Him to help you to discern His special calling and plan for your life, and ask Him to give you the faith and courage to faithfully follow Him as He leads. Many had been Christians for a long time, but found themselves insecure when called to lead. I would say, where God calls, He equips. Some

were overwhelmed by the knowledge of the other Christians, and were self-conscious of their own lack thereof. I would say, where God calls, He equips. Others felt that they had been called to a certain area of ministry,

You do not need to lead perfectly overnight because people grow into their call.

but thought they had been disqualified by their own weakness. I would say, where God calls, He equips. You do not need to lead perfectly overnight because people grow into their

call. Likewise, you do not need to know everything overnight. Just keep on saying, ‘Yes’ to Him as He calls you to areas of service and gradually reveals Himself to you through His Word and through prayer.

Peter’s case on the day of Pentecost was a result of where He calls, He equips. Peter preached and 3000 professed faith in Jesus Christ at one time (Acts 2). I can only imagine what some of the people who heard Peter preach in those early days of the church must have thought: “Man, that guy has authority! He’s got what it takes! No wonder God is using Him!” Maybe Peter even heard some of those comments. I can see Peter smiling, sitting back, and praying, “Thank you, Jesus, for using me in this way, in spite of my past failures. Thank you that you didn’t give up on me, even when I openly gave up on you. Thank you that you were committed to your original promise to make me ‘a fisher of men’ in spite of my own shortcomings. Thank you that your strength is made perfect in my weakness. Thank you that you don’t just call those that are equipped, but you equip those whom you call.”

CHALLENGES OF THE CALLED:

(EFFECTS OF LEADERSHIP STYLES ON MINISTRY SUCCESS)

This is what I called challenges in ministries that are caused by the leaders. No matter the capacity a leader serves, he will face challenges many of which will be unique to the type of leader he is. So, what are those challenges and in what capacities might the different styles of leadership

How leaders work through these challenges will affect and influence the way the ministry functions.

cause the challenges that are faced?

All leaders need to get it right in order to be effective. Each type of leader, however, could

face unique obstacles within these common challenges if neglecting and/or abusing people in the name of advancement, excellence or effectiveness. How leaders work through these challenges will affect and influence the way the ministry functions. Even deeper, it could influence the culture of the ministry.

The challenge for leaders is therefore to get it right so as to bring to the ministry organization the right motivations, zeal, balance, involvement, **When it is God who calls, it must also be God to assess.** methods, and unity that will yield a healthy ministry culture. If the leader

does not get it right, the ministry will tend to reflect the type of leader at the helm rather than fully being the ministry or leader God wants it to be.

When you are talking about ministry assessment, leaders need to measure themselves against the right criteria by measuring their successes by God's standards, not by worldly or carnal definitions of success. When it is God who calls, it must also be God to assess. Many leaders were truly called but due to the so-called accomplishment they see in their ministry, they begin to measure the success not by God's standard but by carnal and worldly standards.

For instance, when leaders evaluate their ministry performance based on perfectionism, lots of activities or big projects and programs, rather than focusing on God's greatest purpose as being to love (Matt. 22: 36-40; Matt. 9:13; 12:7; Mark 12:33). Many ministries have grown rapidly simply because their leaders are experts in manipulative skills and flattery for personal gain for self due to greed and selfish ambition; instead of speaking the truth in love (Eph. 4: 14-15; Phil. 2: 3-4; Thess. 2:5). It is true that those ministries have grown

big branches but unfortunately they are not deeply rooted and lack integrity. Their leadership styles are based on popularity demonstrated by people-pleasing, using charisma or influence to woo people to their **It is true that those ministries have grown big branches but unfortunately they are not deeply rooted and lack integrity.**

side against God's standard of selflessness (1 Thess. 2:6). These leaders are building names for themselves instead of winning souls and building lives for the one that called them.

The danger of this calling is when one allows pride to set in. When the one who is being called "the leader" begins to have a sense of possession or ownership and begins to see the ministry as his entitlement by regarding

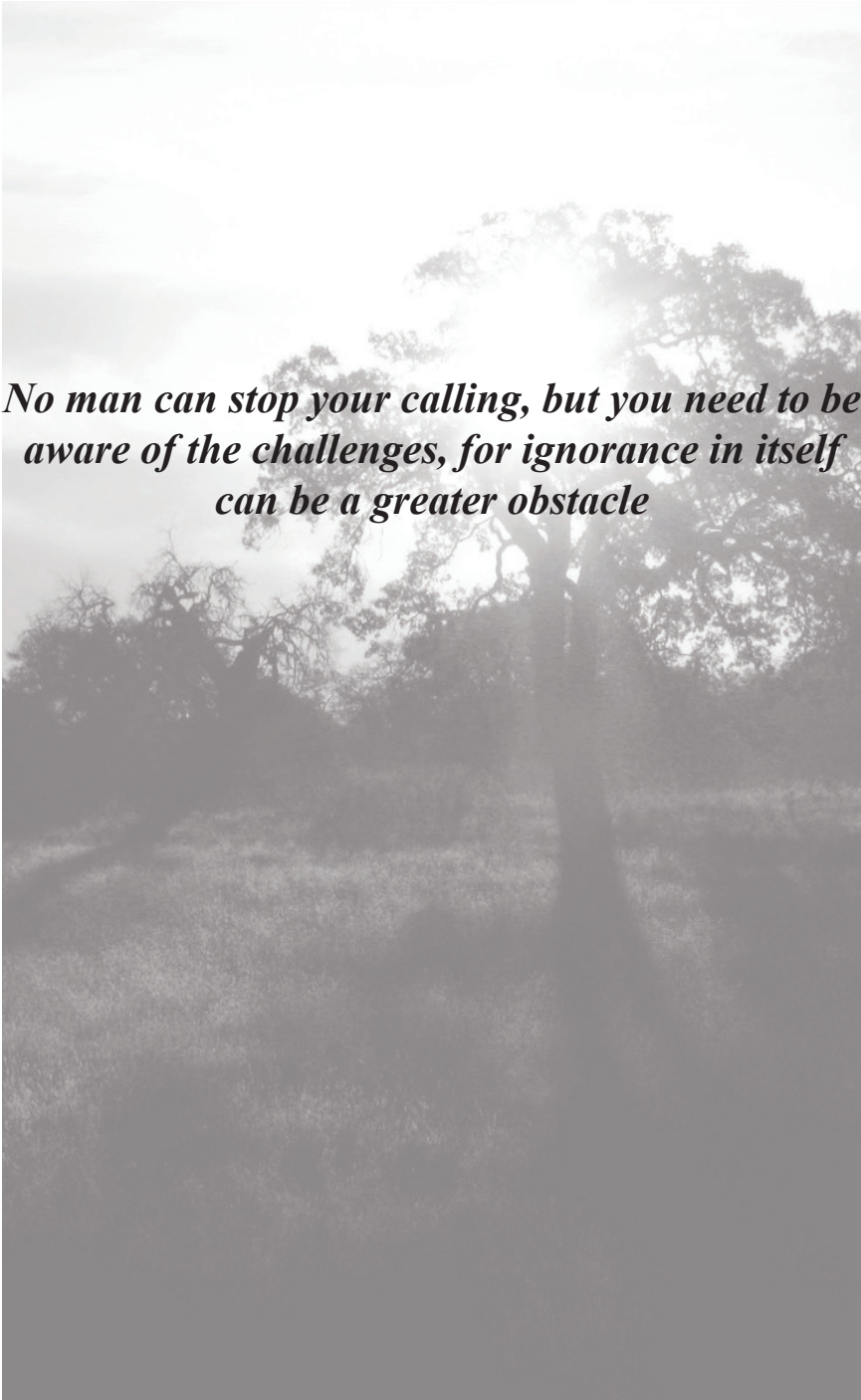
it as ‘MY’ ministry. This is a sign of worldly and carnal measure. Rather one should see God’s calling as an opportunity to manage His resources, coaching disciple, and being a facilitator for Him (Eph. 4:15; Matt. 25:14-30). The heart belongs to the Lord, not to mankind. Therefore, leaders

This acknowledges that the end does not justify the means and that doing for the sake of doing is meaningless.

(the called) should never act as if they own the place. While they can feel confident of their mission, they must remember they are stewards, not owners. Leaders simply manage what God has

established, based on His values and vision. Some leadership styles are based on power being demonstrated by unilateral decisions, and misuse of authority in a quest for control, instead of empowering and equipping others (1 Tim. 4:12; Matt. 20: 25-28). What kills ministries the most is when the one who is called makes himself more prominent than the One who called him. This is being demonstrated through hierarchical structures and by laying importance on position in needs for recognition; against servanthood spirit of humility, submission, and sacrificial which are God’s standards for the calling. (Phil. 2: 5-8; Matt. 18:1-4; 20:25-28).

The leader whom God called should become selfless, like John the Baptist who said “He must become greater; I must become less” (John 3:30). This acknowledges that the end does not justify the means and that doing for the sake of doing is meaningless. The same God who called could also take away. *“Is not My word like a fire?” says the Lord, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”* (Jeremiah 23:29).

A black and white photograph of a large, leafy tree in a field. The tree is the central focus, with its branches spreading out against a bright, hazy sky. The ground is covered in grass or low-lying vegetation. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

***No man can stop your calling, but you need to be
aware of the challenges, for ignorance in itself
can be a greater obstacle***

Chapter Eight

CHALLENGES OF GOD'S CALL: A PERSONAL TESTIMONY!

¹¹When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. —(1 Corinthians 13:11).

Apostle Paul recapped it all in this book: 1 Corinthians 13:11 that a child will always behave like one. No matter how zealous, joyful, or excited you might feel as a child of God; when you first receive a “specific calling” from the Lord for ministry, it is almost certain that you will soon realize your own inadequacies to walk it out consistently in your day-to-day life. I can think of many such moments from my own life. Still, our strength comes in realizing that it is not by our own natural abilities that we do these things, but because Jesus “is making” something out of us, and will be faithful to bring it to pass in His timing (1 Cor. 1:8-10). Our greatest asset in this journey is our ability to say “Yes” to Him, no matter the circumstances.

Our greatest asset in this journey is our ability to say “Yes” to Him, no matter the circumstances.

As I reflect on this, and on my own life, I say with the apostle Paul: *“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is*

ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 3:12-14.

One must bear it in mind that your calling will also bring you challenges. For every calling, there are specific challenges that come with it. A great number of people are today locked up in the womb of destiny and are

It is one thing to discover purpose; it is another thing to deliver it.

not being able to deliver their vision because they are ignorant of their purpose of living. Throughout their lifetime they were impregnated with purpose but fail to deliver it. May I

tell you that failure to accomplish ones purpose, may also mean failure to make heaven. It is one thing to discover purpose; it is another thing to deliver it. A lot today are grounded at the point of discovering their purpose through their calling; because for you to accomplish God’s plan or purpose for your life, it is first expedient for you to discover it. Discovery leads to recovery. For every journey there is always a destination that prompts it, the knowledge of where you are going will help to drive you there. Failure to discover this purpose is tantamount to failure to be accomplished in life. Many have received the calling of God but which have been aborted at birth. The birth of any calling is as important as the fulfilling the calling itself. Any calling that will shake the world and impact the kingdom of God will be challenged at birth. Jesus Christ faced lots of challenges at birth to the point of looking for him to be killed at birth. Moses is another example; a man who delivered the children of Israel was sought for to be killed at birth. The kingdom of hell also knows that it is easy to kill a vision of purpose at birth than allowing it to grow. Devil can use anybody to kill any God given vision. He could use your parents, your spouse, your friends, even your spiritual leader. These are the people in one’s life that

Devil can use anybody to kill any God given vision.

others can easily believe whenever they say anything about you. When your father says something about you, people will easily believe, talk-

less of your spouse. Or is it your leader that will say a thing that people will not honor? The devil will always use someone close to you whom you respect to challenge your calling. It was Adam’s spouse “Eve” that the devil used to steal his early calling from him. Please be alert that your calling comes with your challenges.

In my own case, I thank God for the several people and several things He has used to confirm my calling. If not for His special grace, I would

have probably missed His purpose for my life. Several times, I am reminding myself that: "God is making something out of me, and He is not done yet!" I trained as a Physical Therapist and on many occasions God had used some of my patients to speak. On one occasion, one of them called me aside praying and telling me that this is my last chance for fulfilling God's purpose for my life; otherwise He is ready to give it

The devil will always use someone close to you whom you respect to challenge your calling.

to someone else. At another occasion, another one said, someone you respect mostly is somewhere betraying you in order to steal your destiny by making sure God's plans for your life do not come to pass. The question is this: who could this person be that I respect so much other than my wife, parents, friends, and my leader? Who among them? It was then I remembered Proverb 17:17: *"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."* This is to say that who you called your spouse might not be your friend; and who you called your leader might not be your father. In other words, your spouse must always be a friend and a leader should always be a father.

Beware of character assassins; because they can kill your calling prematurely. The devil knows a calling that lacks integrity goes nowhere. Therefore, he will use someone in your life to spread evil around. The reason he does this is to send away from you the helpers of your destiny. Every calling also attracts helpers of destiny to help lighten the load, and share in the vision. But who wants to associate with a man that lacks integrity? But thank God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, for He is faithful.

⁹ *"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."* - I Corinthians 1:9.

Just like Pharaoh was well known in the land of Egypt so much that whatever he said people honored; so also whosoever the Devil will use to spread evil rumor about you, such person will be well known among the people. In my own case, the person in question became more

The devil knows a calling that lacks integrity goes nowhere.

frustrated as God turned his words into foolishness even among his contemporaries. No man can pull down whom God has lifted up. I found out through this experience that you are really not making any progress until your oppositions react.

No man can stop your calling, but you need to be aware of these challenges because ignorance in itself can be a greater obstacle. Never think everyone will embrace your calling, and never think opposition will not come from the least expected places. But keep on pressing on for who calls

**No man can pull down
whom God has lifted up.**

will also guides, leads, and fights for you. I see many failing today because they fail to ask for guidance. Information brings reformation; just as lack of

information leads to deformation. You can be informed only when you ask. *“⁷Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: ⁸For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”* - (Matthew 7:7-8).

“Go ye into the village over against you; In which you will find a colt tied whereon yet never man sat; loose him and bring him.” (Luke 19:30). Every animal tied to the stake is subject to whatever treatment its owner gives to it. Meanwhile, this is not so with the untied animal because the untied goes to wherever it wishes without control by its owner. Anyone called by God has been tied by the Lord Himself to be able to fulfill its end-time assignments and no man can stop it because it is what is tied down that God uses.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD CALLS

Have you ever felt like you have been pulled into something that you are really not equipped or in any way prepared for? I have. I truly felt that way when God called me into the ministry, but I knew that was a huge step of faith and a stretch of my obedience abilities. As if that was not enough, the moment I was called marked the beginning of my challenges and oppo-

**God can call anybody
irrespective of his/her
past mistakes, inad-
equacies, imperfections,
or weaknesses.**

sition. All these coupled with the fear of uncertainties made me feel overwhelmed and intimidated. At that point I started to feel very uncomfortable since there were many oppositions against the call. These oppositions were from the people I would have expected to support me. Right there

I bowed my head to pray and I remember telling God to fight my battle.

The Lord says, if the men on ordinary foot weighed me down, how then can I compete with the men on horses?

There is this gentleman in the book of Judges who found himself being called to something he felt he was totally unprepared for. His name was Gideon. A stranger appeared under the great oak by Ophrah, a little township on the southwestern border of the territory of Manasseh. There Gideon, the son of Joash, was beating out wheat with a stick. God's calling never brings failure but success. God can call anybody irrespective of his/her past mistakes, inadequacies, imperfections, or weaknesses. Certain things happen when God calls you.

***When God calls you, He sees you as He created you, not as you see yourself:**

Gideon was startled at first by this stranger, not certain who he was. When he proclaimed that the Lord was with Gideon, Gideon's questioning response was, "If the LORD is with us, then why has all this happened to us?" Gideon believed that if God had not withdrawn Himself from Israel, the present Midianite occupation would never have occurred. As well, this mighty warrior, like Moses of old, questioned why the Lord would choose him to deliver Israel. His family was poor in Manasseh and he was the least of his father's household. But in the midst of Gideon's concern he heard the promise of God, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

***When God calls you, He reveals Himself:**

Gideon was still not convinced this was an encounter with God. How did he know this person was really the angel of the Lord? Gideon asked for a sign to prove that he was, in fact, being called to serve the Lord. Not only did the stranger accept Gideon's offering, He sent fire from heaven to consume the goat and bread of His servant. At that moment Gideon knew he was not in the presence of some nameless angel or unknown stranger, but in the very presence of God! After Gideon freaked out a bit, God placed His loving arms of peace around him and assured him that he is the man God wants for His own good purpose.

***When God calls you, He equips you with passion and authority that will rub off onto other people:**

Once Gideon understood the gravity of his calling, God gave him the au-

thority to dismantle pagan altars that his family built and worshiped at. Gideon, in God's authority, stood against all the wrongdoing of the people in his home town and gained respect as a judge of the people on behalf of God. So, when God called him to deal with the Midianite problem, men from all over the Promised Land enlisted to stand by his side! A whole nation of oppressed and frightened people was energized by the passionate response to a Godly calling of a single obedient person!

***When God calls you, He will confirm you:**

Even though Gideon fully understood his calling and knew his purpose,

**God wants you to
make name for Him
not for yourself.**

he still needed assurance that he was on the right track. Some have said that Gideon lacked faith before attacking the Midianites, because he laid out fleeces; not once but twice. I feel that he just needed assurance that he was still

in God's will. Think about it... a young, seemingly weak farmer leading nearly 32,000 other seemingly weak farmers into battle against a countless number of conniving, ruthless assassins! Yeah, I'd probably want to make sure I was hearing God correctly, too. Asking God to confirm His will isn't about doubt or fear but about timing and direction.

***When God calls you, He wants all the glory:**

This is the best part of the story. Gideon was all ready to take to the field of battle when God told him to pair down his army. When it was all said and done, there were only 300 men left to fight with Gideon. Why? Because God wanted to prove that Israel needed Him in order to succeed! He wanted to show His people what can happen when He takes control. If you don't get anything else in this blog, get this point because your calling

**He is faithful to reveal
Himself even further when
you worship Him for calling
you to do His work.**

is not about you. God wants you to make name for Him not for yourself. Jesus made name for God the father by given Him all the glory, but at the end the God the Father gave Him the name that is above every other name.

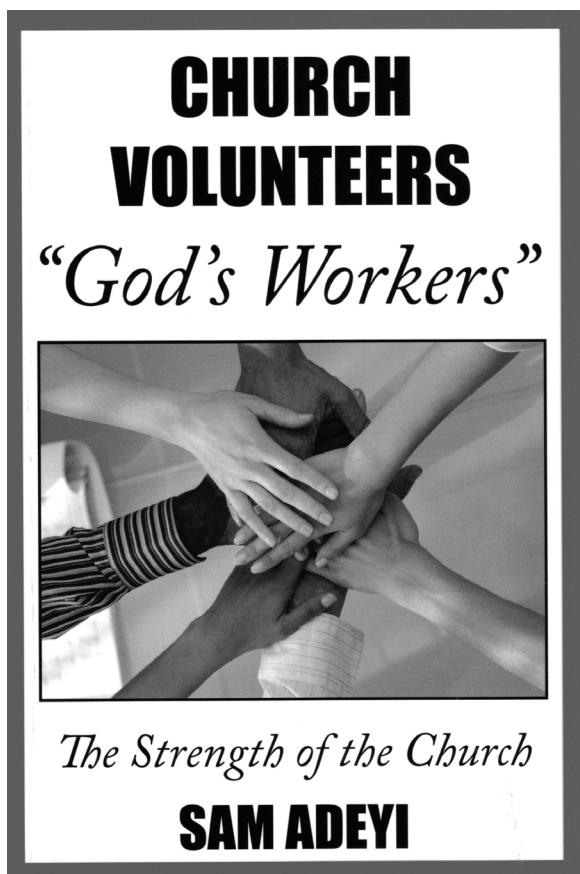
***When God calls you, He goes ahead of you:**

Oh, one last point. The night before Gideon and his 300 warriors were to attack, Gideon snuck into the enemy's camp. While there, he heard an ene-

my combatant interpret the dream of his friend. This is what he said, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.” That’s when Gideon cried! Yep, right there in the midst of his enemies, Gideon worshiped God! At that very instant, he knew the battle had already been won.

In view of these reasons, it is now obvious why you must embrace your calling; because God would not have called you if He knew you could not do it. He is faithful to reveal Himself even further when you worship Him for calling you to do His work. He will equip you and give you everything you need to get the job done. All you need is to keep asking Him to confirm His will and I promise He will. Do not be concerned about recognition, God is going to receive it all for Himself, you get your reward later. And, do not forget, God has already gone before you and getting everything ready for you to effectively answer and fulfil His call. When He calls; He equips!

Other books by Wole Adeyi.



This book is designed to help equip church volunteers known as Church workers. It will help church workers discover their spiritual gifts and employ them for God’s kingdom. You may use it either for training sessions or to give individual workers keys into a successful and effective ministry.

As you read this book, **“GOD’S VOLUNTEERS: God’s Workers- The strength of the Church”** you will understand:

- *Who Church Workers are.
- *Types of Services or Ministries they are called to do.
- *How those services are to be carried out successfully.
- *The relationships, responsibilities, qualities, experience, and limitations as Church Workers, among others.

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