

Perspectives

A Calling

I am truly impressed by people who seem to be a natural at something. These are the people—whether it is in an occupation, a volunteer service, speaking to a group of people, or displaying a natural talent (music, art, athletics)—who seem to have been tailor made to do what they are doing. I have often heard people comment when encountering these types of people that these are individuals who have really found their calling in life.

The dictionary defines a calling as *a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence*.¹ For humanity, the concept of a “call” in the Bible carries the idea of God’s invitation to everyone to “accept the redeeming grace of God in the gift of His son.”² For believers, God calls them to a life of holiness. Those who accept God’s invitation are referred to as “the called.” Thus, the Greek word for the church is *ecclesia*, meaning the “called out ones.”³

There is yet another calling by which God calls certain people to serve Him in a specific way. This call might include being a pastor or missionary. During this quarter, we will look at God’s call upon Israel to be His people. We will see how God called a people to be His holy nation and the ones through whom the Savior would come.

Today, God uses many ways, avenues, and methods to call people. For instance, it may be during prayer time, through Bible study, a sermon, or counsel from a trusted Christian friend. Whatever the way, the key is tuning into the Holy Spirit’s presence and leading in our lives.

As you read each story and study each session, open yourself up to God’s presence and direction. Be willing to say “Yes” to any call God places on your heart and life. God may not be calling you to be a missionary in a foreign country, but He may be calling you to be His hands and feet to someone in your corner of the world.

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

1. < <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/calling> > Accessed August 17, 2017.

2. Richard Taylor. *Beacon Dictionary of Theology*. (Kansas City: Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 1983), 85.

3. *Ibid.* 85.

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