

Questions Posed for Study

Question: The Calling of God – “How is one called into the ministry?”

Into: This is a question I wrestled with prior to God calling me into the fulltime ministry. Allow me to preface this with the fact everyone redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, is called to serve the Lord as a fulltime servant or minister if you prefer. This means that where ever it is, what ever profession you feel God has led you to do, that becomes your ministry world. The caution here is that you should not use your employers time to evangelize other company employees. Our testimony in how well we work and do our job in that it manifests outwardly the work of an inner transformation of the Holy Spirit. This about sharpness, attitudes, timeliness, an honest day’s work for honest day’s pay. This also includes breacktime opportunities to share our faith. If someone doesn’t want hear it, then pray that one day they will be open as they witness the genuine faith in your own life.

Being in the ministry in which one is paid to set all other professions aside to serve the Lord fulltime, I get asked by others who are leaning under the conviction of the Holy Spirit as a call to serve the Lord, “How do I know if this is what God wants me to do?”

It does begin with a conviction of the heart that God is laying a burden one those He is calling to surrender their lives to the fulltime ministry of the Gospel. I was about 16 years old, in a mission’s conference when I felt God was laying a burden on my heart for the ministry. Though it took about 10 years to actually fully surrender to that burden. Once I got my heart right with God, God reminded me of that day long ago, and the burden was renewed and the intensity increased until I finally fully surrendered.

So, to say the least, this can be a very confusing time whether it is about going into the ministry or what part of the ministry, or to be a missionary and where to serve as there is no audible voice. So, we will look at this from two differing advantage points to understand what is taking place in a Believer’s heart.

I. From God’s _____ – Ephesians John 15:16.

A. There are a number of verses in the Bible that remind us of our _____ responsibility to share the Good News (Gospel).

1. **Matthew 28:19** – God _____ the “go” in the word “Gospel.”

2. The words, "Go ye" have a general sense of a _____ command to "forward march!"
 3. So, we can truly say since we are in the Lord's _____, it is a command to us. **(Eph. 6:10)**
- B. Every person in the world has been called /commanded to be _____ – **Acts 17:30.**
1. Will they respond? No! But it is nonetheless God's _____ that all come to repentance.
 2. As a command, it is a statement that this is the _____ way men can make it to heaven.
 3. God wants everyone, everywhere, to take this command seriously, will they?
 4. Not everyone will! This is a command they must _____ to obey if they want to go to heaven. **(John 3:3)**
 5. This call to salvation has nothing to do with hearing an _____ voice, unless it is the Redeemed of the Lord verbally sharing the Gospel. **(Romans 10:14 & 15)**
- C. So, we see in this as well, that every Christian has been _____ to be a soul winner.
1. This is not _____ the responsibility of preachers, evangelist & missionaries.
 2. If we consider ourselves _____, then this what we'll do – **Proverbs 11:20!**
 3. **John 4:35 – 42**; someone cared enough to bring them to Jesus! – **Luke 8:39 & 40.**
 4. God has saved us to this _____ while here on earth – **John 15:16.**
- D. Therefore, every Christian has been called to be a _____. **Ephesians 4:11 – 12.**
1. It is a misnomer to say or believe "the ministry" applies only to _____ staff members.
 2. To be blunt, ministry is not a career, it is a _____ of _____, and is not about the few, but for every Christian.
- E. Now, some Believers have been called by God, or divinely selected for _____ roles of leadership – **Ezekiel 3:17 & Exodus 31:2 – 5.**
1. **Ephesians 4:11** gives us some of the areas in which God may call some to serve in specific areas or needs.
 2. We have all had life's experiences that qualify us to be used of God to minister to others whether in the faith or not – **II Corinthians 1:1 – 5 & 3:17 – 6.**

We will pick this up with the second point, the Lord willing, January 1st and look at God's call from man's viewpoint.