

Why were you called?

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By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Many people who study the Bible profess to believe that there is a "calling."

When God created human life, He fully intended to give His children knowledge about Himself and His plan of salvation.

Yet He works with people in an order—with some as firstfruits. Therefore, the firstfruits are given knowledge and power before the others.

That's the nature of a calling. Some understand and some don't. Some have access to the power and some don't.

At first glance, that doesn't seem quite fair. But a calling is not primarily about receiving perks—it is about fulfilling a responsibility.

We understand that God is in the saving business. Did you realize that He is also in the spending business? God is not merely saving those whom He calls. He is spending them.

How does He spend them? He uses them as vessels to glorify His name and His Kingdom.

■ Do you believe in a calling?

John 6:44—"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Matthew 11:25—"At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.' "

Matthew 13:10-17—"And the disciples came and said to Him, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?' He answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: "Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; for

the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.' "

■ Do you believe that you were called?

Someone who claims to be a believer should not view a calling from God as a merit badge of superiority over other people.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29—"For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence."

■ Why were you called?

Matthew 5:13-16—"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

1 Peter 2:11-12—"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation."

2 Timothy 2:19-21—"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.' But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."