

THE CALLING OF GOD

(Rev 17:14 KJV) These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

(Mat 22:14 KJV) For many are called, but few are chosen.

(2 Pet 1:10 KJV) Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

1. PURPOSE AND CALLING IN LIFE.

1. *Some have no idea as to their purpose and calling in life.*
2. *Vague as to what destination is; even more vague about the journey.*
 1. Not just destination, but the journey.
 2. Some would like to sacrifice the journey for the destination.
 1. Cut out the nonessentials--the in-betweens--life itself.
 2. Get to the end result.
3. *The journey doesn't just help you get to the destination.*
 1. The journey (process) prepares you (enables you) for the destination (may not know what to do with the destination when we arrive).
 2. The process toughens you for the journey (gives you the assurance you will make it).
4. *Therefore, thank God for experiences.*
 1. They help to equip you.
 2. Help to give you the incentive to continue on (I=ve been through this before).
 3. Experiences give you assurance or faith for the journey.
 4. Gives you the confidence you can do it again (success breeds success; failure breeds failure).

2. MANY ARE CALLED; FEW CHOSEN.

1. *Many run for office, few elected.*
2. *Of those elected, fewer are faithful.*
3. *God=s recruitment.*
 1. **Come, I will make you fishers of men.** (Mark 1:17 KJV) And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. (Mark 1:18 KJV) And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.
 2. **Elijah=s call to Elisha.**
 1. Cast mantle. (1 Ki 19:19 KJV) So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.
 2. Elisha responds immediately. (1 Ki 19:20 KJV) And he left the

oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

3. Elisha is dedicated to serve Elijah. (1 Ki 19:21 KJV) And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.
 4. ***God=s premium upon faithfulness.***
 1. (1 Cor 4:2 KJV) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
 2. (2 Tim 2:2 KJV) And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
3. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN OUR CALLING.
1. ***Responsibilities toward God.***
 1. Love and serve Him.
 2. Do His will.
 1. What is His will?
 2. Love the brethren; keep His words.
 2. ***Responsibilities toward others.***
 1. Our main debt to others is to love them.
 1. (Rom 13:8 KJV) Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
 2. Love others as ourselves.
 2. Being our brother=s keeper.
 1. Are we our brother=s keeper?
 2. Who is my neighbor?
 3. Do justly, love mercy.
 4. Rescue the perishing.
4. THE ESSENCE OF THE CALLING (OR GOSPEL).
1. ***Preaching good tidings.***
 1. (Isa 61:1 KJV) The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;
 2. (Luke 4:18 KJV) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
 2. ***Key issues.***
 1. Healing the broken hearted.
 2. Proclaiming liberty.

3. Deliverance to captives.
4. Bringing sight to the blind.

5. BRINGING SIGHT TO THE BLIND.

1. ***Physical blindness.***

1. (Mat 9:28 KJV) And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. (Mat 9:29 KJV) Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. (Mat 9:30 KJV) And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.
2. (Mat 11:5 KJV) The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

2. ***Spiritual blindness (much greater effort than in bringing healing to physically blind).***

1. **Blind leading blind.** (Mat 15:14 KJV) Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.
2. **Dealing with motes in our own eyes.**
 1. (Luke 6:41 KJV) And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye? (Luke 6:42 KJV) Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.
 2. Must first deal with issues in our own lives.

6. LETTING THE OPPRESSED GO FREE.

1. ***What is oppression?***

1. lachats, law-khats'; a prim. root; prop. to press, i.e. (fig.) to distress:--afflict, crush, force, hold fast, oppress (-or), thrust self.
2. The exercise of power and authority in a cruel or unjust manner.

2. ***Forms of oppression.***

1. Keeping a person in captivity.
2. Keeping a person obligated to you.
3. Keeping a person down; not allowing them to stand on their own two feet.
4. Keeping a person under our influence or control.
 1. Depriving person of just dues.
 2. Taking advantage of a person=s misfortune.
 3. Keeping a person down instead of helping them up to make it on their own.
 4. Not allowing a person a second chance when they ahve failed.

5. Keeping a controversy alive that keeps person under oppression.
 - (1) Reminding them of their failures.
 - (2) Not forgiving and forgetting.
5. Continued prejudices keep people oppressed.
 1. God: AI have seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. @
 2. Relating to people as second-class citizens; not extending the dignity that should be given every man.
6. Using influence or power wrongly that would keep a person under oppression.
3. ***Poverty is oppression. Principles to combat poverty.***
 1. Hard work.
 1. Do others injustice if we do not teach them industry and independence.
 2. Our welfare system is designed to keep people oppressed.
 2. Integrity of heart.
 1. Dealing in truthfulness and honesty.
 2. Following godly principles in business dealings.
 3. Treating others with godly respect.
 3. Generosity.
 1. What we sow is what we reap.
 2. The liberal soul shall be made fat.
 3. Casting your bread upon the waters.
 4. He who gives to the poor lends to the Lord.
 5. Opening the windows of heaven.
7. BINDING UP THE BROKEN HEARTED.
 1. ***Those who have been crushed emotionally.***
 2. ***Those who have suffered the pain and shame of rejection.***
 3. ***Those who have taken the risk and lost and who may be having trouble trusting again.***
 4. ***Those who have been jilted and left at the altar.***
 5. ***Those who have lost the affections of another through rejection, loss, including the loss through death and divorce.***
 6. ***Those who have suffered any disappointments.***
 1. Unrealistic expectations.
 2. Unfulfilled dreams.
8. PROCLAIMING LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES.
 1. ***This is declaration through preaching and teaching.***
 2. ***Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty.***
 3. ***Should have power to back up the declaration or proclamation.***
 1. Not just rhetoric of what can be, but the declaration of what is.
 2. *A Woman, thou art loosed. @*
9. OPENING THE PRISONS AND SETTING CAPTIVES FREE.

1. Many stages of captivity.
2. May be captive to wrong thinking.
 1. A...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. @
 2. May be captives or slaves to ideas, traditions, circumstances, to others opinions or views of us; even what we think of ourselves.
3. Some are captives to a *Amindset@* or *Amentality@* as to what life really is; our world view; how we perceive others.

10. FULFILLING OUR MISSION OR CALLING AS A CHURCH.

1. ***Collectively to let our light shine.***
2. ***Collectively to function as a family who is loving, caring, and supporting of one another. Always ready to edify or to build up.***
3. ***Collectively to praise God as one voice.***
4. ***In fact, in all we do, we do it as one--in the power of the spirit of unity.***
 1. Singleness of eye (vision).
 2. Singleness of heart (purpose).
 3. Singleness of mind.
 1. Think on these things. (Phil 4:8 KJV) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
 2. Same mind.
 - (1) (Rom 12:16 KJV) Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
 - (2) (1 Cor 1:10 KJV) Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.
5. ***Flowing in the spirit of love and unity.***