

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10
Sermon Title: Burning Bushes-The Story

The calling of God is His invitation to **be & partner with Him in the fulfillment of His purposes in everyday, extraordinary, unique, & collaborative ways.**

Specific:

A vocation that is unique to each person—an individual's mission in the world.

*"Vocation represents a call of God to serve him in the world."
-Gordon Smith. Courage & Calling*

A simple framework for calling:

The Story

The Stage

The Signature

The Voice

The Step

The Dash

Our effectiveness with our calling is inseparable from our depth of **understanding & living the gospel.**

Resting well in light of the gospel emphasizes **being & enjoying—being at peace & enjoying the one who gave you life, including the life He's given you.**

Running hard in light of the gospel emphasizes **doing—identifying what the good works are, how they should be done, & ultimately doing the good works He created for you & us to do.**

Where, why, & how do you need to **rest well?**

Where, why, & how do you need to **run hard?**

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

The gospel is **the good news** of who Jesus is, what Jesus has done, & how it changes everything.

Jesus is a **compassionate & conquering** savior.

The gospel **rescues**.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ²in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

⁴**But** because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy,

⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is **by grace you have been saved**.

Rest Well:

You, God, know my folly; my guilt is not hidden from you.

Psalm 69:5

When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.

Psalm 65:3

Jesus is not blindsided or threatened by our sinfulness, He **knows & loves** us at our worst.

Run Hard:

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

John 3:36

Apart from Jesus everyone is **living under the bondage of sin** & will face the wrath of God.

Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience...¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

2 Corinthians 5:11-14

Confidence in **the love of God compels** Christians to be courageous.

The gospel **renews**.

⁶ And God raised us up **with Christ** and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to **make her holy**, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and **to present her to himself as a radiant church**, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Rest Well:

Take **the long view** of God's grace in your life—by the grace of God, where you are now is not where you were or where you will be.

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:6

Run Hard:

Take **the whole view** of God's grace in your life—by the grace of God, where you are now is not where you have to or should be.

continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Philippians 2:12b-13

The gospel empowers.

² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

⁶ And **God raised us up** with Christ

And if **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you**, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Romans 8:11

Rest Well:

Remind yourself of the power of the Holy Spirit—we may be discouraged, but **we aren't disadvantaged**.

Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³ “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Hebrews 12:12-13

Run Hard:

Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit—we can say no to sin & yes to God.

“We know of no other way by which to keep the love of the world out of our heart, than to keep in our hearts the love of God—and no other way by which to keep our hearts in the love of God, than building ourselves up on our most holy faith”

-Thomas Chalmers. The expulsive power of a new affection.

The gospel sends.

¹⁰ For we are **God’s handiwork**, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The heart of every individual calling is to express the gospel uniquely & collaboratively.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:16-17

“If God called you to be a farmer, don’t stoop so low as to be a king.”

-James Allman

Rest Well:

Don’t complicate the issue or betray the calling—the good God has created for me to do is good enough for me.

Run Hard:

Don’t complicate the issue or betray the calling—do the obvious good & the next right thing.

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to **devote themselves to doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Titus 3:8