

Calling

Galatians 1:1. From: Sha'ul, an emissary - I received my commission not from human beings or through human mediation but through Yeshua the Messiah and God the Father, who raised him from the dead - also from all the brothers with me

Galatians 1:15-16. But when God, who picked me out before I was born and called **(Kaleo: Commanded, ordered, called, to be called by name, to bear a title)** me by his grace, chose ¹⁶ to reveal his Son to me, so that I might announce him to the Gentiles, I did not consult anyone;

What Sha'ul establishes here is that he, like every believer, has a specific, heavenly calling. Another translation of Kaleo that I particularly like is vocation. Every believer has a vocation in the Kingdom of God, either professional or voluntary. A vocation consists of skill sets coupled with service to others and God. I've often heard the phrase "Is God Calling You"? The answer is that Adonai has called everyone to serve Him from their mothers womb, before you are born as King David said in:

Psalms 22:9-10. But you are the one who took me from the womb, you made me trust when I was on my mother's breasts. ¹⁰ Since my birth I've been thrown on you; you are my God from my mother's womb.

This is further clarified and expanded upon in:

Psalms 139:13-16. For you fashioned my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I thank you because I am awesomely made, wonderfully; your works are wonders -I know this very well. ¹⁵ My bones were not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes could see me as an embryo, but in your book all my days were already written; my days had been shaped before any of them existed.

Individuals "Calling" isn't a Brit Chadesha concept alone! Every person has a divine calling, a heavenly vocation that's assigned to you as you are being knit together in your mother's womb. Before you were born your days are already recorded in the Sefer HaChaim, the Book of Life! Not when you get saved. Accepting Yeshua determines if your name stays in the book or gets blotted out. Listen to what Adonai said to Yirmeyahu

Jeremiah 1:5. "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born, I separated you for myself. I have appointed **(Na'tan: appoint, assign, charged, ordained, called, designate, commit, charged)** you to be a prophet to the nations."

Adonai had separated, sanctified, called Jeremiah even before He formed Him in his mother wombs, He knew Him, He called Him. Our mistake today is that we (for the most part) we were raised and we raise our children to go to school, pick a career, and find a job that will make a nice, comfortable living and pay the bills. Meanwhile walking through life unaware or unconcerned about God's calling upon our lives. It's up to us to reach our full potential in the Kingdom, striving to obtain our Godly goals He has put within us! He provides for the calling He gives you. We must make ourselves worthy of it!

II Thessalonians 1:11. With this in view, we always pray for you that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill by his power every good purpose of yours and every action stemming from your trust.

Imagine Newport News Shipbuilding designing, modeling, testing, then building a brand new ship. They launch, outfit it, moor it next to the pier, then ask: What is it? What can we use this vessel for? The analogy here is why do we train, go to college, get vocational training, spend enormous amounts of time, effort, and money just to toil at a Job that most hate just to make a living? It's an interesting side note that an overwhelming proportion of medical and scientific breakthrough (if not all) have come from both Jews and Believers working in their calling. Adonai blesses their work and gives them supernatural breakthroughs.

When I googled this, there was so much information it was overwhelming. From Dr. Sir Alexander Fleming, a Christian who discovered Penicillin, one of the most important medical breakthroughs in history. Fleming went to college and worked as a clerk (not his calling) until a family member died and left him an inheritance, Fleming then went Medical School. Dr. Jonas Salk, a Jew who discovered Polio vaccine to Jewish American cardiologist Dr. Paul Zoll who was one of the pioneers in the development of both the cardiac pacemaker and defibrillator. I've also met clergy that shouldn't be clergy while I've also met people in secular Jobs who have a Rabbinical/Pastoral calling and aren't working in their heavenly vocation. Sha'ul urges us in:

Ephesians 4:1. Therefore I, the prisoner united with the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling **(Kaleo: Commanded, ordered, called, to be called by name, to bear a title)** to which you have been called.

A Biblical calling is God's divine invitation, command, order upon individuals to fulfill a specific purpose or role in His plan. In the Bible, a calling refers to God's initiative to summon or invite individuals to participate in His plans and purposes, rather than a pursuit based on personal ambition or desire:

Hebrews 3:1. Therefore, brothers whom God has set apart, who share in the call from heaven, think carefully about Yeshua, whom we acknowledge publicly as God's emissary and as cohen gadol.

The Hebrew word qara means "to call," and the Greek terms kaleo and klesis refer to the act of calling and the calling itself, emphasizing that it originates from God. This divine summons can be general, applying to all believers, or specifically calling an individual for a unique task or mission. There are numerous types of Kingdom Callings:

General Calling: Every believer is called to salvation, holiness, and obedience to God:

I Peter 1:15. On the contrary, following the Holy One who called you, become holy yourselves in your entire way of life;

This universal call is foundational and applies to all believers. There are specific Callings! These are unique assignments or roles tailored to an individual's gifts, talents, and circumstances. Examples include:

Vocational Callings: Roles within the Kehilla or community that we refer to as the five fold ministry that equip Gods people:

Ephesians 4:11-12. Furthermore, he gave some people as emissaries, some as prophets, some as proclaimers of the Good News, and some as shepherds and teachers.¹² Their task is to equip God's people for the work of service that builds the body of the Messiah,

Spiritual or Missionary Callings are assigned tasks that advance the kingdom of Adonai, like starting a Kehillat, evangelism overseas, or dedicated service to Him. Relational or Parental Callings are responsibilities within family or community life. Having and or raising children is a calling!

Not all people are called to a Rabbinate or Pastoral position, but everyone has a divine calling! A heavenly ordained destiny that God gave you before you were born. Callings are forever:

Romans 11:29. for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable.

We jest at my voice, my passion in speaking. I can tell you that as a youngster and as a young person I was constantly in trouble at school and with my friends parents. I know you'll find this shocking but I was known to be "loud and

boisterous". When I speak, I don't do so from the larynx, I speak from the diaphragm.

I've never had an inside voice. My teachers throughout my years of education underappreciated my heavenly calling!! Much to Rebbetzins disdain I really can't whisper. Most of you already know that God made me more than capable to comfortably orate in this room without amplification. I'm miked for video and audio recording purposes only. I truly knew as a younger person what my heavenly calling was but didn't acquiesce to it until I was in was in my 30's. God used my straying from Him to train me in what I needed for my calling yet I do regret and have repented for the wasted time. The hardest thing in the world is trying to be something you're not called to be. Kefa, Peter said in:

II Peter 1:10. Therefore, brothers, try even harder to make your being called and chosen a certainty. For if you keep doing this, you will never stumble.

We often stumble or get sidetracked in our calling. Peter is talking about two subjects here. 1. Your calling, your kaleo. 2. Being Chosen, being saved in Yeshua! I want to biblically explain what Kefa meant. A young harp playing David, already anointed by Sh'muel to be King of Israel is presented to King Sa'ul who was known to have manic episodes:

I Samuel 16:21. David came to Sha'ul and presented himself to him. Sha'ul took a great liking to him and made him his armor-bearer.

David wasn't called by God to be an armor-bearer! God called and anointed David to be King of Israel. David was in the position of armor bearer for a long time, he was even good at it. Remember Saul killed his thousands but David his tens of thousands. David even married one of Saul's daughters and was accepted as a brother to Saul's son Jonathan. When the Philistines with the giant Goliath seized Israel's Army with panic and fear it was a young David who challenged both the Army of Israel the their enemies:

I Samuel 17:26. David said to the men standing with him, "What reward will be given to the man who kills this P'lishti and removes this disgrace from Isra'el? Who is this uncircumcised P'lishti anyway, that he challenges the armies of the living God?"

King Sa'ul, already in a relationship with David overheard David's words and summoned him. David offered to kill Goliath and Sa'ul replied you're just a boy. Then David said:

I Samuel 17:37-39. Then David said, "ADONAI, who rescued me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will rescue me from the paw of this P'lishti!" Sha'ul said

to David, "Go; may ADONAI be with you." ³⁸ Sha'ul dressed David in his own armor - he put a bronze helmet on his head and gave him armor plate to wear. ³⁹ David buckled his sword on his armor and tried to walk, but he wasn't used to such equipment. David said to Sha'ul, "I can't move wearing these things, because I'm not used to them." So David took them off.

Sa'ul's armor doesn't fit David. This is the key, you can't fit into someone else's calling, anointing, or armor. It's too easy to get sidetracked, distracted. David could have proudly trumped around sporting the Kings armor but would have most likely been killed because he was immobile in it. David had a call but it was different than Sha'uls. I've met many people over the years engaged in ministry but aren't divinely called!

Here are some biblical and practical indicators that suggest God has not called people to full-time ministry. Their motivation is not from God. If their desire to serve comes from pride, people pleasing, or the need to "be in the spot light" it's not a kingdom call. Scripture warns against serving out of self-will or to meet others' expectations.

Philippians 2:3. Do nothing out of rivalry or vanity; but, in humility, regard each other as better than yourselves -

God has not called you if there is no persistent, burning, inner burden for Kingdom service! A true call brings a deep, unshakable burden for souls and a compulsion to serve. If you feel no such weight, it's not God's call.

God has not called if there not a consistent recognition of ones gifting. If others don't notice your spiritual gifts (preaching, teaching, counseling, evangelism), God may not be calling you into ministry. True calls are confirmed by others who see your gifts calling, often before you do!

God has not called if the primary drive is to do "ministry" rather than to develop in intimacy with Adonai, its chasing activity instead of relationship. God first calls you to be with Him, then to serve.

If there's no willingness to surrender your life its not a God call! Full-time ministry requires total, complete, sacrifice and devotion. If you resist giving up your current career, family, or passions for Adonai's service, it's not His call.

God has not called if there are no consistent opportunities to serve opening. If you're not being asked to serve, invited to teach, or to speak, it's not God's. In our first year alone I had dozens of invitations to speak! We had to learn how to say no which is a different message!

God has not called if there is no provision! God does not call the equipped — He equips who He called. When He calls someone to a purpose, He also provides the strength, wisdom, resources, and presence needed to fulfill that calling. Whatever He calls you to, He will equip you for it!

Back to David, you know the rest of the story! David, without physical armor used his sling to fell the giant then used Goliath's own sword to decapitate the Giant. Little David beat the giant by being who God called him to be.

My life now is a result of Adonai's divine call upon our lives! This is my heavenly vocation. I have great joy and shalom in what I do, yet it doesn't mean it's trouble free, it's fulfilling. I'm proud of my military service yet that doesn't compare to living out my divine, heavenly calling. Sha'ul revealed in:

Romans 11:29. for God's free gifts and his calling are irrevocable.

Your calling never changes, the calling is irrevocable! Your station in life may change but your calling doesn't. The vast majority of believers are not called to a single, ground-breaking national or international ministry. Adonai calls us to serve based upon the calling. Someone with the gift of teaching may lead a Shabbat school class, become a school teacher. Others with a healing or medical calling may become a doctor, a nurse, a CNA. They may work in labs, hospitals, or abroad sharing the good news. Ultimately all are called to fill the needs of the body:

I Corinthians 12:5. Also there are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord being served.

We must sever our worldly lives in following the world's pattern of money for work and focus upon our heavenly calling in us, our children, and our grandchildren. The focus must be on discovering the calling then following the path to fulfill that calling which is immediate. Some full time, some not!

Mark 1:16-20. As he walked beside Lake Kinneret, he saw Shim'on and Andrew, Shim'on's brother, casting a net into the lake; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Yeshua said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you into fishers for men!" ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ Going on a little farther, he saw Ya'akov Ben-Zavdai and Yochanan, his brother, in their boat, repairing their nets. ²⁰ Immediately he called them, and they left their father Zavdai in the boat with the hired men and went after Yeshua

Then there are those who ignore or neglect their biblical calling, scripture warns of both spiritual and practical consequences that can negatively affect your life

now and in eternity. Adonai's calling is designed to bring you joy, purpose, and intimate relationship with Him. If you pursue your own way instead, you hinder His presence in your life or worse His presence may depart from You!

Not following God's call will leave you spiritually stagnant, stunting your growth, your transformation, and reduce or negate the influence of His power in your life. The Holy Spirit is described as the "umpire" for doing God's will; without His guidance, you may face inner conflict, tribulation, trials, and a lack of Shalom, which signals you're off course.

If your life's focus is on self-pleasure or self-serving goals, you risk trading eternal rewards for earthly rewards. Scripture warns that works not aligned with God's will cannot please Him and results in death.

Romans 8:5-8. For those who identify with their old nature set their minds on the things of the old nature, but those who identify with the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ Having one's mind controlled by the old nature is death, but having one's mind controlled by the Spirit is life and shalom. ⁷ For the mind controlled by the old nature is hostile to God, because it does not submit itself to God's Torah - indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Thus, those who identify with their old nature cannot please God.

Biblically, your calling includes using the gifts of the Spirit that Adonai has given you. Neglecting them; whether through inaction, misuse, or failure to grow, will hinder your spiritual maturity and prevent you from fulfilling your role in His kingdom. How many famous singers have started worshipping and praising the Lord then squandered their gift for the desires of the flesh.

Not fulfilling your biblical calling can lead to spiritual dryness, missed blessings, spiritual unrest, a sense of regret, and even prioritizes temporary desires of the flesh over kingdom rewards. The word of Adonai encourages believers to recognize their calling, nurture their gifts, and step out in faith to fulfill His purpose, knowing His plans are for their ultimate good.

The world says that you can be anything that you want to be, but that's a lie from the pits of Hell. Your pursuit in life should be to live the life and calling that Adonai Himself created for you to live by, as we are warned by Yeshua:

Matthew 7:21-23. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, only those who do what my Father in heaven wants. ²² On that Day, many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we expel demons in your name? Didn't we perform many miracles in your name?' ²³ Then I will tell them to their faces, 'I never knew you! Get away from me, you workers of lawlessness!'"

The danger with doing whatever you want to do vice the will and call of Adonai is that Yeshua will deny you on judgment day. This realization hits hard! It doesn't matter how good things one has done in this world! If it wasn't a part of God's will, it will count as nothing in eternity.

I Corinthians 3:13-15. But each one's work will be shown for what it is; the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire - the fire will test the quality of each one's work. ¹⁴ If the work someone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward; ¹⁵ if it is burned up, he will have to bear the loss: he will still escape with his life, but it will be like escaping through a fire.

Sha'ul reveals that our works will be judged to determine if they were done for the glory of God or for our own gain. It's good to be purpose-driven in life, but it's critical that it's Adonai's purpose and call that you're pursuing.

The Messianic calling is unique because it is rooted in a singular, divinely appointed purpose; the mission of the Messiah, fulfilled in Yeshua and it shapes both the identity of believers and the direction of their service. Each believer has a unique "purpose story" from God, and the Messiah's example shows that serving with God's strength transforms lives. This calling is intimate, powerful, and central to the purpose of kingdom life. While believers are "one in Messiah," the Messianic calling also preserves and honors diversity. The Messianic calling is unique because it is inseparable from the identity of the Messiah, it transforms individual lives, it preserves unity without uniformity, and it calls believers to a sacred, prophetic mission that echoes the very purpose of God's redemptive plan.

The Messianic Calling swims upstream against the current flow of religion. It's hard to buck the mainstream! It's relatively easy to build a mega church, it's way harder to build a Messianic place of righteous based upon His word in Truth and Spirit!! People want mainstream, God wants sanctification!!

I'll close with a side note! The enemy doesn't not leave unanswered Adonai's divine call! When you receive your calling the counter attacks will begin as HaSatan will attempt to thwart our calling! The enemy does not attack empty purpose or insignificant futures! When Called HaSatan knows there is something of great value ahead of you that he doesn't want you to reach!

Every time you choose trust over fear, Shalom over chaos, discipline and submission over distraction, you are moving closer to the divine Goal Adona has established for You! Stay focused even when the journey feels difficult because the kingdom reward will be worth every battle you've endured!