

## “CALLED” 3/3/2019

Being called by God. What does it mean? The old way.

Discovering your call is utterly important, but it doesn't look like the old way. Our calling has very little to do with our ability and everything to do with His love for us. New Way.

### 1. You are called (Share my testimony, Didn't know anything about being called)

#### A. Everyone is called

- Every person has a God initiated desire to have lasting impact on this world. It wasn't our idea, it was His. You are created in a unique way with a unique call on your life. **We have to get this first.**
- I believe this is true about every person who ever existed, but something amazing happens when we decide to give our lives to Jesus. When we say yes to Jesus, we actually get to do something real with that desire to change the world.
- **Kingdom of Jesus of Kingdom of self**

So, as believers what are we called to?

#### **John 15:5,16**

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears **much fruit**, for apart from me you can do nothing. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and **that your fruit should abide...**

- The NIV puts it “**fruit that will last**” .... **ETERNAL IMPACT**
- The call on our lives is to be fruitful; both to bear much fruit and fruit that will last. How do we do that?

#### B. You have to Abide to discover your call

- To sit, to stay, to camp out, to *stay* (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy)
- We have to abide, the key to understanding God's call on your life is to be in a deep and intimate relationship with the author of your life.
- **John 15: “abide in me and you will bear much fruit that lasts.”** Have relationship with me and you will bear fruit. Make me the most important thing in your life...
- **The Lord must do a work IN YOU, before He can do a work THROUGH YOU.**

- **No substitute**

#### C. Establish Roots

- Roots always come before Fruit

Comment [1]:

- Giant Sequoias - up to 300 ft tall, root system is up to an acre, pinecone is 2-3 inches long and can stay green for up to 20 years. **(PICTURE OF THE GOSPEL and DISCIPLESHIP)**
- Their roots are all intertwined with other trees: community.
- **It's all about where you plant yourself, he does everything else.**

### Psalm 1:3

Comment [2]:

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. **In all that he does, he prospers.**

**Where are the streams?!**

## 2. Roadblocks: Comparison, Control and Fear

### A. Comparison

- It is human nature to look around and see how we stack up and it crushes our ability to walk into the things God is calling us into. This is one of the absolute quickest ways to discourage yourself.
- The truth is, After I'm done preaching, I'll be tempted to wonder how I measure up. After leading worship, I'm usually tempted to compare myself.
- **Worship team comparison (Personal Story)**

### Romans 8:5-6

Comment [3]:

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the **mind on the flesh is death**, but to set the mind on the Spirit is **life and peace**.

- Comparison is taking on the mind of the flesh and it's the enemy's playground. It's dangerous. If I can be distracted enough by what others may have thought or how I stack up, there is no room for me to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant."
- Some people may have a certain gifting that you'd like, maybe they are talented in a way that you'd like to be, but the truth is we've all been given much and when we compare ourselves to others we are literally devaluing something that God has assigned massive value to.

**THE SOLUTION IS TO ABIDE.** HEAR THE FATHER SAYING HOW VALUED YOU ARE. HOW LOVED YOU ARE. DON'T LOOK TO THE SIDE, KEEP YOUR EYES ON HIM.

**Genesis 1:27 (made in his image) Psalm 139 (fearfully and wonderfully made)**

### B. Control

- Control sounds like this "God I'll do that, if you do this". We attach conditions.

- Why do we want to control? Because we doubt God's trustworthiness. Goes back to the Garden. We think he's lying to us and we think he is withholding good things from us. So we feel the need to make things happen for ourselves.

### Genesis 3 :1-5

Comment [4]:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- **Certainty** - We like to know that if I do a, b, c then I'll definitely end up with D. That's not how the kingdom works. We've been taught and/or believed that if we follow Jesus everything will work out exactly how we want. Wanting to know the outcome before we take the first step.
- **APPLICATION: Follow a God of mystery / Culture worships certainty.** If certainty means more to us than following Jesus, then we can never truly follow him. Upside down kingdom.

**THE SOLUTION IS TO ABIDE. WE HAVE TO KNOW THE KING, SO WE CAN TRUST HIM.**

### Charles Spurgeon

Comment [5]:

"God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart."

### Krystal

Comment [6]:

"The kingdom always benefits from welcoming The King to truly sit on the throne and rule and reign as He pleases. We don't need to be certain of his plans because we can be certain of his character"

#### C. Fear

- I want to handle this subject of fear with sensitivity. I think a lot of people have been taught or have believed on their own that the act of being afraid is wrong. I don't think that's the case ... I believe it's what we do with that fear that matters. We can't allow fear to be loudest voice in our head, we cant allow fear to make decisions for us and we don't live in fear, we might camp out there for a night or two, but we can't stay. **Jesus in the garden.**
- Fear is probably the biggest roadblock for most people. What are we scared of? We have this sneaking suspicion that we don't have what it takes and we are afraid of failing. **(Jake telling me it probably won't be that good)**
- Embrace your weakness. How do we embrace our weakness ...

**WE ABIDE IN HIM. When we embrace our weakness we also embrace His Strength.** "I want them impressed with me, not impressed with you". The pressure is

off to measure up! Apart from me you can do nothing also means that with me, you can do all the things I'm calling you to do. Even the weird, out of your league, out of your comfort zone things I'm calling you to do.

### 1 Corinthians 1:8-9

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

Comment [7]:

### 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Comment [8]:

#### Embrace your weakness, It's our heritage.

- Hebrews 11 : not ability to complete a task, ability to abide and obey
- God is way more interested in our obedience than He is our performance.

When we, as imperfect, unqualified, weak and broken people follow the call on our lives, **The King is glorified and the kingdom is satisfied. God gets the glory and His will on earth gets done.**

### 3. The Deep waters (The invitation)

#### A. REST Retreat

- I was struggling with my calling. Paul Balouche comparison.

#### What do you want me to know in my life right now?

*"I want you to know that you are loved and I'm pleased with you. You don't have to perform for me or for others. Your worth is not in how you can perform, but in who I've made you to be and who I've made you to be is an unchangeable fact. I call you SON! Yes, you are on a journey to be more and more like the you I made you to be every day, but I see the whole picture and I am pleased with you. There is nothing you can do to change your position as my son. There are things I'm calling you into; the deep waters of my will for your life. These things will lead to a more fulfilled life, a joyful and humble heart and a blessed assurance of who I've made you to be, but these deeper waters don't deepen my love for you. I can't love you anymore than I already do. The deeper waters are for you and they change the depth in which you can see all the love I have for you. I want you to dive in, head first and let me embrace you. I want you to know that you are mine. You are constantly wondering if you measure up, always looking for ways to prove your worth to me and to those around you. I proved your worth on the cross, there is nothing left to prove. You are my prized creation. Dive in! The invitation*

*into the deep waters is not a command to perform, it's an invitation into obedience and rest. It's an invitation to bring who you are into alignment with who He's called you to be. It's an invitation to abide in and rely on Jesus."*

- There is a place we can go with the Lord and we can leave all the baggage... He calls us son.

### 1 John 3:1

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are...

- Your true calling is to be a son, to be daughter and the deep waters are simply an invitation to join our Father in the work He is already doing.

### John 5:19

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. **(Personal Story, depression to Sonship)**

- A more fulfilled life. Get out of Shallow end. **(Electric Guitar vs. worship leader)**
- Nothing left to prove. The cross.
- Obey and then rest. We do what he tells us to do and then we trust him with the outcome. **(Personal Story, said yes one day at a time)**

### Psalms 1:1-2

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

### The Process

We are being called into the deep waters day by day and moment by moment. Jesus isn't in a rush and we shouldn't be either. The journey out into the deep isn't an easy one, it's not a comfortable one, but it leads to a life with the Lord far beyond what we can imagine while standing on the shore. It might be hard at times, but it's always worth it. This is the only way the gospel spreads ...

- Sequoias only reproduce by way of fire. It prepares the soil and causes the seed to drop.
- Without fire, we don't get more sequoias. "Go into all the world"

**When we abide in Him, when we take all our fears and anxiety to Him, when we give up control and we just follow him into the deep, when we obey and rest. we realize that we don't really have to find God's call on our life, God's call has a way of finding us.**

Comment [9]:

Comment [10]:

Comment [11]:

**He establishes the roots, he grows the tree, he produces the fruit; We Abide, Obey and Rest.**

**You are called. Your calling is to follow him in loving and serving the people around you, but before you can truly embrace your calling, you must embrace Jesus and allow him to embrace you. So abide in him, ask him the specifics, then obey him and then rest in knowing he does the work.**