

New Beginnings: Consistency in our Calling
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ROMANS 7:21-23

So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

JOHN 16:33 NIV

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

ARE WE READY IN EVERY SEASON TO OBEY GOD?

ARE WE CONSISTENT IN LIVING OUT OUR CALLING FROM GOD?

I SAMUEL 1:10-17

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

I SAMUEL 1:10-17

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."

I SAMUEL 1:10-17

"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

IN HER LOWEST MOMENT HANNAH TURNED TO GOD

I SAMUEL 1:24-28

After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

IN HER HIGHEST MOMENT HANNAH REMAINED FAITHFUL

I SAMUEL 2:26

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

I SAMUEL 3:8B-14

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

DO WE KNOW GOD'S VOICE?

IN SPITE OF HIS AGE SAMUEL OBEYED GOD'S CALLING

I TIMOTHY 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. I SAMUEL 3:19-21

The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

I SAMUEL 8:4-5

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

WHEN GREAT CHANGE COMES STOP AND PRAY TO GOD

I SAMUEL 8:17-18

He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

I SAMUEL 8:17-18

But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the Lord. The Lord answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."

Then Samuel said to the Israelites, "Everyone go back to your own town."

IN THE MIDST OF A NEW THING SAMUEL WAS CONSISTENT

SAMUEL LACKED POWER BUT REMAINED OBEDIENT

APPLICATION

- 1. You are never too young to a receive a call from God. Spiritually or physically. You may think that you are too new to Christianity to be used by God, but that's not true. God's calling can come at any time. Like Pastor Jon spoke about last week, Paul's calling literally blindsided him (kind of).
- 2. You are never too old to have a calling reignited. You may be thinking, I heard God more when I was younger. God's call doesn't have an expiration date. You can be used by God even if you are struggling to see His will for you in this new season.

APPLICATION

- 3. Have consistency through the changes. If you feel yourself being called into something new, do not waiver. Samuel was saddened by Israel's desire for a King. You might not understand, but be obedient even in the new things God is calling you to.

 4. Have courage and consistency when you are called to confront
- 4. Have courage and consistency when you are called to confront something you may be afraid of. Samuel had a violent and temperamental king to confront. You can have courage in the face of confrontation.