

# The Call

March 4, 2018

## I. Three Questions About Communication With God

**Acts 12:25-13:3** When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

### 1. How Do I Know The Will of God?

- ***Start with God's general will and allow Him to direct His specific will.***

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

#### *A. It is God's will for you to know Him.*

**Romans 12:2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Acts 11:30** This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

**Acts 12:25** When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

#### *B. It is God's will for you to be faithful.*

##### **1. Be faithful to serve God and others.**

**1 John 2:17** The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

##### **2. Be faithful patiently.**

**Acts 13:1** Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

### *C. It is God's will for you to be fruitful.*

#### **1. Fruitfulness comes from faithfulness.**

**Matthew 25:21** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

#### **2. Fruitfulness comes from giftedness.**

**1 Corinthians 12:11** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

**Luke 16:10** “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

#### **3. Bloom where you are planted.**

- **Be faithful and fruitful where you are.**
- **Let God be the gardener.**

## **2. What Is The Call of God?**

### *A. Every person has a spiritual gift.*

**1 Corinthians 12:7** Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

#### **1. Everyone has a gift for the church.**

- **Everyone is a minister.**

**Ephesians 4:11-12** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

**Acts 13:2-3** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

#### **2. Everyone has a gift for the church. Some are a gift to the church.**

- **Everyone is a minister. Some are called to ministry.**
- **A shepherd's number one priority is the sheep.**

## *B. Start by doing God's will today.*

**1 Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

- 1. Prepare yourself for that to which He has called you.**
- 2. Listen for His voice.**
- 3. You cannot hear if you do not listen.**

## **3. How Do I Hear The Voice of God?**

**Acts 13:2-3** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

### *A. We hear God through His Word.*

**Acts 17:11** Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

- 1. If it does not line up with God's Word, it is not God's voice.**
- 2. Do not justify your own will by declaring it God's will.**

### *B. We hear God through His Spirit.*

**Acts 13:2** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

- 1. God will confirm His voice by His Spirit.**
- 2. Using the voice of God as a trump card is a risky tactic.**

### *C. We hear God through His people.*

**Acts 13:3** So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

**Proverbs 12:15** The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.

- No one else will tell you God's will for your life.**