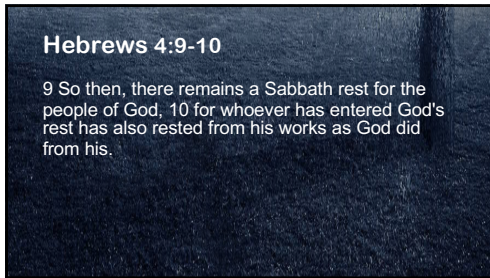
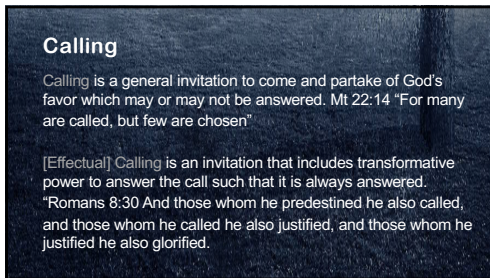




2



3



4

Calling

a profession or a vocation (1 Corinthians 7:20).
The "hope of your calling" in Ephesians 4:4 is the hope resulting from our being called into the kingdom of God for a specific purpose.

1. How we pay the bills and care for our family?
2. How we build the body of Christ?

5

Humans Are Hope Shaped Creatures

What we believe about our future determines how we will live today

6

Rest in Our Calling

1. Our calling produces hope and passion
2. Calling includes both natural and supernatural
3. Restricted in some ways, unrestricted in others

7

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8

Paul speaking to the Jerusalem Crowd



Acts 21:34-35
 And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude; and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle. **AND WHEN HE CAME UPON THE STAIRS**, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

9

Acts 22

6 "About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?' 8 "Who are you, Lord?' I asked. 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,' he replied.

10

Acts 22

9 My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me. 10 "What shall I do, Lord?" I asked. "Get up," the Lord said, "and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do." 11 My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

11

Acts 22

12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. 14 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;

12

Acts 22

15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' 17 "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance

13

Acts 22

18 and saw him saying to me, 'Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' 19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you

14

Acts 22

20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' 21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'

15

Acts 22

22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live." 23 And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air,

16

Acts 23

10 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. 11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

17

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18

Take Courage

Tharseō = to have courage:—be of good cheer (comfort) often translated "Take Heart" in the gospels. Gain hope from this thought.

19

Why?

Why would the prospect of lengthy imprisonment give hope to Apostle Paul?

20

Acts 20:22-24

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

21

Acts 20:22-24

24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

22

Philippians 3:8-9
8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

23

Philippians 3:8-9
9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith

24

Philippians 3:14
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

25

Just A Temporary Stop

Unfair is a temporary stop on our journey to justice and the favor of God. The Lord will use every injustice to strengthen us to fulfill our calling.

26

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27

Exodus 31

The Lord said to Moses, 2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, 4 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze,

28

Exodus 31

5 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. 6 And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you:

29

Insights from Bezalel

1. He was called by name
2. His entire life as a slave in Egypt was in preparation for the great honor of creating a dwelling place for God and man: the new Eden.
3. Learned artistic designs in fabric and metal as a career while in Egypt
4. Bezalel was called with others likewise gifted
5. Plunder of Egypt was used as building materials

30

Your Calling Begins Now

Your entire life and your career has been preparation for the great honor of creating a dwelling place for God and man in the earth called the Church. The Church is not a place or a non-profit organization but a group of people fashioned together to be a new Temple for God. All your experiences, both good and bad, have prepared you uniquely to help build this new Temple. You are ready to start the day you are born again.

31

How do I start in my calling?

1. Share your part in HIStory
2. Share what Christ has done for you
3. Share what you've learned along the way
4. Use your gifts to help others on their journey
5. Freely give God's Kindness and love to others

32

Paul's Imprisonment

1. Provided a regular platform to share the gospel through the means of his testimony in the legal process
2. Access to otherwise inaccessible up-and-outers
3. Gained sympathy with myriad of servants, soldiers and courtiers who could see the injustice of Paul's plight

33

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34

Acts 28:30-31
30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

35

Philippians 1:12-14
12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

36

We tend to focus on where we are restricted from what we want instead of focusing on where we are unrestricted to fulfill our calling

37

Great Opportunity for the Gospel

Paul's movements were restricted but he was afforded physical protection from the Jews and the opportunity to preach the gospel to up and outers of the ruling and judicial class who would have never have heard the gospel otherwise.

38

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

39

Hebrews 4:9-10

9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

40



41
