

# CLARIFYING THE CALL

## COMMON WAYS THAT PEOPLE ARE CALLED:

*This list is not exhaustive but should be used to help recognize the diversity of Godly calling into ministry.*

### **Damascus Road Call:**

Acts 9:4-6 (Paul's conversion and calling) - He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

- Direct
- Delineated in time
- May or may not be connected to an internal call for repentance
- This call, while it is direct and noted in time, it is followed by intentional discipleship and intentional ministry

### **Progressive Call:**

Moses' life was littered with progressive calls. His being spared from infanticide, passion to protect his people from the oppressors, calling by God to go back and lead God's people from slavery, calling to guide God's people to the promised land, calling to bring the commandments of God to the people, and so on.

- Happens over time
- Grows
- Is recognized out of strengths and weaknesses
- Matures over time
- It may change or solidify

### **Call From Birth:**

1 Samuel 1:11 (Samuel set apart before conception) - 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."

- A call that was apparent before maturity
- An unusual direct path into ministry
- It is seen early and fostered through life

Jeremiah 1:1-10... called and consecrated while in the womb, confirmed in his youth

Luke 1:13-17... John the Baptist

### **Recognized By The Godly Call:**

Exodus 4:4-17 (Aaron called out of Moses' protest) - Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses and he said, "What about your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and he will be glad to see you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this staff in your hand so you can perform the signs with it."

- Calling out of opportunity
- Calling out of availability
- Calling out of obedience
- Calling out of right place right time

## **TRAJECTORY EVALUATION:**

*Evidence of calling is not in perfection but in direction. Is the applicant walking towards these things?*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desire to serve God          | <input type="checkbox"/> Passion for Christ                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obedience to God's directing | <input type="checkbox"/> Submission to God's will                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humility in service          | <input type="checkbox"/> Pattern of growing maturity                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patterns of discipling       | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling is recognized and identified by others |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patterns of being discipled  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to ministering    |   |

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK:**

- Tell me about your calling into ministry.
- Why are you compelled to seek ministry credentials?
- Where have you seen God use you in the past?
- Where is God using you today?
- Where do you see yourself in ministry in the future?
- What keeps you solid in your calling to ministry when things are exceedingly difficult?
- What has made God's calling evident to you?
- How has your perspective of calling changed or grown in the past years?

## **OTHER SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:**

1 Timothy 2:3-7 - This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle - I am telling the truth, I am not lying - and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Ephesians 4:11-13 - 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 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Romans 1:6-7 - And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28-30 - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.