

SHOW ME THE WAY



CALLING & CONFUSION

General call of God - “Follow Me”

Extraordinary call of God - “Get up and go to the land I will show you...”

Specific call of God - “According to their abilities...”

general call

- Evangelism - Matthew 28:18-20

- 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[1] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- Loving others - Romans 13

- 9 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. 10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'

- Loving your neighbor - Mark 12

- 30 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'^[1] 31 The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'^[2] There is no commandment greater than these."

general call

- The ten commandments - Exodus 20
- Widows and orphans - Zechariah 7
 - 9 "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. 10 Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.'
- Serving God - Joshua 24:15
 - But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD ."
- Staying healthy - Numbers 11
 - 11 "Whoever touches the dead body of anyone will be unclean for seven days. 12 He must purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean.

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EXTRAORDINARY CALL

- New nations and peoples - Genesis 12
 - 1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you.
 - 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
- Redeeming nations - Exodus 3
 - 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."
- Speaking for God to the nation - Jeremiah 1
 - 7 But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD .
- Called by God to reach a specific people - Acts 19
 - 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

EXTRAORDINARY CALL

- God always initiates this kind of communication
 - We just have to be ready and willing, how easy is that?
- Extraordinary is mostly about kings and nations
 - or millions of people like Loren, It could happen to you...
- Usually happens at mature places or crucial change
 - How old are you?
- It's often a project, not a life
 - Nehemiah, Jonah, Paul, Esther...

SPECIFIC CALL

- According to your ability - Matthew 25
 - 15 To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.
- Made to multiply, to be like God - Genesis 1
 - 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."
- Using your unique identity - Psalm 139
 - 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.
- Called to take initiative - II Thes. 1:11
 - With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. 12We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ

SPECIFIC CALL

- Fulfill Godly desires - Psalm 37

- 3 Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.
5 Commit your way to the LORD ; trust in him and he will do this:
6 He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.
- 23 If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm;
24 though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

- To be supported by God in your II Chron 16:9

- "For [Prov 15:3; Jer 16:17; Zech 4:10] the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those [2 Chr 15:17] whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this.

- To do things that only you can do - John 14:12

- "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.

SLOTH

- Sloth is the desire for ease, even at the expense of doing the known will of God. Whatever we do in life requires effort. Everything we do is to be a means of salvation. The slothful person is unwilling to do what God wants because of the effort it takes to do it. Sloth becomes a sin when it slows down and even brings to a halt the energy we must expend in using the means to salvation.

Medieval theologian Thomas Aquinas said Sloth is "sluggishness of the mind which neglects to begin good... [it] is evil in its effect, if it so oppresses man as to draw him away entirely from good deeds."
(2,35, ad 1)

- **Why are the Seven Deadly Sins considered "deadly"?**
They are called "deadly" because they wound love, and therefore do great harm to our relationship with God and others. Eventually, they can kill the soul, in a sense. And they aren't much fun to live with, either.

- Sloth is the enemy of calling

- Calling is the enemy of sloth

QUESTIONS?

- Does God have a PLAN for your life
 - Yes - that you grow up and be His son, or His daughter, mature
 - No - He's not going to tell you what to do, why would He want to?
 - **Jer 29:11** - NAS
'For I know the **plans** that I have for you,' declares the LORD, '**plans** for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hop
 - **Jer 29:11** - Young's Literal Translation
For I have known the thoughts that I am thinking towards you -- an affirmation of Jehovah; thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give to you posterity and hope.
- Doesn't He know what's best?
 - Is this about security, or wisdom from God?
- Waiting on God or waiting for God
 - God always initiates when it's really important to Him

QUESTIONS?

- Is this me walking in independence?
- How do I start
- Should I just get married and they will show me the way?