

**Calling.** In Hebrews 5:1-5 we read <sup>1</sup>Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup>He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. <sup>3</sup>This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. <sup>4</sup>No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. <sup>5</sup>So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” (niv)

**“No one takes this honor (high priesthood) upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.”** Strong’s Concordance shows several Biblical meanings of the word “call:”

Greek	Definition	
<b>Kaleo</b>	A Divine call to partake of the blessings of redemption (Ro 8:30; 1 Co 1:9; 1 Th 2:12)	
	To be called by a name... suggesting either vocation or destination (Ro 9:25-26; Ac 15:37)	
<b>Eiskaleo</b>	To call in, to invite (Ac 10:23)	
<b>Epikaleo</b>	To be called by a person’s name; being dedicated to a person, as to the Lord (Ac 15:17; Ja 2:7)	
<b>Meta-kaleo</b>	Implying change ... to summon, to call from one place to another (Ac 7:14, 10:32, 20:17, 24:25)	
<b>Proskaleo</b>	To call to oneself, bid to come (MT10:1, Ac 5:40)	
	God’s call to Gentiles through the gospel (Ac 2:39)	
	The Divine call entrusting individuals with the preaching of the gospel (Ac 13:2, 16:10)	
<b>Klesis</b>	A calling ... the origin, nature and destiny of which are heavenly (the idea of invitation being implied)	
	Used especially of God’s invitation to individuals to accept the benefits of salvation (Ro 11:29, 1 Co 1:26, 7:20)	
	His calling	Ep 1:18
	High calling	Ph 3:14
	Your calling	2 Th 1:11; 2 Pe 1:10
	Holy calling	2 Ti 1:9
	Heavenly calling	Heb 3:1
	calling wherewith ye were called; in one hope of your calling.	Eph 4:1

What is a call from God? He clearly calls all men everywhere to repent,<sup>1</sup> and to believe on the Son. A subsequent calling is to live a life which reflects His glory. A third calling, under consideration here, is *kaleo*, whereby one is “selected from among men” (Hebrews 5:1 - niv) to serve the Lord in some capacity.<sup>2</sup> Selection from among, and by, men is clear, but what does “called by God” mean? **What is this calling?** Is it the same as His will? How is it discerned – by a voice? An inner “stirring?” A “conviction?” (mormons say “a burning in their bosom” confirms their faith, so, various sensations may be presumed to “confirm” things for some people.) Is it an “Eureka” or a “ding” moment? A series of “ding”s? Is His calling a thought, an internal feeling or restlessness in the soul which grows to where it becomes so strong a compulsion that the person can “do no other thing” and assumes God has called? What of the “compulsion” which seems “from God,” to hear them tell it, propelling some Christians to murder abortionists? Is His calling discerned or confirmed because “others” say “God has called you?” If men select and appoint those called by God, how are the selectors aware of God’s calling on a person’s life? How is the selectee aware of it?

What if several call “indicators” occur together? (the Word seems to place a thought in one’s head which grows into a conviction, then “coincidentally,” or “providentially,” a book read, sermon or program heard, or someone at church mentions that God must have called one to the thing being thought about, and internal urgings have been growing stronger to do it ... Can we know

it is God’s calling?)

How do Christians correctly respond to various stimuli with the certainty that their response is to God’s calling, and not to some powerful longing, hormonal imbalance(s), hare-brained idea(s), other urging(s) (onions before bedtime, pressure from well-meaning friends, etc.), group psychology or even demonic delusion?

Inquire of God to discern a genuine kind of calling from Him. FIRST test every spirit, to see if what is thought to be a “calling” is truly from God. This can be done by a deep and healthy search in the Scriptures to see if God approves or disapproves of such an idea, or if others were similarly called, and if they were, what was their response and how did God confirm it with them? During study and meditation it is good if nothing is said to others about the subject, to avoid the bleating cacophony of personal wishes, motives, “ideas,” and advice (wheth-

<sup>1</sup> ... He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil. Job 36:10, Acts 17:30

<sup>2</sup> What is the meaning of life? This core question of the soul has an answer! The answer is neither a philosophy, a technique, a job, nor a cause. The answer is a person: Jesus Christ! You are called to a relationship with Him and then you are called to do something for Him. (w permission, Gary O’Malley, *Intentional Living On-Path*, p. 42.)

er well meant, informed, or neither) from others. In quietness and reflection His sheep may more clearly hear His quiet voice (1 Kings 19:12, Psalms 46:10, John 10:27, Revelation 3:20).

Second, during extensive study of the Word over a significant period of time, enter into considerable prayer and fasting to 1) search out personal motives and 2) discern God's opinion of the idea. There may already be evident human skills, talents or giftedness in what the calling will entail, or there may be NO giftedness whatsoever, requiring extensive preparation for any task(s) ahead. There may be great willingness or receptivity to the call (Noah, Isaiah, Joseph, Mary, the twelve, William Carey, Jim Elliot), or possible great reluctance, which God is overcoming (Moses, Jonah, Gideon, Paul, George Mueller, Franklin Graham). In Samuel's case (1 Samuel 3:7) the Word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him, but upon the third call from God he "got it." Afraid to tell Eli the vision (3:15), Eli made him reveal all. Samuel's call from then on is history.

Third, during prayer and a thorough search of God's Word, seek the counsel of godly men and women not subject to whim, whimsy, wind or waves of opinion, and who are, themselves, thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures.

Fourth, the test of time may sometimes reveal whether a calling is from God, for, if it is, an urgency (sometimes a deepening heart-peace) to heed the call will increase. On the other hand, there may be no sense of peace, or even a growing alarm, or the idea or inclination may simply dissipate, until abandoned. The test of time is not the best one, because our enemy, like a roaring lion, seeks to delay, obfuscate, confuse or distract us from fulfilling God's calling. "Feelings" and emotions are highly subject to many things such as fatigue, depression, excitement, "obligation," zeal, delusion, etc., and easily exploited by a wily and cunning enemy.

When there is neither a "confirming sense of peace" nor a "forbidding" it may appear quite neutral as to whether God is calling or not to the thing one wants, or feels "led," to do. Lacking His clear and definite direction, one might safely proceed or defer. When God makes it clear, it is clear. When He doesn't, it may be we are 1) insensitive to His voice, 2) secretly resisting his call, 3) not hearing HIS voice at all, but the voice of another, or, 4) He may be checking to see if we are willing. In all these He might continue to call – or cease. If one is reluctant, one could even say: "Lord, I am not presently willing to respond, but, if You are calling me, I am willing to be made willing. Please make it clear, Lord." Or, 5) He may allow us to proceed so that He can work out all things in our lives for good (if we are the called according to His purpose), and HE gets all the glory.

Many years ago a colleague claimed that God told him he did not need to submit monthly reports. Our boss replied, "If that is so, wouldn't God have told me, too?" Should there be confirmation of a calling from God?

Have you met breathless people in churches who enthusiastically pour out "things God has told them," or who "**know** that so and so is called of God,"<sup>3</sup> but there is never any way to accurately confirm or refute their claims? Furthermore, the "messenger's position"<sup>4</sup> may be suspect, or unclear, at best.

Some claim to be called by God because of their very evident or extraordinary talent and abilities, and maybe even an entrepreneurial flair, and they have been fawned over by others who "know" or "believe" God is calling, or has called, them. However well some may begin in such cases, self aggrandizement, or the lure of filthy lucre may eventually overwhelm to where they no longer honor or serve God, but plunge into building their own empires, and not His work. Others may start out with an unabashedly clear agenda to "make money while the sun shines," as admirers cheer them on.<sup>5</sup> Some may even become so inflated as to grandly conclude they are "God's anointed, and not to be touched."<sup>6</sup> How, once off the track, can they know they are not called by God? How can we?

Inspect the fruit.

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<sup>3</sup> In June, 2008, an overseas friend called to excitedly laud a man leading a crusade in Lakeland, Florida, stating he was "definitely from God." Some research showed the preacher exhibited many bizarre behaviors, even saying the Lord ordered him to tattoo his entire body despite clear prohibition in Leviticus 19:28. Eventually the crusade was sent away from the host church, the man went to Europe, divorced his wife, and remarried. Whose calling was this?

<sup>4</sup> Phrase coined by Ken Schaaf.

<sup>5</sup> "In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping." 2 Peter 2:3 (niv)

<sup>6</sup> 1 Chronicles 16:35 and Psalms 105:15 states the children of Israel are not to be touched because they are "my anointed." In that sense, all who are born again are His anointed. The Lord also says in both verses "do no harm to" his prophets.

Does God’s will in our lives mean doing a specific thing in a particular situation, while His calling has more to do with a long-term commitment? Some matters of concern (such as who should I marry? or Is it God’s will to marry this one or that one?) may appear to be both. Marriage has to do with life-long commitment, so, is it possible God calls us to marry a certain person? Could a choice to attend or not attend a certain event be explained as “God’s will” (as in *Insh’Allah*), or “He did, or did not, call me...?” Is there a distinction between His will and His calling, which may appear parallel in some cases? Part of the difficulty in distinction could be semantics, accompanied by some antics! Are His will and calling synonymous? They appear to be generally different, although they could be specifically the same in some instances.

Are humility, “teachability,” or certitude factors in God’s calling?

Because a clear calling of God is not precisely defined, the concept, or words, are often bandied about. God’s Word covers a lot of ground ... Following are many *niv* verses dealing with the subject of calling, called, call, calls, etc., but different from *epikaleo*, as in “They called Him Jesus.”

The root question: How can one know for sure that God is calling him or her into HIS service? <sup>7</sup>

Observation(s)	Address	Verse
Audible, conversational voice	Gen 3:9	... the Lord God <b>called</b> to the man, “Where are you?”
	1Sa 3:10	The Lord came and stood there, <b>calling</b> as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”
	Lev 1:1	The Lord <b>called</b> to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting.
Audible summons – others may realize God is calling us.	1Sa 3:4-7, 8	The Lord called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you <b>called</b> me.” Then Eli realized that the Lord was <b>calling</b> the boy.
Audible summons – from within the bush	Ex 3:4	... God <b>called</b> to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”
Audible summons – from within the cloud	Ex 24:16	and the glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the Lord <b>called</b> to Moses from within the cloud.
Audible summons – with specific instructions	Ex 19:3	Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord <b>called</b> to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob ...
Audible summons – to a specific place	Ex 19:20	The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and <b>called</b> Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up
God “calls forth generations”	Isa 41:4	Who has done this and carried it through, <b>calling</b> forth the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord – with the first of them and with the last – I am he.”
God summons	2 K 3:10	“What!” exclaimed the king of Israel. “Has the Lord <b>called</b> us three kings together only to hand us over to Moab?”
Call to a city to repent	Isa 22:12	The Lord, the Lord Almighty, <b>called</b> you on that day to weep and to wail, to tear out your hair and put on sackcloth.
Called to a specific task	Is 41:9	... I <b>called</b> you. I said, ‘You are my servant’; I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
God affirms that He calls people	Is 48:15	I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have <b>called</b> him. I will bring him, and he will succeed in his mission.
God clearly calls	Is 48:12	“Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have <b>called</b> : I am he; I am the first and I am the last.
	Eze 3:9	... Then the LORD <b>called</b> to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side
	Joe 2:32	... there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord <b>calls</b> .
	Mat 2:15	... And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I <b>called</b> my son.”

<sup>7</sup> The call and qualification for the gospel ministry a sermon by J. C. Philpot (1802-1869) can be read at [www.gracegems.org/20/ministry\\_of\\_the\\_gospel4b.htm](http://www.gracegems.org/20/ministry_of_the_gospel4b.htm)

Observation(s)	Address	Verse
	Gal 5:8	That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who <b>calls</b> you.
	Rom 9:12	not by works but by him who <b>calls</b> – she was told...
God calls, in righteousness, to a specific task	Is 42:6	“I, the Lord, have <b>called</b> you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,
It is possible to reject God’s call. <i>“See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?” Hebrews 12:25 niv</i>	Is 50:2	When I came, why was there no one? When I <b>called</b> , why was there no one to answer? Was my arm too short to ransom you? Do I lack the strength to rescue you? By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert; their fish rot for lack of water and die of thirst.
	Is 65:12	I will destine you for the sword, and you will all bend down for the slaughter; for I <b>called</b> but you did not answer, I spoke but you did not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me.”
	Is 66:4	so I also will choose harsh treatment for them and will bring upon them what they dread. For when I <b>called</b> , no one answered, when I spoke, no one listened. They did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me.”
	Jer 7:13	While you were doing all these things, declares the Lord, I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I <b>called</b> you, but you did not answer.
	Jer 35:17	‘Listen! I am going to bring on Judah and on everyone living in Jerusalem every disaster I pronounced against them. I spoke to them, but they did not listen; I <b>called</b> to them, but they did not answer.’
	Hos 2:23	I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I <b>called</b> ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those <b>called</b> ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’ “
	Hos 11:1-2	“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I <b>called</b> my son. But the more I <b>called</b> Israel, the further they went from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.
	Zec 7:13	“ ‘When I <b>called</b> , they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the Lord Almighty.
His call is not dependent on special physical or religious qualifications	1 Co 7:18	Was a man already circumcised when he was <b>called</b> ? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was <b>called</b> ? He should not be circumcised.
Symbolic? “Listen!” The form of the Call is not specified	Mic 6:9	Listen! The Lord is <b>calling</b> to the city ...
Whom He calls He equips	Mat 10:1 (& Lu9:1)	He <b>called</b> his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.
	2 Pe 1:3	His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who <b>called</b> us by his own glory and goodness.
He calls – even before our birth	Is 49:1	... hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord <b>called</b> me; ...
He calls – by His grace	Ga 1:15	But when God, who set me apart from birth and <b>called</b> me by his grace, was pleased
He calls – to move closer to Him, regardless of our physical condition	Lu 13:12	When Jesus saw her, he <b>called</b> her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.”
	Jn 11:43	When he had said this, Jesus <b>called</b> in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”
He calls – according to HIS purpose	Ro 8:28	... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been <b>called</b> according to his purpose.
He calls – the predestined, and justifies, then glorifies, them	Ro 8:30	And those he predestined, he also <b>called</b> ; those he <b>called</b> , he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
He calls – Jew and non-Jew, alike	Ro 9:24 (& 1 Co 1:24)	even us, whom he also <b>called</b> , not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?
He calls – both qualified and unqualified (in eyes of the world)	1 Co 1:26	Brothers, think of what you were when you were <b>called</b> . Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

Observation(s)	Address	Verse
He calls – people of all ages	Lu 18:16	But Jesus <b>called</b> the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, ...
He may call in a vision	Ac 9:10	In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord <b>called</b> to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered.
	Ac 16:10	After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had <b>called</b> us to preach the gospel to them.
Called to a specific task: be an apostle	Ro 1:1 (& 1Co 1:1)	Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, <b>called</b> to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-
Called to a specific task: live in peace	1 Co 7:15	But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has <b>called</b> us to live in peace.
Called to a specific task: belong to Christ and be called saints	Ro 1:6-7	And you also are among those who are <b>called</b> to belong to Jesus Christ. To all in Rome who are loved by God and <b>called</b> to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
Called to a specific task: assigned by the Lord	1 Co 7:17	... each one should retain the place in life that the Lord assigned to him and to which God has <b>called</b> him.
May God count the called worthy of His calling	2Th 1:11	... that our God may count you worthy of his <b>calling</b> , ...
His call should not cause one to seek to become what he is not, or to “change the situation of” his calling	1 Co 7:20-22; 24	<sup>20</sup> Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God <b>called</b> him. <sup>21</sup> Were you a slave when you were <b>called</b> ? Don’t let it trouble you – although if you can gain your freedom, do so. <sup>22</sup> For he who was a slave when he was <b>called</b> by the Lord is the Lord’s freedman; similarly, he who was a free man when he was <b>called</b> is Christ’s slave. <sup>24</sup> Brothers, each man, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation God <b>called</b> him to.
It is possible to desert the One Who calls us	Ga 1:6	I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who <b>called</b> you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-
Worthiness after the call	Eph 4:1	As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the <b>calling</b> you have received.
The called “are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ”	Jude 1:1	Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been <b>called</b> , who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:
He called us to suffer for Him	1 Pe 2:19-21	<sup>19</sup> For it is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God. <sup>20</sup> But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. <sup>21</sup> To this you were <b>called</b> , because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.
He calls us – to be holy and to live a holy life	1 Co 1:2	To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and <b>called</b> to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ-their Lord and ours:
	2 Tim 1:9	who has saved us and <b>called</b> us to a holy life-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. ...
	1 Pe 1:5	But just as he who <b>called</b> you is holy, so be holy in all you do;
He calls us – to be free, but not to indulge the sinful nature (flesh, kjv)	Ga 5:13	You, my brothers, were <b>called</b> to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.
He calls us – to peace	Col 3:15	Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were <b>called</b> to peace. And be thankful.
He calls us – to sanctity and will sanctify the called	1 Th 5:23-24	<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who <b>calls</b> you is faithful and he will do it.
He calls us – to take hold of eternal life	1 Ti 6:12	... Take hold of the eternal life to which you were <b>called</b> when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
He calls us – “to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit” through the gospel	2 Th 2:13-14	<sup>13</sup> ... God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He <b>called</b> you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Observation(s)	Address	Verse
God calls us – into spiritual leadership	Heb 5:4	No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be <b>called</b> by God, just as Aaron was.
Others may share in the heavenly calling	Heb 3:1	Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly <b>calling</b> , fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.
The called will receive promised eternal inheritance	Heb 9:15	... those who are <b>called</b> may receive the promised eternal inheritance
God may call us to unknown destinations	He 11:8	By faith Abraham, when <b>called</b> to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.
He has called us out of darkness into his wonderful light.	1 Pe 2:9	... declare the praises of him who <b>called</b> you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
His called are chosen and faithful followers	Rev 17:14	They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings-and with him will be his <b>called</b> , chosen and faithful followers."
He called us to bless	1 Pe 3:9	Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were <b>called</b> so that you may inherit a blessing.
He called us to His eternal glory in Christ	1 Pe 5:10	And the God of all grace, who <b>called</b> you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, ...
Calling and election can falter if not made sure.	2Pe 1:10	Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your <b>calling</b> and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,

Considering these many verses above, some questions should be asked, and some conclusions may be reached:

**1) How does one know that God, and not someone, or something else, is calling?**

- a. Through confirmation of the Word, God's voice, His irresistible attraction. There is a mystical quality to God's calling. As one waits upon the Lord, HE will make it clear. Waiting, fasting, prayer and humility are both essential and unavoidable in this process.
- b. Through confirmation of others who, without prompting, reflect what you've been thinking or sensing. Perhaps they do something which, for them, is out of the ordinary such as read a Scripture to you which is God's precise confirmation or agreement with your being drawn, or, you may hear someone pray that God will confirm your call with HIM even though that person has no idea you are sensing such a call.
- c. Patience until endued with power. ***"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*** Lu. 24:49 (Whom He calls He equips)

**2) Is His call always audible? Can it be silent?**

- a. For Moses, Jonah, Samuel, Jeremiah, Philip, Paul and many others it was audible
- b. For Isaiah, there was first an awareness of his sin, next a cleansing, and then he heard
- c. Barnabas, Timothy, it is unknown
- d. For all, whether audible or silent, it is unavoidable and inescapable.

**3) What may be physical, mental or emotional cues or signals that one has been called by God?**

- a. An awareness of inadequacy for the task of the call, or a sense of humility about receiving or embracing the task. See J. C. Philpot's sermon "The CALL and QUALIFICATIONS for the Gospel Ministry" at [http://gracegems.org/20/ministry\\_of\\_the\\_gospel4b.htm](http://gracegems.org/20/ministry_of_the_gospel4b.htm)
- b. An awareness that teachers will be judged more strictly. (James 3:1)
- c. There may be a sense of "woe to me if I do not obey..."
- d. Desire to obey the Word (it might be a "burden," with no rest from the Lord until we comply.)
- e. A Godly constraint.

**4) What may characterize the life or attitudes of one called by God?**

- a. Outflow and overflow of service, not an overload of duty...
- b. An internal groaning ...
- c. Recognition of the call...
- d. The burden will not be relented...

- e. Unconcern about the dimension of the call, but asking oneself if you want to know HIM and obey HIM, today...
- f. Discovery that as one follows light (however much or little), there is a striving to respond to it... and more light is given.
- g. Gentleness among believers, not lording it over them (1 Thess 2:7, 1 Pe 5:3 niv)

**5) What may be the responsibilities of one who is called by God?**

- a. Accept God's call to ANY task.
  - i. Joseph – become a slave, prisoner, teller of dreams and second in command of Egypt
  - ii. Job – suffer intensely for God's glory
  - iii. Jonah – warn Nineveh
  - iv. Paul and Silas, Barnabas and Mark, Peter – carry gospel to gentiles, despite enormous difficulties
  - v. Steven – yield life for God's glory (Acts 7:59-60)
  - vi. Philip – abandon a successful evangelistic campaign in Samaria to go sit in the desert, in the path of the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:5-27)
  - vii. Shunammite woman, Lydia, Gaius – homes open to God's servants. (2 Kings 4:8-10, Acts 16:13-15, 3 John 5-8)
  - viii. Joanna and Susanna – support the work by giving of their own means (Luke 8:3).
- b. "... God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29
  - i. One can do "no other" thing
  - ii. Develop skills necessary to fulfill the call
  - iii. Realize one's Spiritual gifts which may already qualify one for the call.
  - iv. Have a yearning to demonstrate the validity of Scriptures, to "prove" the Lord, as Müller (George Mueller) demonstrated the truth of Heb 13:8 ("*Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and forever...*")

**6) How do those who select, commission or appoint determine or confirm a call by God, so they can properly commission the person called?**

**7) What would be some clear warning signals that something is amiss, and that a person is NOT called by, or is disobedient to God's calling?**

- a. He equips whom He calls, but not all with human skills or talents are called.
- b. A lack of humility.
- c. Evident unsuitability or unwillingness for the task(s) of the call whilst engaged in those tasks.
- d. Excuses made for behaviors which discredit, shame, or stain the Lord's reputation. Saul hid and made excuses for his disobedience (1 Samuel 15:15-21), but David confessed openly (1 Samuel 12:13).
- e. False motives or "hidden" agenda.

**8) How can one called by God know that God's calling has been deserted, or that God has "moved the cloud," or "the pillar of fire?" How can others know it?**

- a. Death of the vision.
- b. Loss of integrity in the work or worker.
- c. Total discouragement in the call should be distinct from normal "combat fatigue" which may indicate rest is needed, although the call is yet alive and well.

**9) What does "others may share in the heavenly calling" (Hebrews 3:1) mean?**

- a. First, all are called to follow Christ.
- b. Then all are called to manifest Him in daily life.
- c. Some may do specific, time delimited, tasks at His bidding.
- d. Some may go into full time work at His bidding. "*Set apart Paul and Barnabas...*" Ac 13:2

**10) To select, commission or appoint a person to God's calling, what role does Spiritual gifting play in the life of the one called? (Romans 12:6-21, 1 Corinthians 12)**

- a. Desperation, hunger for, or need of someone to “fill a position” is no substitute for God’s calling (haste makes waste).
- b. When gifted (or not) by God, hindsight reveals all. Therefore, exercise wise foresight.
- c. Even those who have appropriate Spiritual gifts need to learn, grow in experience, may fail, or may fall into sin (Jonah). Momentary lapses or shortcomings may be expected, but be on the alert for long-term problems, and re-evaluate along the way.

**11) “in the church God has appointed” a wide variety of callings for those who will work in His vineyard. Since HE appoints them, what are some indicators of His appointment?**

- a. A humble desire to do His bidding, even though “not qualified” in the eyes of the world.
- b. Spiritual gifting to fulfill the call.
- c. Action. The person is DOING what he or she has been called to do.
- d. Fruitfulness.
- e. Growing conviction, burden and focus to carry out the call.
- f. Increasing grace in the life of the called in the face of obstacles.
- g. Great joy in fulfilling the call – “square peg in the square hole.”

**12) Be alert –**

- a. Beware placing people in positions of power if they are not called by God. Some, because of professional, financial, or secular achievement, have been unwisely and disastrously placed in positions of sacerdotal or ecclesiastical authority.
- b. Professional, educational or wealth qualifications can, but do not necessarily, demonstrate God’s Spiritual gifting. Professional administrators who lack the gift of administration may bring shame or catastrophe in the church or ministry. A poorly educated person who has the gift of teaching may bring Scriptures to life in a convicting and meaningful way, whereas a professional teacher who lacks the gift of teaching can render Scripture boring and deadly. God’s calling is not the same as worldly qualifications.
- c. Beware those who would add church or ministry leadership to their list of credentials or accomplishments – their resumé. God’s servants should have a humble awareness that God is in charge and the work is always HIS. He is the Good Shepherd...

**13) Other thoughts?**

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Consider [How to choose the right missionary](#) by Marjory Foyle

Oswald Chamber wrote, in **Still Higher for His Highest**:

“The Christian worker must be sent; he must not elect to go. Beware of demanding that people go into work, it is a craze; the majority of saved souls are not fit to feed themselves yet.

How can I know that I have been sent of God?

First, by the realization that I am utterly weak and powerless and if I am to be of any use to God, God must do it all the time – Is this the humiliating certainty of my soul, or merely a sentimental phrase?

Second, because I know I have to point men to Jesus Christ, not get them to think what a holy man I am. The only way to be sent is to let God lift us right out of any sense of fitness in ourselves and place us where He will.”