

WHY
MANY ARE CALLED
BUT
FEW ARE CHOSEN

The Distinguishing Factor

Charles Emmanuel

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**WHY MANY ARE CALLED BUT FEW ARE
CHOSEN:** *The Distinguishing Factor*

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BONUS!

Demon activity is increasing in every facet of society today. Marriages are falling apart, fathers are running away from parenting responsibilities; couples would rather shack up than getting married, suicide and violent crimes are on the rise. This is all happening because politics has eroded the pulpit and good values and beliefs are compromised for the sake of political correctness.

FOREWORD

INTRODUCTION

Do you sense the call of God upon your life but have no idea where to start from? Are you lost for clarity on how to go about fulfilling His assignment for you? Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed just thinking about the fact that God might be calling you to make a difference in this world?

Having sensed the call of God upon my life as a teenager with little or no guidance to follow, I have been there and I totally understand you. So in "Why Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen", I want to help you lay the right foundation for what could be one of the greatest callings and ministries of this generation and the next (if Jesus tarries)

When you hear of the terminology "call" I am sure, several things run through your mine. However, I will have you know that our subject here is "the call of God"

Why Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen

In describing this on one occasion, Paul the apostle referred to it as a “high calling” He knew that being called of God for whatever purpose it may be is the most honorable and prestigious thing that can happen to any man in this world. As far as He was concerned nothing could be better!

If for any reason you are feeling unfit and unequipped for the job God is calling you to, don't worry. I have you covered in this book too. As a matter of fact, the time you are through with this book, you will understand why it is absolutely okay to feel this way. You will also learn how that feeling can actually be turned into fuel for the fulfillment of your assignment from God.

The premise of this book is that it is one thing to be called but a totally different ball game to be chosen. Whereas being called is a function of God's sovereign decision with absolutely no involvement from you, becoming the chosen requires some steps on your part. And in the next couple of pages, I will help you identify those steps and strategies to implement them in your life.

It is even more mind blowing to discover that one common thing about all those God ever called in the bible is the fact that they weren't really spectacular people! They weren't those you call the happening guys or those who could even stand a chance amongst their peers. They were just ordinary people in whom God's ability was mightily at work to do the extraordinary! So don't be quick to conclude that you can't be amongst the called because you will be surprised to know that you are right on top of that list!

The Lord Jesus made it even more disturbing when in line with teaching about the kingdom of God and how it functions, He made a very remarkable statement. He said "*many are called but few are chosen*" In other words, Jesus was saying that even though the call of God is free and unmerited, many of the called just end up being numbered amongst the called whereas there is more. At best, most of the called only get shortlisted but never picked out, nominated but never awarded!

As such, the questions I endeavored to answer in this book are:

Why Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen

- “Why is it that of the many that are called only few are chosen?”
- What is it about the few that are chosen that the majority are not privy to?
- What is the basis for choosing only few after so many had been selected or enlisted?”

Come right on, let’s explore the wisdom of the Spirit of God on this all important subject as you discover what puts just a few in God’s top list. I am convinced in my heart that this will revolutionize your entire life and put springs in your feet as you set out for the actualization of the purposes of God for your life. And I will like to heartily say congratulations in advance for making it to God’s elite class!

Yours in His service

Charles Emmanuel

President & Founder: Divine Life Ministries Int'l

Founder: Charles Emmanuel School Of Ministry

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to YOU - the called of God. It is my prayer that as you flip through these pages, you will find the clarity you need to pursue your assignment with Christ-like compassion in Jesus name.

CHAPTER ONE

THE CALL OF GOD

In order for us to begin to find answers to the reasons "Why Many Are Called But Few Are Chosen", it is important that we begin by getting to understand what the call really is. In many Christian circles today, the term "call" is associated with being called into the fivefold ministry offices listed in Eph 4:11.

Meanwhile, there is a lot more to the subject than just that. As a matter of fact, a careful study of this subject reveals that there were more people called in the bible who weren't called into the fivefold ministry than the number of those who were called into the fivefold ministry! So it will be erroneous to limit its definition to just those who are called into the fivefold ministry.

To start with, the word translated as “*call*” in the bible does not really refer to the conventional meaning of call or the call used in terms of placing a telephone call to a friend. It is derived from the Greek word “*kaleo*” which means to bid, call forth and surname a person. It means to issue a command, to direct and to instruct.

This presupposes that it is much more than a courtesy call or a suggestion to the one involved. It is actually the issue of a command or an instruction that leaves the “*called*” with no other alternative than to respond accordingly.

*To be called therefore means to have received a command,
an instruction and a direction for your life!*

What It Really Means To Be Called

The Greek connotation also means to surname a person. And to explain this, I will like for us to take it from the simple meaning of “*name*” as used in scriptures.

While in the natural, we simply refer to a name as a means of identifying a person; in scripture language, a name is something much more than just an identity. It goes beyond just what you call someone. It is a description of a person’s character and authority.

A perfect example is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. While there were several people who went by the name Jesus when He was on earth; there is no other person named Jesus

who is also the Christ. The name Christ in itself means the anointed one and the anointing that makes Him the Messiah. There was and still is only one Jesus in the whole universe who is ever described as the Christ. There is only one Jesus who was anointed to be the messiah of the world. So Christ is much more than His last name but a statement of His character and authority. It qualifies the Jesus we are talking about and distinguished him from the rest of the world. This is what names refer to in Bible language.

The scripture tells us about Peter and John on their way to the temple at the hour of prayer. A certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple. When this man saw the apostles, he asked for alms from them.

“And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.”

(Acts 3:4-8)

The phrase “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth” here doesn’t look like he was referring to someone’s identity; does it? He was talking about an authority and a character. He meant

that he was acting in the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. That was why when he was later accused and asked how he was able to do this, the accusers who were learned in the law chose their words carefully when they asked:

“...By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?”
(Acts 4:7)

They understood that a name represents power and authority so they wanted to find out which authority these ordinary men used when they did this great work of power!

Another example is the case of one Joses in the early church. The Bible declares that several of the believers gave for the work of the ministry at the time. The Bible records that as many as were possessors of lands and houses sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them at the apostles' feet and distribution was made to every man in accordance with their needs.

But then, it appeared like the church couldn't do much in the area of missions and extension ministries until this man named Joses also sold his land and brought the money to the apostles. Evidently, the value of the land that Joses sold surpassed the rest that the others sold and the disciples were greatly consoled in the fact that they could now do much more than they had earlier done. It was then that they “*surnamed*” this Joses “*Barnabas*” which means “*the son of consolation*”! **(See: Acts 4:36)**

While there were several people who sold their lands and houses and gave the money for the work of the ministry, there was only one however who was surnamed, Barnabas. Even if amongst the givers, there were others named Joses, it was only one Joses that is identified by the character of a son of consolation!

So the surname here is not necessarily Joses' family name but a name that describes the character of this man in question. It is in this sense that the word "*call*" is also defined as a surname.

To be called therefore means to be surnamed or vested with the authority and character to function in line with a certain vocation or task that the Lord has chosen you for.

The Definition Of The Call Of God

When we say someone has been called, it both means that he has received a command and an instruction for life as well as he has been surnamed or given a character and an authority to function in a defined direction in life. Nevertheless, for the purpose of this teaching, I will like to define the call as:

"A supernatural instruction, invitation or summon of Almighty God to an ordinary and unspectacular person to carry out an extraordinary task that separates and distinguishes him from the rest of the world."

In the definition above, you will see that I implied that the call comes from God. This differentiates it from ambition or a dream that may be self-generated or inspired by other factors of life. This equally differentiates a call from a profession or vocation that you have chosen for yourself.

When we talk about the call, we are talking about God instructing, directing and summoning an individual for a defined task. We are talking about God reaching out and hand picking a particular person to take responsibility for the actualization of a dream or plan that the He has in His mind. The call is God reaching out to an individual to become His partner in the solving of a problem He has identified and is concerned about.

Why God Calls Men

When you read in Psalms 115:16, the bible says:

“The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.”
(Psalm 115:16)

“The heaven of heavens is for God but he put us in charge of the earth”
(Psalm 115:16 - MSG)

What the Spirit is communicating to us here is the fact that while God lives in heaven, He has given the children of men the charge over the earth. As such, even if He wanted to actualize something here on earth, He requires a man to do so. Hence He

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calls and separates men for specific assignments that He has designed and carefully thought out.

Take the call of Moses for example; the Bible records that while Moses was busy about his occupation (keeping the flock of Jethro his father-in-law) at the time, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the bush. As Moses looked, he observed that the bush burned and yet, the bush was not consumed!

“And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.”

(Ex 3:3)

Something I will like you to note here is the fact that after this occasion, God never appeared to Moses for any reason in a burning bush again. This only occurred once because the Lord wanted to get Moses’ attention. It is the same thing with God trying to get people’s attention today but unfortunately, some of them are too busy about their work and life that they do not even notice that the Lord was trying to get to them.

Always remember that God always talks to the man that cares. You cannot be too busy that God can’t even reach you and expect to make something meaningful out of your life or call.

The Lord set up this interesting site just to get Moses to listen to Him and I will like to state categorically that until God got his attention, He didn't utter a word to Moses!

“And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.”

(Ex 3:4)

After God had his attention and they began to converse, the Lord introduced Himself to Moses as the God of his fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. Then God stated His mission and assignment in clear terms because He knew it will take clarity of the call for the called to ever fulfill his calling.

“And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;”

(Ex 3:7)

From this verse of scripture, you will discover that the Israelites who had been in bondage for several years have been crying unto God for deliverance. Year after year they pleaded their case before the Almighty and hoped that he would one day save them from their wicked taskmasters. From all indications, God heard their prayers and wanted to do something about their predicament for the Bible records that He even said He had

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surely seen their afflictions, heard their cry and knew their sorrows.

Nevertheless, the fact that God lived in heaven and had given the earth to the children of men meant that He could personally do nothing on the earth without the use of a human being. Get this, only beings with a physical body have the license to live and function in the earth. So he needed someone licensed to function in the earth to help fulfill His plan of deliverance for the Israelites.

In the same way, God is counting on you for the actualization of something really dear to His heart today and it is my earnest prayer that like never before, you will walk in the fulfillment of that calling in Jesus name.

So in verse eight, the Lord said to Moses:

“And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.”

(Ex 3:8)

For a while, Moses may have said “*Wow! Lord, you are come down? Let me quickly go and tell the Israelites that you are come down to deliver them and to bring them into a good and a large land that flows with milk and honey*”

Moses may have even thought “*Oh, at last, there is a way out of this almost four hundred years of bondage*” but just before Moses could finalize any funny ideas he was having, the Lord added:

“Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”
(Ex 3:9-10)

Now the Lord lets the cat out of the bag!

He tells Moses that on account of the cry of the people that had come unto Him and because of the oppression wherewith they were oppressed by the Egyptians, He was going to send Moses to bring forth His people out of Egypt.

At this point, Mr. Moses would have wondered, “*Lord, I thought you said you were come down to deliver your people? How come you are talking about sending me again?*” But here is the point I wanted to make from this account.

When God has a task He intends to accomplish in the earth, He does it by finding a man to send. When He finds one, He calls that one and gives him the mandate to actualize His plan. God comes to the aid of people only in and through the called!

Over in the New Testament, as soon as the first miracle occurred while Peter and John were on their way to the temple

at the hour of prayer, the Bible records that the authorities frowned at what had happened. The Sadducees came upon them and kept them in detention till the following day. On the following day, their rulers, elders, scribes, Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John and Alexander all gathered together at Jerusalem. Then they called Peter and John in and asked them “*by what power or by what name, have you done this?*”

Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost responded and told them all that was done was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth whom they all crucified but God raised from the dead. After a long conversation, they decided to let them go but with a strict warning to see to it that they preached or taught no more in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Peter and John went to their own company where they reported the whole matter, especially what the chief priests and elders had said to them. After hearing that, the church lifted up their voices to God in prayer. They reported the matter to the Lord and asked that He would grant them boldness to speak the word like they ought to and that He would stretch forth His hand to heal and perform signs and wonders in the name of Jesus Christ. Having prayed this way, they went about their daily business expecting the answer of the Lord.

You know sometimes I wonder what in the world they expected as an answer to this prayer. Whether they were hoping that hands will come out of heaven to get the job done or what? But God sure answered in a way that is typical of the way He

operates and functions in the earth today. He answered through the “*called out ones*”

Just in the next chapter, we read:

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.”

(Acts 5:12)

Does anyone have a reason to say God didn't answer their prayers? Isn't this obviously an answer to their heartfelt prayers?

Always remember that the church is the body of Christ and He always functions in the earth through His body rather than His person!

The Lord so stretched forth his hands through the apostles that the Bible added:

“And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.”

(Acts 5:14-15)

The hand of God was so much on Peter that every move he made was a miracle! When he waved, it was a miracle. When he smiled it was a miracle. Even when he passed by, it was a miracle! Soon enough, people reasoned that his shadows would heal the sick as well. They then decided to lay sick people along

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his path. I mean on every street Peter was likely to pass by, they laid sick people on the left and on the right side of the road. And true to their expectations, the Bible records that every single one of them was healed. What an answer to prayer!

It is in the same manner that God calls people today in answer to the prayer and cry of many over a condition from which they could not help themselves.

Whenever God was ready to help mankind out of his predicament He sends a man.

This is what the calling is all about. This is what it means to be called. So in the next chapter, we will look at a major characteristics of the called. What kinds of people does God call? What are their qualifications? And how do you qualify to be called of God? All these and more, we will be discussing in the next chapter.

CHAPTER TWO

JUST ORDINARY PEOPLE!

Let's begin by recalling our definition of the call of God in the previous chapter:

"a call is a supernatural instruction, invitation or summon of Almighty God to an ordinary and unspectacular person to carry out an extraordinary task that separates and distinguishes him from the rest of the world."

We already established the fact that "the call" is always from God. So the next component of this definition that I will like us to look into is the fact that it is always to "*an ordinary and an unspectacular person*"!

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You see, rarely do you find the qualified or the fit being called by the Lord. It is very unlikely that God would call people because they are qualified and gifted for the job. This is because when God calls a man, He intends to be the one doing the work. He only requires a human agent through which He would bring His plans to pass on earth. As such, He really doesn't require a fit man since the man is only a vessel.

So when next the devil starts telling you that you are unqualified to be called of God, tell him that makes you a better fit for the Lord's use!

God Chooses The Unqualified!

One of the basic things you should know about the call of God is the fact that it has nothing to do with your gifts and abilities. Yes, God might eventually manifest certain gifts through you to fulfil the call, but He never calls people because they have what it takes!

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

(2 Cor 3:5-6)

“Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves to form personal judgments or to claim or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has

*qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers
and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ],”*
(2 Cor 3:5-6 – AMP)

You will see from Paul’s testimony above that God doesn’t choose the sufficient, the fit, the qualified or even the able. He rather chooses the insufficient, unfit, unqualified and unable.

Therefore, no genuinely called man can attribute the call to his natural abilities; at least not one who understand what the calling is all about.

Paul adds that though he wasn’t sufficient and incapable to be in the ministry, God still chose him and then went ahead to make him sufficient and even enabled him as a minister of the gospel of Christ. So he knew that his being in ministry was completely a matter of God's grace and he wasn't going to take that for granted.

You see, as a called man/woman, you have to settle in your mind that you are not in the ministry or whatever you have been called into because of your natural abilities. You need settle in your mind that ministry is God at work in you to fulfill His mission here on earth and not an avenue to exercise your skills. You must learn to rely on God's ability at work in you if you will fulfill His mandate upon your life.

This was something that apostle Paul was conscious of and that was why in his first letter to the Corinthian believers, he said:

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“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

(1 Cor 1:26-29)

He was asking them to look around them and consider their calling in Christ. He said one thing that is very evident is the fact that not many wise men after the flesh were called. He pointed out the fact that not many mighty or noble in the eyes of natural men were called either. When you look around this church in Corinth, it was as though it was the once that wouldn't stand a chance of being chosen by the society that the Lord chose!

The Amplified Bible renders it as:

“For [simply] consider your own call, brethren; not many [of you were considered to be] wise according to human estimates and standards, not many influential and powerful, not many high and noble birth”

(1 Cor 1:26 – AMP)

Going by human estimates and standards, not many of the Corinthians would have been considered wise enough but God chose them anyway. When the world listed the influential and powerful people of the society, they most likely wouldn't have

consider these men and women but God choose them all the same. If the world wanted to reckon with people of noble birth or those with family pedigree, they still wouldn't have come close to these men and women in Corinth yet God chose them.

Why is it that those who didn't stand a chance by worldly standards were the once God chose? What was it about these ignorant and unlearned men that God saw?

God Chooses The Empty So He Can Fill Them Up

Remember the account of the healing of that man who was lame from his mother's womb and was now forty years of age? We learnt that the disciples were brought before the council and quaried concerning this miracle that has occurred. I can imagine that the rulers of the day were expecting that the people who did this great work of power would be some people of some great background.

They hoped that these men should have been some of the Pharisees or Sadducees or some really learned people in the law. They were expecting that the men should have been some mighty men with a renowned family lineage and history of great works.

But to their utmost amazement, when the people who did this were presented before them, it wasn't any of what they had expected. I can imagine them looking around for the real

offenders after Peter and John came in because they didn't really strike them like people who could have anything to do with the supernatural healing of a man that had been in a condition for forty years. They must have thought that if God was ever going to heal that man, He would have to do it through someone who was known to them to be a man of great might.

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

(Acts 4:13)

They knew Peter and John all along. They knew these men long before they ever got associated with the Lord Jesus. They knew they were confirmed illiterates. They were so ignorant that even the ignorant knew they were ignorant men! Seeing and hearing the same unlearned men speak with such boldness that was only associated with the learned, they began to wonder what had happened to them. It was then that some of them recalled that these men had been with Jesus!

Jesus didn't choose the Sadducees, Pharisees or scribes despite their reputation for their knowledge, he choose simple men who knew nothing and made something out of their lives because the call of God is always to the undeserving and unqualified of the bunch!

God often chooses the empty so He can pour of Himself into them. He often chooses the ones that don't have anything to offer so He can give them something to offer. He chooses those in whom His power can be seen and felt adequately. So it's okay to feel unqualified and unworthy of the call of God. After all, David never ceased to ask God "who am I Lord"

God Chooses The Outcast Of The Family

Have you ever thought of the reasons God chose David to be Saul's successor? Or rather, I think replacement may be a better word because Saul actually transgressed the law of the Lord and was rejected. You remember how that God had sent him to utterly destroy the Amalekites and he did as he chose instead of fulfilling the Lord's command.

You see, as a called person on a mission, you should never forget that you are a sent man. You were commissioned by heaven and sent for a specific assignment. You didn't send yourself so you should know where to draw the line between carrying out your call and fulfilling your personal ambitions.

Nothing destroys the called and aborts the mission like missing the calling with person interests.

To top Saul's mistake up, when correction came to him through the prophet Samuel, he didn't repent! Rather he was arguing his case just like many do today. He was trying to give a good

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enough reason why he did the wrong thing! Meanwhile, there is never a good enough reason to make what is wrong right.

Well, like a prophet who was concerned for the people of God, Samuel mourned for Saul until one day, God said to Samuel:

“...How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlebemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.”

(1 Sam 16:1)

Unknown to Saul, God had changed His mind about him even while he was still on the throne. That is what I refer to as sitting on an empty chair. How could a man be on the throne and another be anointed in his stead? That shows how much God couldn't wait to get him out of the way.

I pray for you today: that God by His Spirit will keep you from making the kind of mistake that makes Him seek out an alternative for what He has called you to do. I pray that even where you have already made a mistake, mercy will cry out on your behalf today. May the Lord look upon the fact that you took the time to read this book. He asked me to write and give you another chance in Jesus name.

I will like for you to note that Samuel was going to Jesse's house to get someone who would reign over Israel in the stead of Saul. As such, Samuel had his own idea of the kind of person God should be looking for especially when he considered the kind of

man that Saul himself was. The bible records that Saul was head and shoulders taller than everyone in Israel and at the time, one of the major roles of the king was to lead the people to battle. So Samuel thought that if God wanted a king in replacement of Saul, it should have been someone that would be able to take Saul's place in the battle field. This explains why the bible says:

“And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”

(1 Sam 16:6-7)

As soon as Samuel arrived for this ordination ceremony, he asked Jesse to present his sons one after the other as the Lord had instructed him to do. So Mr. Jesse started with his oldest son Eliab. The bible records that the moment Samuel set his eyes on Eliab he said to himself, *“surely the Lord's anointed is before Him”*

I mean when Samuel saw Eliab, he concluded that this must be the man God was looking for. He couldn't bring himself to think there was anything else God needed. This guy Eliab was like a perfect match. He had the physique as well as the strength. And to add to that, he was already in the army. So Samuel stood up to anoint him but God interrupted him. God said "Samuel, don't look at his countenance or the height of his stature for I have refused him"!

Wow! God wasn't impressed by Eliab's stature nor his countenance. God wasn't going to make His choice of a man to lead his people on the basis of natural abilities or qualifications. He had more in mind than what Samuel could see with his natural eyes. That was why God told Samuel that while men look at the outward appearance, He looks at the heart (spirit). God considers the spirit and not the outward man. God had looked at the spirit of Eliab (Mr. Stature) and seen that he couldn't handle the task ahead even though he looked fit for the job.

One after the other, all the other sons of Jesse were made to parade themselves before Samuel and at the end, Samuel said the Lord has not chosen any of them. The bible records that again, Jesse made all his seven sons to pass before Samuel but still Samuel said the Lord has not chosen any of these. Then Samuel asked Jesse "*Are here all thy children?*"

It was only then did Jesse remember that he had one last boy (the youngest of them all) that kept the sheep. At this point Samuel said "*Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.*" Come on somebody, the whole family had to stand and wait for this little boy whose name wasn't even in the family register in the first place!

I can imagine what was going on in the minds of everyone there that day. Some would have said "*I hope Samuel is hearing the Lord rightly today*" or "*who told Samuel that it would be that little rascal that the Lord will choose?*" Some others may have said "*how in the world*

will God overlook Eliab, Abinadab, Shammah and the four others to choose David? Samuel must be out of his mind?

As soon as David was in sight, the Lord spoke to Samuel saying “*Arise, anoint him: for this is he.*”

“Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”

(1 Sam 16:13-14)

What a day this was in all Israel! Can you just imagine the expression on the faces of Eliab and his brothers and everyone present there that day? They may have thought of protesting this choice but they knew they couldn't.

David was the most unqualified of the bunch. He was so unqualified that his father didn't even bother presenting him among his sons in the first place. Jesse didn't think that if God wanted to choose one of his sons to be the king of Israel it would have been David. I mean, David didn't strike his father like someone God could call for any reason in the world let alone calling him for the high calling of the king of Israel. He thought David wasn't a king-material but God thought otherwise.

Have people looked down on you for any reason? Have they mocked you because of the calling of God upon your life? Have

Charles Emmanuel

they advised you to go and get a life instead of parading yourself as the called? Don't worry, they did that to David too but it didn't change God's mind about Him. God really doesn't have to consult with those who know you to approve of you as a minister or for anything He is calling you to do.

God's calling is always to the most unassuming, the one that the world will not even consider, the one that the system of the world doesn't even have space for.

David's calling is a proof of what Paul meant when he said not many mighty are called. After all, there were mightier alternatives in David's family when God bypassed all of them and chose David.

The Call Of God On Jephthah

Reading further in 1 Cor 1:26, Paul added that not many nobles are called. This brings to mind the story of a young man named Jephthah in the Bible. He was the son of a harlot born unto Gilead. So he was more like what you would call an "illegitimate" son of his father. The Bible tells us that over a period of time, the "legitimate" children of Gilead grew up and unanimously decided to thrust Jephthah out of the family.

They had a family meeting and told Jephthah: "*Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house; for thou art the son of a strange woman.*" (Judges 11:2). And as a result, the bible records that:

“Then Jephthah fled from his brethren, and dwelt in the land of Tob: and there were gathered vain men to Jephthah, and went out with him.”

(Judges 11:3)

Mr. Jephthah became a fugitive and wandered away into the land of Tob where only vain and worthless men gathered unto him. Not only had he lost his inheritance in his father's house, the elites of the society wouldn't have anything to do with him. Those who had class and pedigree wouldn't as much as come close to him. He was considered such a worthless man that only touts and losers were associated with him. The Bible further says:

“And it was so, that when the children of Ammon made war against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to fetch Jephthah out of the land of Tob: And they said unto Jephthah, Come, and be our captain, that we may fight with the children of Ammon. And Jephthah said unto the elders of Gilead, Did not ye hate me, and expel me out of my father's house? and why are ye come unto me now when ye are in distress? And the elders of Gilead said unto Jephthah, Therefore we turn again to thee now, that thou mayest go with us, and fight against the children of Ammon, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

(Judges 11:5-8)

It came to pass in the process of time that the children of Ammon made war against Israel. The battle was so sore that the Gileadites required help. They searched everywhere for help but wouldn't find it. In the course of their search and enquiry for

solution, they got to hear that there was a man who could help them. They learnt that there was somebody who lived in Tob that was a mighty man of valour. So straight away, the elders of Gilead sent for this man but to their utmost surprise, the man they heard such great things about was their very own brother that they had written off!

If anyone had told them a few years ago that this guy they were hell bent on disinheriting was going to be the one to save them from trouble and distress in the future, they would have called him a false prophet. Obviously nothing about the life of Jephthah looked like it. They would have argued that if God were to send them help against the Ammonites, it wouldn't have come from a common Jephthah (the illegitimate son of a harlot).

The same man that the elite in the society wouldn't associate with became the one upon whom the hand of the Lord was strong for the deliverance of his people. Not only did they get him to be their captain for the battle, he became their head at the end of the day despite the fact he was not exactly the eldest of them!

Beloved, it doesn't matter who has written you off. It doesn't matter that they say you do not qualify. They may have told you that you are vile and worthless even to God but let the words of the prophet Jeremiah well up in you saying "*Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?*" (Lam 3:37).

Like in the case of the apostles (Paul, Peter and John), like in the case of David and Jephthah, God thinks differently! He thinks you are a better choice. He thinks you can handle His calling upon your life and make a success of it! So cheer up, square your shoulders and get to learn how you can go about fulfilling that call upon your life.

CHAPTER THREE

GOD BAFFLES THE WORLD

Taking our discussion further from where we left off in 1 Cor 1:26, the next two verses say:

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:”

(1 Cor 1:27-28)

The apostle goes on to add that in the course of God’s election, He always chooses those things that the wise

of this world will term as foolish instead of the things they consider wise. When the wise are to make choices of their own, those things that they will never consider to choose in their wisdom are the things that God chooses. The bible further states that the reason God does this is to confound the wise! His intention is to dishonor, put to shame and disgrace the wise.

In the same manner, the Lord chooses the weak things of the world to bring to zero the mighty of the world! A perfect example was the case of God's choice of a warrior against the giant of the philistines. You will recall how that in the first place David was preferred over some of his brothers who were in the army to be the king of Israel. As soon as he was anointed, the Lord opened up a door of service for him in the palace. So David literally lived in the palace with Saul.

On one occasion, there was battle going on between the Israelites and the Philistines. Seeing that Saul was going to battle, David sought and received permission to go home to his father in the interval. While David was at home with his dad, the bible says that Goliath the Philistine drew near morning and evening at the battle field. For forty long days, he presented himself against the Israelites asking for their champion to show up to do battle with him. The entire army of Israel were

terrified. No one could stand up to the Philistine for he was an obvious giant and an accomplished man of war from his youth.

So one day, Jesse considered that his children at war may not have had any time or opportunity to get something to eat so he asked David to take some food to them and see how they are faring. As soon as David got there and greeted his brothers, Goliath came out from amongst the armies of the philistines and spoke the same words he had spoken all these forty days morning and evening. David observed that all the men of Israel who supposedly were men of war fled from before Goliath when he showed up. Not only did they flee, they were so afraid that David could see it in their eyes. Soon enough some of the men started giving him the rundown of the matter.

They told David that the giant he just saw is certainly come for the destruction of Israel. They added that the king had already made a decree to enrich the man that kills Goliath, give him his daughter in marriage and make his household tax free in all Israel. David, didn't take their words for it. He turned over to another set of soldiers standing by and asked them "*what shall be done to the man that kills this philistine and takes away this*

reproach from Israel?" To his amazement, they told him the same thing the others had said.

Just as he was talking with them, his elder brother Eliab saw him and the bible records that his anger was kindled against David.

"...and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle." (1 Sam 17:28)

Eliab was offended at David for no just cause. He thought he was either being nosy or just trying to make a mockery of his elders. In a sense, Eliab was asking him to go back to the sheep he left and mind his business there. He thought David had no business asking unnecessary questions at the war front when the sheep were probably unattended to. Eliab may have even asked him if he thought they were dealing with sheep there. Notwithstanding, David didn't mind what his brother was saying, he simply turned over to another person to confirm what will be done to the man that brings Goliath down. He got the same answer like the previous times he asked so now he got really interested!

Before long, David's boasting got to Saul who sent for him immediately. I wonder what kind of a person Saul was expecting to see. After David appeared before Saul, I can imagine him asking the people who brought David if he was the one they talked about. Before Saul could bring himself to believe that this little boy was the one that wanted to face the giant of the philistines, David opened up his mouth and said

“...Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.” (1 Sam 17:32)

Saul looked at David and said:

“Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.” (1 Sam 17:33)

I am sure that if David had appeared and was seven feet tall with a V-Chest and all that, Saul would have found it a lot easier to consider him able for the fight. Even Saul who was head and shoulders taller than everyone in Israel couldn't consider taking on Goliath for the obvious difference in their size and here is this little boy coming up against the same giant. Saul may have said to David, *“come on boy, this is no time for jokes at all”* but no David was not joking.

Listen dear, it doesn't matter that those who appear more capable than you are weren't chosen, don't you despise God's choice of you.

David observed that it was as though Saul was unwilling to allow him take on the giant so he began to share testimonies of his past victories with Saul. He told Saul how one time when he was taking care of his father's sheep, a lion came against one of them and he smote it! When the lion came against him, he caught him by his beard, smote him and slew him! By this time, Saul's eyes were popping out of their sockets then he said, that's not all sir, I also dealt with the bear and for sure this giant of the philistines, will be like one of them. At this point Saul understood that he wasn't joking like he earlier thought so he offered him his armor to use. David wore them but as he tried to move with them, he wasn't comfortable so he told Saul not to worry about the armor that he was better off without them. He put them off and went with just his shepherd staff and five smooth stones.

The moment David's brothers saw him going forth against Goliath, they thought it was over for him already. Eliab would have wondered at what David's forwardness was going to cause the family now. He may have even sent words in advance to their father

asking him to start mourning his son because he had made the greatest mistake of his life. There was no hope that David would come back alive because naturally speaking, he was no match for Goliath. To their amazement however, in the most unspectacular way you can imagine, David brought Goliath down and got the victory for Israel.

Who would have thought that in all of Israel, both the military and none military population, God would choose a little, young shepherd boy to bring down a giant who has been a man of war all his life? Who would have thought that the man whose voice sent shivers down the spines of the army of Israel was going to be defeated by a simple shepherd boy who had never been in the army nor had any military training?

Worse off, David faced Goliath without any form of armory at all. No shield whatsoever to guard him against the attack of the giant. In today's world this must have been best described as impossible;but it was real. God chose the most unexpected to bring victory to the camp of the Israelites much the same way He chooses the most unexpected today. What the trained and armed men of Israel couldn't do, God through an

untrained and unarmed man that he choose brought to pass.

Listen beloved, when the call is working in your life, you do the impossible. You will do things in this world that the natural men will never be able to explain.

Or how do you explain that it was only one small smooth stone that brought down the giant who had been threatening the whole nation morning and evening for about forty days? Of all things, a stone? Howbeit a smooth one! Yet, the bible tells us that Goliath was even wearing a helmet. God indeed chooses the weak things of this world to confound, disgrace and dishonor the wise but that is not all.

Paul went on to say that God also chooses the base things of the world and the things which are despised to bring to naught the things that are. This means that God's choices are not always the flashy ones. He doesn't always choose in accordance with man's standard of estimation. His standards are completely averse to those of the world and the natural man. Take for example; did you know that one reason why many are still expecting the messiah in Israel today is because when He came they could not recognize him? They

couldn't in their wildest dreams have thought that the savior of the world was going to come eating and drinking like ordinary men. They didn't think that he would go as far as visiting the houses of sinners and eating with them. They had their own expectations of how a messiah should look and behave. In their estimation, the messiah should only be known for condemning and probably punishing sinners. Incidentally, Jesus didn't seem to fit into their expectation at all so they rejected Him. Like Dr. Myles Munroe will say *"very few people have high expectations of you"*

One day while Jesus went forth into Galilee, the bible says that He found Philip and asked him to follow Him and to become His disciple. Philip followed at once and as is expected of a disciple, he also went out to win others to Christ. On his way, he met a man by the name Nathanael.

"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:45)

As Philip ministered to Nathanael, he told him how that he had found the messiah of whom Moses spoke about

in the law. Nathanael tried to listen to find out how true what Philip was saying was since they had all been expecting the messiah. However, the moment he heard that the “*so called*” messiah Philip was talking about was from Nazareth, he lost interest in the subject.

Why did Nathanael feel this way about the messiah coming from Nazareth? You must understand that Nathanael was himself a Galilean who knew Nazareth well. Traditionally, Nazareth was a place held in contempt and despised even by its neighbors. It was such a miserable, mean and obscure place. It was known for its depravity and evil reputation. It had become so notorious that the name Nazareth had become a by-word for sin and iniquity! This was why Nathanael thought no good man could arise from there not to talk of a prophet or anyone of great note or even the messiah Himself. As far as he was concerned, anyone arising from there that claims to be the messiah has got to be fake. He thought God could not for any reason in the world decide to choose a messiah who will be from Nazareth. In his estimation, there were other better places God could choose from if He wanted to send a messiah to the world. Of all places in the world to come from; Nazareth? He couldn't be the real messiah Nathanael thought.

If Philip had told him that Jesus was from Jerusalem, Nathanael would have accepted Him at once. Jerusalem was not only the capital city, it was the place of service and worship. So it should be acceptable if the messiah came from there. Unknown to him, God chooses the base things of this world and the things that are despised to bring to naught the things that are.

Listen beloved, your natural background doesn't count when it comes to the calling of God. He doesn't consider where you come from or where you grew up in because He knows where He is taking you.

It doesn't matter that the world's system has labelled where you live as a third world country; if you are born again, you are a first world citizen of the Kingdom of God! He has called you out for a special purpose and assignment. He has chosen to use you in a dimension that your world has not seen or known before. All He is asking of you today is that you grant Him the go ahead to make out of your life what He hasn't made of anyone just yet. He wants to make a success like has not been seen before out of your life.

Furthermore, did you know that while Nathanael underestimated the Lord Jesus for his background, there were others who even did worse? The bible shows

us how that at a point during the course of His earthly ministry, the Lord went to His home town to minister there. As his custom was, He taught them in their synagogues in so much that the people were astonished! You will expect that they will hug and kiss him all over thanking God for raising such a great prophet out of them but no they didn't.

“And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?” (Matt 13:54-56)

Where the King James Version says they were astonished, the Amplified version says they were amazed and bewildered at His teaching. I mean they hadn't seen or heard anything like it before. They were even more dazzled about the fact that He did not only speak with words of great wisdom, He had the signs, wonders and miracles to back up the words that He spoke. Where the religious leaders of the people wouldn't dare pray for the sick, He prayed and got them healed. People who had been devoted to the

religious teachings of the day and yet remained sick got healed when they listened to the Lord Jesus!

This caused the people to wonder even the more. In all of the history of their little town, nothing like this had been seen before. Well, some of them took a closer look at the man in question and discovered He was the carpenter's son. They recognized that this was Joseph's son and began to measure Him against his earthly family! Someone pointed to Mary and said *"Isn't this His mother?"* Another looked at James, Simon and Judas and said *"Aren't these His brothers?"* Some even said *"Isn't this His sister Joses?"* They were just offended at Him for trying to be and demonstrate something that couldn't be linked with his earthly background. They thought, *"Whence thence hath this man these things"* because considering his natural background and upbringing, they couldn't in their wildest imaginations have thought that someone with such great works could come out of Nazareth.

Looking at Joseph, Mary and the rest of their children, they couldn't think that Jesus could have amounted to anything more than what the lives of his family relatives summed up to. So they despised Him. They got really offended at him saying *"who does He think He is? Does He think He can fool us? Don't we know Him well?"*

Wasn't He with us here the most of His life? How could He have suddenly become a miracle worker? He should have tried this elsewhere but definitely not where He grew up."

Dear friend, this may be the condition you have found yourself in. Maybe they have written you off because of your family background or family history.

They may have set a limit for you because of where your father and forefathers ended in life but hear the word of God to you today. God still chooses the base things of the world to bring to naught the things that are. He uses those things that the world calls rubbish to shame the ones that they call something.

Don't let anyone or the society pull you down, don't let anyone tell you that it's not your type that God is looking for. If you are born again, you are already the chosen. Think for a moment how many people around the world today are not saved? How come you are among those that have received the gospel? Don't you know that it was not your making that you heard and received the gospel? Even if you were born into a family of pastors, it still wasn't your making. It was all a working of a divine call that you are here to discover.

"He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among

**princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory:
for the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and he hath
set the world upon them.**” (1 Sam 2:8)

If you haven't given your heart to Christ just yet, I will like for you to pause this reading right here. Hold your place just where you are and rush off to the last page of this book. Quickly say the words of the prayer written there out loud. The moment you are done, you become born again and set on the course that you must follow in your life. Then you can return to join us in the next chapter as we proceed on more thoughts about this all-important call of God upon the lives of His dear children the world over.

CHAPTER FOUR

AN EXTRAORDINARY TASK

Since we have established that just about anybody can be called of God irrespective of what the world or society thinks and feels about the individual, it's time to look at another very important component of the call of God. This is the fact that the call of God though to just ordinary and unspectacular people, is always for an extraordinary task. There is no call from the Lord that is not noble in nature.

There is no call of God that is not for the fulfillment and accomplishment of a task that is by far bigger than the called himself.

You have to understand that our God is a real big God and He only does big things. He is too big to get involved with petty projects. Every projects He lays His hands upon no matter how small it may seem to others is never intended to remain small. However, the extent to which He works in and through you as an individual is completely up to you. You determine how far you go with God and how far He ends up going with you. As for being ready, the Lord is much more than willing to take you on a ride of the Spirit that will keep the glow on your life all day long. I remember something the Spirit said in this line through the apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1

Cor 2:9)

Come on dear, this is mind blowing! He says that eyes have not yet seen the things that the Lord has prepared, made, planned and kept ready for them that love Him. In case you are wondering those included in this list, let me tell you categorically that the list of those that love Him definitely includes you as a believer in Christ Jesus. So you can safely include your name in that portion of scripture right now. Having done that, can you for a moment think about all the beautiful things of life that you have personally seen before? I mean all the sights that ever thrilled you in your life. Then try to join that with all the beautiful things your closest friends have seen as well. What about adding the ones your family members have seen? Include all the known and unknown wonders of the world today. The bible says that all those put together don't even come close in comparison to what the Lord has kept ready for you as a person.

Even all the great things you have heard about and dreamt would happen to you still don't match up! The ones you read about in story books or imagined in your

wildest dreams still don't come close because God's plans are way too high for the senses of sight or hearing to capture. They are also too high for the imagination of the most developed imaginative machine (mind) in the world. This was what the Lord was getting across to us through the prophet Isaiah when he said:

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa 55:9)

So the calling of God is indeed a high calling like Paul would describe it. It's an invitation of the Almighty to an ordinary person to perform the extraordinary. This explains why the world never agrees with what they see going on in the lives of the “called”. I mean how do you explain that someone who is known in a certain light begins to manifest in a way that is way too high for even those who were considered more privileged? It's too much for the natural mind to accept but that is exactly why it is God.

Hear this dear, if God ever called you to do something that you are capable of achieving on your own, then be sure it wasn't God. If God ever called you to do something that you can do without recourse to the Holy Ghost, then you are sure He never called you

for that venture because His calls are always way too big for the human mind to fathom or even consider executing!

Speaking about his calling one time Paul wrote:

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;” (Eph 3:8)

In Paul the apostle’s mind, he considered himself so not qualified to be called into what he was called into. He couldn’t believe that it was him who made a havoc of the church of Jesus Christ that the Lord will call in the dimension that He called him. If you were the Lord for example, Paul may not have been your choice of a vessel to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. It should have been anyone else but definitely not the man who was always a threat to the same gospel.

Beginning from the very first Martyr that ever died for the gospel (Stephen), Paul had been a trouble maker for the believers. He was so involved in the death of Stephen that the men who cast Stephen out of the city and stoned him to death cast their clothes at his feet. Paul was the chief persecutor of those who named the name of Christ in those days. He often showed up at places of Christian gatherings with armed men to arrest

people and put them in prison. As a matter of fact, he was on one of such arrest missions when the Lord Jesus appeared unto him.

Looking back at all that and now seeing the extent to which God had chosen to use and manifest Himself in him, Paul couldn't take it. He said "*no, no, no. Not me!*" Not the chief persecutor of the church. As for Paul, forgiving his sins alone was good enough show of mercy and love by the Lord. He would have just been satisfied with the Lord just saving him from eternal destruction. Calling him into the ministry was way too much for him to fathom. This was why he said that it was unto him who was less than the least of all saints that the grace of God had been given.

You know there are certain people who consider themselves as something or somebody. They think that God should be grateful to them that they are born again or better still that they come to church or serve Him. They behave as though God is the one fortunate to have them but this definitely wasn't Paul's view. He thought that if the list of all saints were to be compiled in the order of their greatness, his name was certainly going to be at the very bottom of that list. Yet God chose him for the task of taking the gospel of Christ to the gentile

world – a task He didn't even give to Peter His right hand man!

Bear in mind that during the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus, He didn't really minister to the gentile world. He spent most of His time ministering to the Israelites. Even when He sent the disciples out, He instructed that they do not go anywhere but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. It was only after His resurrection that He commissioned the disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel. So when it comes to reaching the gentiles, it was a serious business with the Lord. Hence, the natural man would have thought that he would have committed such a serious matter to someone more deserving! A Peter, a James or a John may have been a better choice for the job but that is not God's style at all. He called and separated Paul for the job instead and today more than half of the revelations that the church has about the new creation and the life in Christ were penned down by Paul.

Of all people, or apostles, it was Paul that the Lord called to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ! The word unsearchable as used here refers to something that is too much for comprehension. It also refers to something that is past finding out. The Amplified version of the bible renders it as:

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God’s consecrated people), this grace (favor, privilege) was granted and graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out]” (Eph 3:8 – AMP)

Unsearchable in this scripture means to be unending, boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless. Come on here! Isn’t this too much for Paul? I mean Paul was called to shed light on the deepest things of the kingdom of God so that we are not left in the dark. He was the one the Lord chose to bring to our understanding the truths about the new creation and the life in Christ. Without Paul, we may never have had an idea of the extent of Christ’s riches to which we were called. Without Paul, we may never have known that what God has reserved for us is past finding out and beyond the measuring yardsticks of this world. Except for Paul who would have had a glimpse into the exhaustless and incalculable riches of Christ?

A very clear example is the fact that it took Paul for us to understand that the man in Christ Jesus has no inabilities in life because he was the one that brought us the revelation about the fact that we can do all things

through Christ. How else would you have known that God is not exactly planning to bless you because He already did that in Christ Jesus or how would you have known that all things are yours right now? What about the gifts of the Spirit, love, church leadership and administration amongst many other subjects? Don't you see what quality of life we may have lived without these revelations? Deep truths of the Spirit that even Peter whom the Lord referred to as a pillar of truth didn't have. No wonder Peter latter wrote about Paul saying:

“And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.” (2 Pet 3:15-16)

The apostle Peter acknowledged that there was a special wisdom given Paul by the Lord to write special messages unto the church. He said that wisdom is spilled all over his epistles as they contain in them things that are hard to understand. By this though he didn't mean that the teachings of Paul were confusing

but that they contained messages too high for the natural and carnal man to digest. They contain revelations that the religious leaders of the day could not bring themselves to accept. They were the deepest of truths ever penned down. God so used Paul in a special way that even the man who walked side by side Jesus on earth attested to the uniqueness of his calling! This is what I mean when I say that the call is for an extraordinary task.

When you measure the "called" alongside the task he has been called to fulfill you just know this must be God at work.

It's like measuring David alongside Goliath. You just know this is an extraordinary task that requires the extraordinary ability of God to fulfill. Listen dear child of God, no matter the area to which the Lord has called you, His ability is available and at work in you to pull you through the task.

Just like no one in his natural mind would have thought David would survive after facing Goliath, no one may think you are equal to the task but the one that made you think and know you are.

I remember a certain matter that Paul so desperately prayed to the Lord for. He so wanted the condition out

of the way that he prayed and prayed about it. To his amazement, God's response was so out of this world.

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”(2 Cor 12:9)

What an answer to prayer this was!

While Paul was busy asking God to take something away, God was banking on the ability of His grace at work in Paul's life to produce even in the midst of the circumstance. God didn't think that the problem was with what Paul was going through. He thought the problem was that Paul wasn't maximizing what he already had. God so trusted in His grace at work in Paul's life that he told him that his grace is sufficient for him.

In other words, there is more than enough grace to see him through the condition than he ever knew about. There is so much grace that it didn't matter whether the condition left or remained! I like the way the Amplified bible puts it again when it says:

“But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble

manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness ...” (2 Cor 12:9a – AMP)

God’s favor, loving kindness and mercy are sufficient for any danger and not some dangers. It doesn’t matter by what name the condition goes, His grace enables you to bear the trouble manfully! When it looks like you are running out of strength; that is just when the grace is more active. When it looks like you are getting weaker, then the grace is even more effective. So why worry?

Listen dear, one thing about the call of God is that it always comes with all that is required for its accomplishment. If natural men wouldn’t send out a troop at their own expense, why in the world will our heavenly Father even think about doing so? Don’t you think He has more wisdom than that? Understand that the challenges that come your way as you go about fulfilling your calling are specially designed for your increase. They are specially placed along your way to make you stronger and to promote you. So you don’t let them break you. Don’t let them get the better part of you. Learn to speak like Joshua and Caleb who said:

“Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their

defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. (Num 14:9)

The task to which the Israelites had been called looked like what you call “*mission impossible*” already. Then the report of the men who were sent to spy the land even worsened things because all they saw were the reasons why they couldn’t go up to the land the Lord had promised them.

What are you seeing today? Are you seeing the many reason why you can’t? It is not as much about what facts you are faced with as it is about what you see them to be.

Remember that twelve men went to spy the land that God promised the Israelites. The report of ten of them was:

“And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites

“dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.” (Num
13:27-29)

Every time I read through this account, I find it rather interesting that they actually saw that the lands flows with milk and honey and even handled the fruits thereof! And yet they brought the kind of report. I mean the goodies they saw and even handled weren't enough encouragement for them. Like many of the “called” today, they didn't know how to keep their gaze on the big picture. They rather focused on the strength of their adversaries, the greatness of the walls of the cities, the children of Anak (race of giants) and all the nationalities present there. They calculated that the odds were too much against them and nothing could be done about it.

Did you know that just the way the majority of the spies saw negatively, that is how majority of the “called” see today? They consider their chances of failing more than the guarantee of success that the word of God gives them.

Even when Caleb interrupted them and said “*Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.*” The bible records that they shut him up. They literally called him a dreamer and may have mocked him saying “*dream on brother!*” Some others may have

said “*let’s call a spade a spade, we can’t go up there*” And since they were the majority, they obviously would have had the support of the audience.

“...We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.” (Num 13:31)

It’s like when you share your dreams and visions with certain people and they tell you “*that is only but a fantasy*” They may even say that it is only possible in “*Dream Island*” and not in this world but don’t you mind them. Hold tightly to that picture that the Lord has shown you like Joshua and Caleb did. Always remember that the word says to look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

If you will keep your gaze on Jesus and His ability at work in your life, not only will you begin but you will find that you are able to finish and accomplish that for which the Lord has set you forth.

Ask Moses how he felt when the Lord told him the assignment he had for him. The bible clearly tells us about his response:

“And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?” (Ex 3:11)

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Considering the magnitude of the assignment and his person, he said *“who am I?”* In other words, he was saying *“Lord do you really mean you are talking to me or someone else? This task is too much for me to even begin to consider bearing it. How on earth will you consider me for this? Me? I don’t think so”*

Please remember that Moses grew up in Pharaoh’s palace. He knew pharaoh so well like you would say you know your dad and what he is capable of doing. He knew that in all his forty years in the palace, no one ever questioned Pharaoh. No one ever confronted Pharaoh and remained alive to tell the story. He was the world ruler at the time and a very wicked one at that. In the eyes of Moses, going to face or confront Pharaoh to let a people who had been slaves to the Egyptians for close to four hundred years now was a suicide mission. It was like signing his death warrant in a sense. This was why Moses asked *“who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh?”*

While the call may look like an impossible mission, always remember that the caller is the one with whom nothing is impossible. Moreover, He has also said that if you will only believe Him, nothing will be impossible to you!

Still on the extraordinary nature of the task to which God calls men, I will like to share with you about a man named Gideon. At one point in the history of the Israelites, they did evil in the sight of the Lord and He delivered them into the hands of the Midianites for seven years. The bible records how that the Midianites prevailed against Israel to the extent that the Israelites began to make their abode in the dens, caves and strongholds which are in the mountains. The oppression was so much that the den (home of wild animals) became a better place to live for the Israelites than their homes. Whenever they planted, the Midianites would come up against them and destroy the products of their sweat until there was left no sustenance for Israel. Neither man nor sheep nor ox nor ass had food to eat.

It came to pass that the children of Israel couldn't take it anymore. They had to cry to the Lord for help. Like in the case of Moses that we saw, God sought out a man to help carry out his plan of deliverance for his people since He couldn't do that Himself. It wasn't long before He sent an angel to the man named Gideon. The angel greeted Gideon saying "*The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*" (Judges 6:12). Like you will expect, Gideon's response to that would have been "*me?*"

You must be kidding, please don't pull my legs now" but on a second thought he decided to ask

"... Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?" (Judges 6:13-14)

You may have found yourself in a position where the circumstances of your life seem to negate the truth of the word of God so much that you begin to doubt the word of God. Gideon thought: how can God be with us and we are going through all these? Didn't our forefathers say that the Lord worked miracles among them and brought them out of bondage? Why then is our case different? Anyway, God wasn't perturbed by Gideon's fears. He went on and told him that he was going to be the one to save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.

At this point Gideon must have thought God was joking because he couldn't just put together what the Lord was saying to him. How can God be saying that a man who was the least in a poor family amongst the entire tribe of

Manasseh will be the one to lead the army that will save the entire nation? Did God forget that the armies of the Midianites had gone into an alliance with the Amalekites and those of the east and were now by far much more than the Israelites in number? How can He now turn to Gideon and say he would save when the entire nation put together couldn't do anything?

In fact the Lord added that He was not just going to lead the troop that would save Israel but he would do it as one man! What a task this was? We never heard that Gideon was a soldier or warrior before and now God is sending him to deliver Israel from the hands of her oppressors. God must have been up to something. He must have a real big idea.

It is in the same way that God has big ideas when He calls each and every one of us. He has plans that outclass our imaginations and strategies that swallow up our reasoning. All He looks for is a willing man who can bear the burden that the Lord bears and will take responsibility for its actualization.

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CHAPTER FIVE

FIRST THINGS FIRST

So far so good, we have dealt extensively on the subject of the call of God. I therefore think it is high time we considered our main theme for this book which is to look at the reasons why many of the “called” still don’t make it to the list of the chosen. Of course the words of Jesus that “many are called but few are chosen” indicates that there is a difference between the “called” and the “chosen”. It also presupposes that being chosen is something more than being called. It is more like what you call a higher level. The Lord was pointing us to the fact that not everyone who is called ever gets to find themselves in the list of the chosen!?

Suffice it to say therefore that to be chosen means to be distinguished among the called. It means to be picked out as a favorite and to be the best of its kind. It also means to be exalted by God to the most exalted office conceivable.

So you see that besides from being called, there is something more. There is a higher realm and a higher walk to which the Lord is asking us to aspire and attain. It is really not enough to be identified as the called, the Father greatly desires that you distinguish yourself amongst the called. Paul the apostle will put it as:

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:12-14)

I will like for you to bear in mind that at the time when Paul wrote this epistle, he was already about twenty eight years old in the ministry. He had planted about all the churches he ever planted and written majority of his epistles. Actually it was just about two years before his death. This means that at this time, he had really seen some cool results in ministry. He had handled the word of life and come back with several testimonies to show. Yet, he says he doesn't count himself to have already attained! This shows you the kind of person Paul was. He was never satisfied with the status quo. He always knew there was more in God and was willing to press in. This is a major problem with many of the “called” who never make it to the “chosen”. They get satisfied with little victories and retire too soon without knowing that there is a lot more. They count themselves to have achieved when God says they are just about to begin!

In order to begin to find out the reason why many are called but few are chosen, let us look at the statement within the context in which the Lord Jesus used it.

It all began with the Lord Jesus wanting to share some truths about the kingdom and how it functions with the disciples. He said the kingdom is like unto a certain king which made a marriage ceremony for his son. The king sent forth his servants to invite certain people over for the ceremony. As the time for the ceremony approached, he sent his servants again to follow up on the invitations earlier sent to the people. Then it was discovered that all those who had been listed on the guest list were not likely to show up! Nevertheless, he sent his servants again to tell the guests that everything had been made ready; the oxen and fatlings were already slain in preparation for this ceremony! He asked them to beckon on the guests to do their best to make it to the ceremony. Yet, they wouldn't come. Instead, they made light of the whole matter and went their way. Some went to their farms and others to their business and other personal stuffs. In fact, some of the guests entreated his servants spitefully and even slew them!

It then dawned on the king that he wasn't to expect much of those originally invited guests of his. He then

made an alternative plan. He told his servants that since those originally invited for the marriage weren't forthcoming, they should go into the high ways and as many as they shall find, they should invite over for the marriage ceremony. In other words, a marriage that had been for just a select few had now become open to everybody and anybody. The scripture records that the servants went out as instructed and gathered in as many as they found. Every Tom, Dick and Harry was invited and the marriage that had earlier been scheduled for the elite in the society became open to the good, the bad and the ugly!

The king didn't quite mind that the good and the bad were all present there. He was just satisfied to see that people were present for the ceremony. Being notified that the guests had arrived, the king decided to come and see them.

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.”

(Matt 22:11-12)

Oh dear God! Remember that the invitation was thrown open to all manner of persons. Going over to the

highways to get people meant that every single person that could have been found must have been on their way somewhere. The highway wasn't exactly the place to find the less busy ones in town. This would have included those on their way to the farm, the business executives, the apprentices, the mechanics, tourists, traders and people from all walks of life. Irrespective of what they were all about, or where they were going to, the servants beckoned on them to come over for the wedding ceremony. The call was for them to change their direction!

So the man who came in without a wedding garment in a sense must have had a good enough excuse. What if he was on his way to the farm when he was invited? What if he was some kind of technician who had just finished from work and had his pullover on when he was called? Isn't it understandable that he didn't leave home with intentions to go for a party that day? Shouldn't the king have understood and taken all these into consideration? How could he be asking him for a wedding garment when he knew where the guy was called from? Maybe the king was being mean. Or maybe the king was just an ingrate. After all, the wedding would have been without guests except for

this guy and others like him that were called at the last minute.

Anyway, the scripture shows that the king expected that the guy should have had enough sense to know that even though the wedding was a free call, there were certain things he should have put into consideration. From all indications, some of the other guests who were also invited at the last minute like this guy had their own wedding cloths on. While it may be likely that some of them may have been on their way to a ceremony before they were called, it is definitely true that some were just like this guy. Some may also have not left home with wedding cloths on or in their bags. They also didn't leave home with intentions to end up at a ceremony that day but the moment the call to be guests at the marriage showed up, they knew they had to get dressed for the occasion. They knew it wouldn't be appropriate to show up for a ceremony of this magnitude unprepared or inappropriately dressed. (Matt 22:1-14)

This is the same reason why many are called but few are chosen today. Many of the called haven't quite understood the place of training and preparation for that venture and assignment that the Lord has called

them for. They think that the calling means that they are prepared already but this is not true at all.

While the ability to function comes with the calling, there is still a place for preparation that cannot be overruled.

There are several preparatory factors that will determine whether or not the “called” will scale into the class of the “chosen” For starters, did you know that it is very possible to be called while one is yet not born again?

God may separate and set someone apart for a task long before he is even born again but that doesn't mean that he could go ahead and fulfill that assignment without being born again.

The first step in getting ready for what you have been called to accomplish is to be born again. Remember the account of the prophet Jeremiah:

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” (Jer 1:5)

Long before his parents dreamt of his coming God knew and predetermined what the boy was going to become. However, the fact that God had separated and

sanctified him to be a prophet to the nations didn't mean he could go ahead and fulfill that ministry without being acquainted with God. He had to have met with and started following Jehovah to step into that calling in earnest. It was the same thing with Paul the apostle. While narrating his story to the Galatians, he said:

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,” (Gal 1:15)

Can you see that? God separated and called him all the way from his mother's womb but that didn't mean he became an apostle at birth! All the while he was growing up he had been called. All the while he was busy persecuting the churches, the call of God was upon his life. While he played his role in the persecution and killing of the first martyr, the call was still there. When he went to the authorities to receive letters permitting him to go as far as Damascus to get believers and bring to prison, the call was there. He only stepped into that call the moment he met with Jesus and was born again.

So since preparation is the major distinguisher between the called and the chosen, the first step the “called” must take in preparing to be among the “chosen” is to be born

again into the family of God. Without this, there is no way the individual involved can be distinguished in his calling. Remember that in our definition of the call, we stated that it is always to an ordinary and unqualified person to carry out an extraordinary task. It is your being born again that qualifies you for the ability of the Spirit to reside in you and to function in you for the extraordinary task you have been called into.

Consequently, the “called” who has become born again must of necessity receive the Holy Ghost. This is so very important. In fact, I dare say compulsory because the Lord Jesus described the believer without the Holy Ghost as an orphan in this world when He said:

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

(John 14:18)

The Greek word translated “comfortless” here is “orphanos”. This is where the English word “orphan” was derived from. It means to be bereft. It is used in describing a person bereft of parents, teacher, guide or guardian. What Jesus meant was that without the Holy Ghost, the believer is not different from an orphan. He is more like that little child on the street with nowhere to call home and no one to call father or mother. The child will have to fend for himself, guide himself,

protect himself and direct himself in life. Now think how possible it will be for an individual described like this to make anything extraordinary out of his life! This was what the Lord wanted to avoid for his disciples when he asked them to tarry in Jerusalem until the Holy Ghost came.

Beloved, you can't make anything meaningful out of your calling without the person of the Holy Ghost. As a matter of fact, you have to know that nothing that we do for God makes any sense to Him except it is done through the Holy Ghost.

The only reason God accepts our services is if they are sanctified by the Holy Ghost. Take for example, when the Lord asked Moses to build him a temple, he made sure that the men who were to work there as laborers were men filled with the Holy Ghost. Actually, it wasn't like they were always filled with the Holy Ghost but the moment they were set apart for the job, they had to be filled of the Spirit before they could carry out the task.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,” (Ex 31:1-3)

If for jobs as seemingly trivial as carpentry the Lord had to fill Bezaleel with the Spirit of God, what do you think about your call? Okay, you may say it was because they were to help in the building of the temple that God decided to fill them with the Spirit. My question to you is this: do you think that the call and assignment of God upon your life is of lesser importance to God than the assignment to build Him a temple? Of course not!

If men who were to work with wood and brass and gold and the likes needed the Holy Ghost, much more do you because there is no calling of God today that doesn't have the lives of one or more people at the center of it.

Even the Lord Jesus during His earthly ministry couldn't function without the person of the Holy Ghost. He lived thirty three years on the face of the earth but almost nothing spectacular was recorded about Him until He was thirty. Though at twelve He was found in the temple arguing the scriptures with the teachers of the day, no works of power were recorded about Him. Bible scholars agree that from the age of twelve when Jesus was last heard of arguing the scriptures till he was thirty (eighteen years interval), He was being trained of the Holy Spirit for the work that was ahead of Him. It finally took the coming upon of the Holy Ghost at

baptism for the supernatural to begin to manifest in the life of Jesus.

I shared more about this in my other book titled "The Man in Christ" and I think you should get it for more on Jesus and the Holy Ghost.

At baptism, Jesus' entire life was turned around when the Holy Ghost came to reside and abide with Him. From that day forward, He became a force to reckon with. That was when He stepped into the fulfillment of His calling and ministry fully. It was then that the blind began to see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the leper cleansed and the dead raised back to life!

So while the calling may just be to anybody like the invitation to the wedding ceremony was without discrimination, getting enlisted among the chosen is a function of the preparation and readiness of the "called".

The called must get dressed for the ceremony if he is ever going to be counted amongst the chosen because only those who were dressed were admitted therein. Now that you have been called, you have to make it a point of duty to get trained and prepared for what you have been called for. It is the responsibility of the

“called” to set out in preparation for the high calling from the very moment that the calling is identified. This is pretty much what the bible talks about when it says:

“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil 2:12)

This does not in any way insinuate that salvation is now by works. It only points the saved to the fact that having been saved, it is up to you to work out that salvation. He is telling the saved that the vital experience of his salvation is completely up to him. It is his responsibility to manifest that salvation in every sphere of his life.

You know this brings me to a very important point about those who think that whatever will be will be and whatever God says will happen will definitely happen. This is a well concocted lie of the enemy to render God’s children less proactive and insistent on their rights in Christ.

You must understand that when we say someone is a Christian or has given his life to Christ, we are saying he is more than a man. He is now a super-man because the moment he gave his heart to Christ, he came out of the category of people that hope and pray that God will be with them and became a man in whom God resides.

This is the reason the believer in Christ is a superman. God does not reside in you for nothing or just for the fun of it. He resides in you so that He can function in and through you. He is there for action. Paul the apostle recognized this and said:

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Phil 4:13)

You will observe the use of the word “which” rather than “who” in this scripture. This is because the word Christ as used here refers to the anointing that made Jesus the messiah rather than the person of Jesus Himself. It refers to the very power by which Jesus was anointed to do the things that He did. This means that Paul recognized that the power that made Jesus the Christ was available to him as well. This power came into your life when you got born again and had God living on your inside. He came with that power to reside in you.

Hence, the believer in Christ is not the one hoping for things to happen, he is the one who is divinely enabled to make things happen! If things don't happen, it is because you are not making them happen and not because God doesn't want them to happen.

It is no longer God's responsibility to make things happen after he already loaded you with the ability to make them happen. When Jesus was telling the disciples about the Holy Ghost, He said

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

As far as the Lord is concerned, it is not possible to have the Holy Ghost come to you and yet be looking for power. For someone in whom the Holy Ghost resides to be praying to the Lord for power to make things happen in his life is a waste of time. God is never going to answer such prayers because the answer is already with the one that is praying. As long as what you are looking for with you; sure enough, you will never find it.

Jesus said you will receive that power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and then you will be able to carry out ministry. So, have you received the Holy Ghost? If yes, you are not the one looking for power again. You are rather the dispenser of divine energy. It's all a question of what you do with that ability now. Look at Jesus Himself for example, the moment He

received the Holy Ghost, He just went on and began to perform. He wasn't awaiting for heaven anymore. He went on and acted according to that which He was led to do. In reporting the first miracle Jesus ever did, the bible says:

“This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.” (John 2:11)

Did you observe that the writer says Jesus did the miracle and not God did the miracle? It was Jesus who put the supernatural to work and manifested His glory rather than waiting for God to do something. As you go about fulfilling your call, you don't wait for God to do the ministry that He has called you to do and has come to live in you for. You step out in faith and act like God has assigned you to do then you will see the manifestation of His presence with you. Remember Moses at the red sea. Until he stretched forth his hand to divide the red sea, nothing happened. God didn't go ahead and get the sea divided without Moses. It is interesting to know that if Moses hadn't done his part, the people would have died there and God will not be blamed for it.

If therefore, the Lord has called you into the music ministry, you won't sit back at home praying and asking God to use you to change lives when you are doing nothing in line with music. You ought to get yourself all wrapped up in music ministrations. You ought to covet every opportunity to minister in songs whether it is to a crowd, small group or an individual. You will be amazed that you will begin to see God on display in your life like you never imagined before.

Or if your calling is in line with leadership, you cannot avoid opportunities to lead when they come. You can't be among the masses or general class that busy themselves with criticizing the present leadership. Every opportunity to lead no matter how small it may seem shouldn't pass you by. Don't be the one that always opts out of the opportunity to lead. Always bear in mind that he that is faithful in little is faithful in much.

As at yet, we have established that the first thing that you must do in preparation for the fulfillment of your calling is for you to be born again and have the life of God in you. The next thing is to receive the Holy Ghost to come upon you. Nevertheless, there is more with respect to the preparation of the called for the calling and we will look into more in the next chapter.

CHAPTER SIX

NOT A NOVICE!

After being born again and receiving the Holy Ghost to dwell in you, it is important that you understand that you are only but a babe in the things of God. According to the word of God, great assignments are not given to babes lest they be destroyed by the assignment! This is why in showing us the qualifications of a bishop in the scriptures, the Spirit through the apostle Paul said:

“Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.” (1 Tim 3:6)

The Lord says that a bishop or an overseer shouldn't be a novice or new convert lest he be lifted up with pride and then fall into the same condemnation as the devil! This is to say that there is an immaturity that exists with new believers for which they should not hold certain offices. While they may be called into the office even before they got born again, standing fully in that office has a lot to do with their level of development, training and maturity in the things of God. Only those who have been thus trained of the Spirit may be trusted with such magnitude of responsibility.

If therefore the “called” remains under developed or under trained, it doesn't matter for how long he has

been born again, he is still not ready for the ministry or assignment to which he has been called. He may walk sparsely in that office but to continually walk in the manifestation of the whole ministry, he must undergo the necessary training.

When you read in the book of Galatians, the bible tells us:

“Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.” (Gal 4:1-2)

Please take a close look at the terms used here because they clearly communicate the mind of the Spirit to us. He says that even though a man were born as the heir to the throne, for as long as he is a child, he is not different from a servant in the palace. Yes, he is the true son of the king. He is even called a prince but then, for as long as he is a child he is still as good as a servant in that kingdom. His birth status doesn't automatically confer on him the authority of the heir. Though he is legally a lord and master in that kingdom, he has to grow up and be trained in the matters of the kingdom before he can fully step into his birthright. His vital experience of his birthright is tied to his training rather than his identity as the heir.

So what the father of the heir does is to give him over to tutors and governors who themselves have been specially trained in the preparation of the heir for the throne. This preparation is what then determines whether or not that heir ever steps on the throne. Until the father is satisfied with the training that the heir has received, he is not considered the successor of that throne.

It is the same thing with the "called" today. Until the Father is fully satisfied with how far you have been trained of the Holy Ghost for the venture He has called and separated you for, you are not ready for the fullness of that calling.

It is noteworthy that the word "child" here means much more than being an infant. It refers to a state of being untaught and unskilled rather than the age of the individual. That is the reason for the use of the phrase "as long as he is a child" rather than "when he is a child" What God is saying is that it doesn't matter the age of the heir, as long as he is untrained and unskilled in the matters of the kingdom, he is not different from a slave! So it's not about how long you have been born again for now, but how well you have been raised of the Spirit of God for your assignment in life.

Take Paul the apostle for example; the bible tells us in all clarity that he was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 1:1). Beginning from his encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ on his way to Damascus, God began to lead him by one step after the other in the direction of training him for the ministry.

First, God led him to Ananias who got him born again and filled with the Holy Ghost. Then he joined the church in Damascus as Bro. Paul. Like the other disciples, Paul joined in witnessing to the Lordship of Christ in the synagogues and everywhere until the Jews took counsel to kill him. It was then that the disciples took him by night and led him to escape the city for Jerusalem. Bear in mind that at this time he was already called by the Lord in that vision but he wasn't necessarily functioning as an apostle as at yet. In Damascus, he was Bro Paul probably serving in the evangelism department while listening to the teaching of the word of God there.

As soon as he arrived Jerusalem, he straightaway joined himself to the disciples there. Please note that he didn't go about doing his own thing or establishing a ministry just yet but rather he joined the church there. The bible says:

“And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.” (Acts 9:28)

In other words, anywhere the apostles went, Paul went with them. Anything they did, Paul did with them. When they went for prayers, he joined them. When they fasted, he joined them as well. When they studied and taught the word, he joined them too until the Grecians went about to slay him. Then the brethren led him through Caesarea to Tarsus.

Sometimes later as recorded in the eleventh chapter of the book of Acts, a door of ministry opened up in Antioch. The apostles got wind of the fact that the believers who were scattered abroad on account of the persecution that arose around Stephen's death had gotten to Antioch and were preaching the gospel big time! They then sent Barnabas to go over there to minister to the brethren and strengthen them in the work of the ministry. After a while of ministering in Antioch, Barnabas remembered his brother Paul and decided to go search for him in Tarsus. When he found him, he brought him to Antioch and they both stayed there and served in the ministry. For over a year the apostle Paul was in Antioch serving at different capacities in the church there. Later on, the bible tells us:

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” (Acts 13:1-2)

It was at this point that Paul was set aside as an apostle! All the while, he wasn't serving as an apostle at all even though he was thus called. From the first verse above you notice that Paul (formerly known as Saul) was numbered amongst the teachers and prophet that were at Antioch? This shows us exactly what he was doing all the while he was at Antioch. He may have been the Sunday school teacher or some small group teacher or something. He wasn't serving there as an apostle at all even though he was already called into the ministry of the apostle. God had to lead him through several phases of training beginning with his salvation and infilling with the Holy Ghost. He was at one point brother Paul in Damascus. Later on he joined himself to the company of the apostles in Jerusalem and then became a partner with Barnabas in Antioch before he was promoted of the Holy Ghost to begin to function as an apostle.

What if Paul refused to join the body of believers in Damascus after his salvation and receiving the Holy Ghost? Couldn't he have just gone on to begin his apostolic ministry? After all, Jesus already told him what He wanted him to do in that vision on his way to Damascus. Can't you see that everything was like a chain that God had planned ahead of time? It was his joining the body of believers in Damascus that led to their sending him to Jerusalem in the first place. If he hadn't joined them, he may never have gone to Jerusalem and may never have met with Barnabas who led him to the apostles. If he hadn't met with Barnabas in Jerusalem, Barnabas wouldn't have considered going for him when a door of ministry opened up.

None of these was a coincidence dear; it was all the plan and orchestration of the Lord. What if by the time Barnabas went in search of Paul and asked him to come over with him to help in the ministry in Antioch Paul didn't oblige him? Just what if Paul said *"how can an apostle like me be assisting an ordinary bro like you?"* Paul may have asked Barnabas *"Has Jesus ever appeared to you before? How do you expect me whom Jesus appeared to in a vision to be assisting a simple brother like you?"* But thank God, Paul knew better through the training of the Holy Ghost.

Now if you are a bible student, you should be wondering what about what the bible says in Gal 1:15-17?

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.” (Gal 1:15-17)

I like for you to note that when Paul talks about when it pleased God who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by His grace, he wasn’t really talking about that account where the Lord Jesus appeared to him on his way to Damascus. If you remember vividly, after that encounter with Jesus, he went blind for a while. A blind man couldn’t have gone to Arabia before going to Damascus. Moreover, when he talked about Damascus, he uses the phrase “*returned again*” to imply that this particular coming to Damascus wasn’t the first. Furthermore, he said he conferred not with flesh and blood neither did he go up to Jerusalem to those that were apostles before him but you recall that when his life was in danger in Damascus, he went

to Jerusalem and was going in and out among the apostles (Acts 9:22-30)

So the point Paul was making here is that the moment he was sent forth for the apostolic ministry (during his days at Antioch), he gave himself to the training and ministry of the Holy Ghost so much that most of the things he knew at the time of writing weren't really taught him by men.

Another very important example of the place of training and preparation for the call is what happened with the king David. We read how that the Lord chose and anointed him to be the next king of Israel even while Saul was still alive. Like is typical of the call, he wasn't necessarily called or ordained before the entire nation. It was in the presence just a little group made up mainly of his family members. So don't be surprised if it seems like the world you were sent to doesn't seem to recognize that you are the chosen one for their deliverance! After all, the Israelites didn't recognize Moses as their deliverer at first.

Anyway, after the anointing came upon David, the first thing that anointing did was to open up a door of training for him. Something interesting about the

training of David was that it was going to be by service!

The departure of the Spirit of God from the life of Saul left him with an evil spirit that disturbed him. In searching for a solution to his problem, Saul got to hear about a little boy who was good with musical instruments. He was told that whenever this boy plays, the evil spirit that disturbed him was going to leave him alone. So Saul sent for David and true to what he heard, every time that evil spirit tormented him, David played and they left him alone! Isn't it interesting that God put the answer to Saul's problem in David? God did that to give David an opportunity to serve the anointing and get trained for the real thing that was ahead. From that moment forward, one thing after the other, God was training this young lad for the days that were ahead.

Every time David had a vacation from his work in the palace where he served Saul, he went back home to help keep his father in taking care of the sheep. He didn't say *"Daddy, you know my level has changed, I used to be your shepherd boy but now am anointed and serving the king of Israel. I can't do those menial jobs I used to do anymore"* David understood that every opportunity he had to serve was an opportunity to train for the next level. It was in the course of keeping his father's sheep that God

led him to kill a lion and a bear with his bare hands. And it was that victory that gave him the “courage” to consider facing Goliath when the time came!

While the whole of Israel thought David was an inexperienced little boy who had lost his mind, God saw David as His champion whom He had prepared for that day! He had given himself over to be trained of the Lord for that day. It's the same reason the “called” must submit himself to the Spirit for training and preparation.

Meanwhile, suffice it to say that the nature of your call determines the kind of training you must undergo. It is the Holy Ghost who defines the kind of training that you must go through. For instance, Paul's training wasn't really the same with David's training and neither was it the same with any other that we have discussed. In the light of this, I will like to look at the training of Moses as well. The bible says:

“And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds. And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.” (Acts 7:22-23)

Moses for the first forty years of his life had been trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. He had become a man that was described as mighty in words and deed before he discovered the call of God upon his life. The bible says that when he became forty, it came to his heart to visit his brethren the Israelites because he wanted to survey their condition and decide the best way to go about helping them out of their predicaments. Upon getting there, he saw one of them suffering wrong in the hand of an Egyptian. Coming to his defense, Moses slew the Egyptian. The bible specifically tells us that Moses did that thinking that his brethren (the Israelites) would have understood that God was going to deliver them from the Egyptians through his hand. Unfortunately, they didn't understand! So the next day when Moses came and saw two Israelites quarrelling, he tried to help resolve the matter and the one that was at fault said to him:

“...Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us? Wilt thou kill me, as thou diddest the Egyptian yesterday?”

(Acts 7:27-28)

Discovering that his supposedly secret murder wasn't a secret after all, Moses fled to the land of Madian. He was there for another forty years before the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the midst of the burning bush.

The interesting point to note here is this: Moses had to be “banished” into the wilderness for a special time of re-training before he could fulfill his ministry to the Israelites because the training he got in the wisdom of the Egyptians made a murderer out of him.

That was why in his estimation, he was going to carry out his ministry as the deliverer to his people by killing the Egyptians one after the other. Unknown to him, the calling wasn't for a killer but a shepherd. The calling was for one who will have the heart of a pastor and a care taker/giver. God didn't need an aggressive, touchy or quick tempered person for this particular job. He needed a man of great meekness. That was why He had to technically “banish” Moses to the wilderness where he went to learn to be a shepherd by taking care of sheep for forty years. It was only after he had been trained enough that the Lord appeared to him with instructions on how to go about the assignment that He had for him.

Until he underwent that training, the Lord wasn't obligated to send him even though he had been called. He would have only remained but a called man. What put him on the next level of his ministry and destiny was his training!

It is rather unfortunate that not many of the “called” today ever get to be enlisted among the “chosen” or the sent because they undermine the place of training. Think for a moment that God didn’t teach Moses to be a shepherd, what would have become of the Israelites when God got angry with them and was ready to destroy them? The bible records:

“And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?” (Ex 32:9-11)

God was angry enough to destroy the people because of their stiff neck and unbelief but it took the intervention of the “shepherd hearted” Moses to stop Him. Can you imagine what would have been Moses’ response if he had not developed the heart of a shepherd? Not only would he have consented to that offer the Lord made him, he may have been the one to kill them long before God got angry enough to consider it! This points to the place and importance of being trained for your calling.

Beloved, it doesn't matter what you have learnt up till this moment, except you are trained in the word of God by the Holy Ghost, you are just not ready for the high calling!

Paul while writing to his dear son in the ministry admonished him saying:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim 2:15)

Come on dear, Paul didn't ask Timothy to pray that God will approve him. He didn't ask him to have faith or hope that God would approve him in the ministry either. He said study! That is to say that there is a kind of approval that only comes by studying. It doesn't matter that you have been called dear, there is a kind of approval you will only get if you have been trained for the job.

Jesus in describing the way the kingdom functions also used the parable of the ten virgins. He said the kingdom of heaven is likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise and the other five were foolish. The foolish ones were the ones who took their lamps with no extra oil with them but the wise took extra oil with them.

While the virgins waited for the arrival of the groom, night fell and they all slumbered and slept. Lo! At mid night, a cry was made *“behold the groom is around, go out to meet him!”*

The virgins arose and turned on their lamps. It was then that it dawned on the foolish virgins that they didn't have any oil left in their lamps. They asked the wise ones to give them some of their oil but they declined saying that it might not be enough for all of them. The foolish virgins decided to quickly run to buy some. The bible tells us:

“And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.” (Matt 25:10)

I like for you to take notice of the word *“ready”* in this portion of scripture. Even though ten virgins were called up for the occasion, only those who were *“ready”* went in to meet the groom. The foolish ones who made no preparations for their journey ended up losing out! Though they were called, they weren't different from those who weren't called at all.

Just as it took the preparation and readiness of the wise virgins to be admitted into the ceremony, it will

take the preparedness of the called to be admitted into the class of the chosen today.

In God's dealing with the Israelites, we read how that God promised them a land that was flowing with milk and Honey. We read how that at a point in their journey to that land, they decided to send spies over to see whether it was actually as Moses said the Lord had told him. Lo and behold it was all that Moses said and even more! The bible shows us that this land was not only good with several resources and products but it was also a really large one. It comfortably housed six different nations that were individually great. And here was God promising just one nation the whole thing! This had to take God to come to pass.

An interesting thing I want to bring to your notice here is the fact that as they got ready to possess the land, God spoke out to them saying:

“I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.” (Ex 23:29-30)

This must have been disheartening to the people who hitherto should have been very excited about their

possession of a great land like Canaan. What they didn't understand was that God was showing them a principle of the kingdom here. It doesn't matter how great the assignment is brother, full possession is always as a result of your growth and increase. God has to train you one step at a time to get to that ultimate place He has called you for.

God wasn't going to give them the whole land at once because they weren't large enough to handle it all as at yet. He required them to grow and increase over a period of time before they could take it all. So He said he was only going to give it to them by little and little. This is most typical of the call of God dear.

He starts you out from somewhere and begins to increase you by little and little as you get trained for the big stage. So what would you rather do? Won't you submit your entire being for the training of the Spirit? This is what I refer to as training for reigning!

Charles Emmanuel

CHAPTER SEVEN

FULFILL YOUR CALLING

Toround up our discussion on the distinguishing factors between the called and the chosen, I will like to bring to your notice another instruction that Paul gave Timothy in the second letter he wrote him. He said:

“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”

(2 Tim 4:5)

These were more like Paul’s parting words to this man who had become a minister of the gospel at quite an early age. He tells him amongst other things to ensure that he makes full proof of his ministry. This simply means that he should fulfill or perform the ministry. It also means to entirely accomplish and to fully carry out with evidence. Paul was telling Timothy that the fulfillment of his ministry is in his hands. If he decided that he was going to fulfill his ministry, he could go right ahead to do just that and nothing would be strong enough to stop him from doing so. On the other hands, if he did nothing, there will be nothing strong enough to cause him to make anything out of his calling.

This brings me to another very important factor in the fulfillment of your calling. The word is courage! It is the presence or absence of courage that accounts for fulfilled

and unfulfilled ministries today. The called must have the courage to believe in the calling and to act like the calling stipulates. Remember that we said the call is for an extraordinary task. The task is always way bigger than the humanity of the “called”. So sometimes, the task appears too large that the called may not know where to begin from. In fact, the calling of many ends with knowing what they were called to do because of the lack of the courage to step out in faith and act. You must learn to trust God enough to act like He really lives and works in you.

Listen dear, it took courage for Abraham to leave his country, kindred and father’s house at the age he did. It took courage for him to consider sacrificing the same son that took him hundred long years to have when the Lord demanded for him. What about Moses? It took courage for him to agree to facing Pharaoh and asking him to let God’s people go; bearing in mind that all his life no one ever faced or challenged Pharaoh and remained alive to tell the story! It took courage for David to stand before Goliath knowing that his life and that of the entire nation of Israel was on the line. It took courage for Paul who breathed threatening against the churches to turn around and start preaching the same gospel for which he hauled people into prison. It was

the same courage that it took for Queen Esther to consider going in to the king when she had not been called by him (Esther 4:16) Knowing the law of the land and the fact that her life was at stake, she went in to see the king and brought salvation to the Jews. So the “called” must be courageous to act like God says to act. While speaking with Joshua one time, the Lord said:

“Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.” (Jos 1:6-7)

Remember that Moses was the one originally assigned to this job but he failed somewhere along the line. Now, Joshua was called upon to take on the failed project. One of the things God had to say to Joshua in order to ensure his success was that he should endeavor to be courageous.

After God told him to be strong and of good courage for he shall divide the land for an inheritance to the people, the next verse says “*Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all*

the law,” He alludes to the fact that the accomplishment of the task ahead had a lot to do with this man’s courage. If he would dare have the courage to do as instructed, then he would be sure of the success that lies ahead.

Beloved, don’t you ever be afraid to act on God’s word. Never be afraid to step out of the boat into the water. The word of God can be trusted and it can be depended upon. No one ever yet acted on the word and failed. No one ever yet acted on God’s word and came back regretting. Abraham never lost for following God, David never did, the apostles never did, so who says you will?

One last point I will like to make here is the importance and role of a mentor as you take your steps towards the fulfillment of your calling. However, you have to be very careful in your choice of a mentor. A mentor is not necessarily one that you look up to in your chosen field of endeavor but one that has all that it takes to help you become better in what you have been called to do. In other words, if your calling were in the area of music, your mentor doesn’t have to be a musician! I mean your mentor is not necessarily your godfather in your field but is more like your coach!

Every good athlete knows the importance of a coach. The coach many not necessarily be the best athlete in the world but if he is a good coach, he can train the athlete to become the best athlete in the world. In the same vain, your mentor doesn't have to be a professional in your field of endeavor but someone who has what it takes to raise you into God's dream. Listen dear, you sure need a coach for life itself.

Please bear in mind that we are talking about a mentor to help you fulfill your calling and not necessarily a career mentor. As such, your mentor has to be a man or woman upon whom the anointing of the Spirit resides and can take you by the hand through the word of God until you become that which the Lord has called you for. The best place to begin therefore is with the pastor of your church! He can take you by the hand, minister God's word to you and pray with you were necessary.

This was the advantage of the prophet Samuel when he was a little boy. The bible tells us how that he had been given to God as an offering by his mum and was now serving in the temple with Eli the senior prophet. He was committed to the ministry under the leadership of Eli until one night when he slept and the Lord called out to him. Thinking it was Eli calling, Samuel ran to Eli

and said *“Here am I; for thou calledst me.”* Surprisingly, Eli told Samuel he didn’t call him so Samuel went back to sleep. Soon as he laid down, the Lord called out to him again. The boy arose and ran to Eli again saying *“Here am I; for thou calledst me.”* But Eli responded the same saying I didn’t call you; go back to bed. It was at this point that the Spirit of the Lord brought something very important to our notice by telling us:

“Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.” (1 Sam 3:7)

Samuel hadn’t known the Lord and the word of the Lord hadn’t been revealed to him as at yet but Eli (pastor) taught him about the Lord. Unknown to the little boy, it was the Lord God calling all the while that he was running over to Eli, the bible says that after this time Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

“Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.” (1 Sam 3:9-10)

That was it! Eli taught Samuel how to respond to the Lord and the next time the Lord called out to him, he was able to respond accordingly.

Think for a moment; what if God was never going to call out to Samuel again after the fourth time? He would have missed out on that calling and all that he ever achieved as a prophet in Israel would either never have been done or at least not done by him.

Think about such a great ministry that Samuel was almost going to lose for his immaturity and ignorance of the ways of the Lord! Thanks be to God he had a pastor. Thanks be to God he had a pastor that could teach him about the Lord and he followed.

Just like Samuel, it is not enough to be working for Him in church, the "called" has to submit to the ministry of the word if he intends to be enlisted among the chosen.

By this I mean submitting to the study, meditation and doing of the word of God. This is a major prerequisite for the "called" because the God's word is His training material for us in the kingdom. The word is the main material for Christian growth so a man who is not actively engaged in the ministry of the word is definitely not growing. If he is not growing, his impart

in the area of his “*calling*” will be limited because he can’t help his world beyond the distance he has gone. He can only offer of himself, so what he doesn’t have; he would not be able to give.

Now, while you may choose to stay at home and study the bible from sun up to sun down, there is a place for the ministry of the word in the church of Jesus Christ that you cannot reproduce in your house. I am talking about the undeniable and irreplaceable role of the church in your development as a child of God. You need to come to the realization that the church is more than a place of weekly meetings. In the natural, the governments of the world and even private people have taken the responsibility for the education of their children. They believe that the future of the children and even the nation depends a whole lot on the education of the kids. That is why in certain countries of the world, they have even gone ahead to make education free so that both the rich and the poor can have access to this great legacy. In the kingdom of our dear God, His church is His education and training center. The future and total wellbeing of the individual child of God as well as the universal body of believers depends largely on the training that takes place in the church of Jesus Christ. This is the reason the Lord took

out time to call and anoint ministers in the church today. The bible says:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” (Eph 4:11-13)

Here is one mistake a lot of people make. They think that these offices were given for people to minister to the world and build the church thereby. For example, they think that the evangelist is the one called of God to go out there from street to street, city to city, nation to nation and preach the gospel to the unbelievers and bring them into the church or better still start a church for them. Meanwhile, what the bible says is that these gifts of ministry were given to the church! Didn't you see the purpose of these ministries as stated in verse twelve? The bible says it is for the perfecting of the saints and not the world! The word perfecting here means building, equipping, mending and complete furnishing.

That means God's design for the church is more than for it to be a place of meeting for believers but a place

where they can progressively be furnished for their life's assignment.

The reason He gave the ministry gifts is so that His kids can be fully equipped for the assignment that He has for them. Having been furnished, the body of believers now take on the task of performing the ministry which in turn strengthens the entire body! In other words, the only way the body can be strengthened is if the individual members of the body fulfill their ministries but these individual members of the body cannot fulfill their ministries except they are trained and equipped for the job. So the Lord set up some people (ministers) upon whom He placed the anointing, ability and responsibility to train the members of the body so they can be fit for the ministry that the Lord has committed to them. Tell me then, how possible will it be for a child of God to fulfill his ministry or assignment if he is not involved in the church ministry?

Just like Samuel who didn't know the Lord and hadn't gotten a revelation of the word of God despite the fact that he had been serving the Lord in the temple all the while, your involvement in the church ministry has got to go beyond the activities there. You must submit yourself to be trained through the church ministry.

While Paul had been called of God in that vision, his training was in the church of Jesus Christ and his eventual commissioning into the ministry of the apostle was in the church as well. What if Paul had been an inconsistent member and didn't come to church on that fateful day in Acts 13:1-2? He would have simply missed out on his assignment and remained in the class of the called all his life!

Another reason why it is extremely important for you to be involved with the church ministry is because it is in church that your faithfulness is proved! Abraham had been walking with the Lord for over twenty five years when the Lord asked him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Immediately, Abraham set off on a three day journey to do as the Lord had commanded him. He had enough time to think this instruction through. He had enough time to change his mind if he wanted to but he didn't. He stayed true to the word of God to him irrespective of what funny ideas his mind may have suggested to him. He went ahead with the sacrifice. As soon as he was about to sacrifice the boy, the scripture tells us:

“And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.” (Gen 22:12)

How come the Lord said “*Now I know*” Hasn’t Abraham been walking with the Lord all these years? You see, Abraham’s faithfulness to the instruction (word) of God made another impression on the Lord. This time the scripture tells us:

“And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” (Gen 22:15-18)

Come on here! Did you notice the emphasis? You know God had told Abraham He was going to bless him a long time ago. When you read in the twelfth and thirteenth chapters of the book of Genesis, you find it all documented there. So this time around it was a different ball game. It wasn’t blessing as usual at all. It was God bringing Abraham into another realm of the blessing that had earlier been pronounced upon him. This time around God said this particular blessing is because Abraham did not withhold his son from Him.

Charles Emmanuel

This blessing was an offshoot of Abraham giving his best to God. His faithfulness confirmed the blessing that had been pronounced all the while.

Listen beloved, your faithfulness to the word of God and the things of God are essential for your promotion at every level in the kingdom. What have you done so far with the word of God that you know and have been taught?

Your faithfulness is the measure of your productivity given the resources (word of God, training and opportunities) available to you. It also refers to your ability to stay through with the word of God without wavering in your commitment and involvement with it until it produces for you what it talks about.

In other words, God will have to prove your resoluteness as an individual if you ever intend to step into the category of the chosen. Paul once said:

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;” (1 Tim 1:12)

You see? God counted Paul faithful before putting him into the ministry and not the other way round. Paul’s faithfulness to the course of Jesus had to be proved

before he eventually stepped into the ministry proper. That was why the Spirit was moving him from one level of training to the other within the congregation of the church of Christ. After he was found faithful, he was set aside for the work he had been called for all along. When Paul later wrote to Timothy about how he should run the ministry, he said:

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Tim 2:2)

Against natural assumptions, Paul asked Timothy to commit the future of the ministry to faithful men rather than men of ability. The primary qualification for men that could be counted worthy for the ministry was faithfulness and nothing else.

God is more concerned about a man's faithfulness than his ability. He doesn't mind a man that is unable but willing to be faithful because he can always give him the ability of the Spirit, but there is no such thing like the faithfulness of the Spirit. Faithfulness is one thing you will have to demonstrate for yourself like you study and apply God's word for yourself.

Charles Emmanuel

In a nutshell, the factors that account for the difference between the called and the chosen are: giving your life to Christ to become born again; receiving and enjoying the ministry/fellowship of the Holy Ghost; and submitting yourself to every form of training, preparation and development that the Lord has set in place for you! With these in place, you are sure to function in the most exalted office conceivable in this world through Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Salvation

*O*h Lord God, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ. I believe that you sent Him to die for me and to bring me eternal life. I confess His lordship over my life and I receive eternal life into my spirit now. Thank you dear Father for saving me; I am born again now in the name of Jesus.

If you have given your heart to Christ, received a miracle or healing while reading this book or would like to contact us for other materials that would help you grow and increase you in Christ – like walk!

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5. The Emergence of Champions
6. How to Turn Converts to Disciples
7. The Call of God
8. Features of the Recreated Human Spirit
9. The Works of Faith
10. Mobilization for Action
11. The Journey of Life

12. Becoming your dream
13. Knowing the Lord Jesus
14. Living in the Realities of the Word

About The Author

Pastor Charles Emmanuel is a man with a mandate to take the gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth by demonstrating the "Divine Life" to the people of the world and bringing them into its reality. He is the President and Founder of Theios Life Incorporated (aka Divine Life Ministries International) with headquarters in Lugansk, Ukraine.

He is an anointed teacher and expositor of the word of God; a father, a life coach, a mentor, a capacity builder, a motivational speaker, a leader to leaders and a pastor to pastors with a ministry spanning over six years now! He periodically holds special meetings, seminars, crusades, healing services, outreaches, leadership training programs, word conventions, and lots more around the world; all attended by an unusual revelation of the word and untold miracles and manifestation of the life and power of God.

For over five years now, he has authored the life changing daily devotional guide titled "Metamorphosis" as well as several other classics such as: The Man in Christ, Your Rights and Authority in Christ, The Emergence of Champions, How

to Turn New Converts to Disciples, Becoming Your Dream and several other destiny shaping and impact making books.

He is happily married to his precious and adorable "angel" as he calls her – Pastor Layo Charles Emmanuel who is the general overseer of Divine Life Church Ministry. They are blessed with a beautiful princess named Sophia!