

Calling - "God is calling you out..."

Have you heard a Voice calling to you from a place completely outside of the place where you are? Have you heard it say that you are meant for so much more than "this"? Have you heard a whisper that says there are possibilities that you have never dreamed of? Do you look out over your life and remember times when a Voice called you by name:

"Come away with Me my love. Come away from this mess. Leave behind this desolate and dying world for something glorious and unimaginably lovely and everlasting. Come up to this place where I am. Won't you come to Me? This is all you were ever meant for. I cannot bear to see you remain where you are. I will even give My Own Son to bring you here where I am if only you will leave all behind and die to this world and die to yourself, with My Son Jesus, so you can be made new with Him and be swept up with Him to be with Me here. This is eternal life... to know Me and My Son Jesus Whom I sent. Will you receive life everlasting? Or will you be lost forever? I call you by name. Will you hear and come away with Me? O the depths of My love, deep and eternal, if only you knew. Come to Me. Let Me gather you. Come and let Me enfold you. Come and become the desire of My heart. Come and take your place beside Me in My Son Jesus. Come and fulfill My destiny for you. Come to Me and be what I have always meant for you to be. I will outlast. Nothing came before Me and nothing will come after Me. Everything not in Me is passing away. Even so, I will fulfill all that is in My heart. The rocks will rise up and cry out if no others will. The universe will yield to Me and be folded up like a blanket. It cannot be otherwise. The vast heights and depths will declare My glory. Powers and authorities will fall on their faces before Me. Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which I have prepared for those who love Me. For those who love Me and are called according to My eternal purposes in My Son Jesus. Therefore hear and receive My calling while the window is open to you. Seek after Me. Let your heart be melted and come away with Me now..."

Below are some snippets from Scripture that give a glimpse of what God has termed His "calling". I sense that so many claim to love Jesus today, but so few own a sense of eternal purpose, destiny, hope, glory. So many self-proclaimed "Christians" seem to lack an encounter with God that leaves them permanently imprinted with His very high and upward calling. And thus it seems that Jesus is a mere "affiliation" and not their "very Life". There are those who, on one hand, call themselves Christians, and then on the other hand, behave in surprisingly offensive ways that resemble nothing of the Jesus that we have come to know in Scripture and in personal life experience. Below are some windows into what I would like to say are things that produce in the heart of God grievings, weepings and yearnings for those who remain "below" in all but occasional kindly words toward a general concept of Jesus and/or churchgoing.

"Who has planned and done it, **calling forth the generations from the beginning?** I Jehovah am the first and the last; I am He."
(Isaiah 41:4 LITV)

The desire of God's heart is to have a family. God has been calling human beings into existence because He has eternal purposes for them. God's purposes emanate from the very nature of His being and supersede the history of this planet. He is calling forth generations so generations would come to Him through His Son Jesus and become His Children for eternity.

“I have been sought, not by those who asked. I have been found, not by those who sought Me. **To a nation *not calling* on My name, I said, Behold Me! Behold Me!**”
(Isaiah 65:1 LITV)

God Himself is calling people out of natural existence into His supernatural existence... into restoration and connectedness with Himself. He has made a Way for this through Jesus Christ.

“And **calling the crowd near**, He said to them, Hear and understand”
(Matthew 15:10 LITV)

“And **calling them near**, He spoke to them in parables, saying, How can Satan cast out Satan?”
(Mark 3:23 LITV)

“And **calling all the crowd near**, He said to them, All hear Me and understand.”
(Mark 7:14 LITV)

“And **calling near the crowd** with His disciples, He said to them, Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take his cross, and let him follow Me.”
(Mark 8:34 LITV)

These are some examples of how when Jesus walked the earth He called people to Himself to convey spiritual reality and understanding to them. At that time, people came to Him for their own reasons and expectations. Some accepted what He said, others did not. He is still calling us to draw near today...

“The crowd being very great in those days, and not having anything they may eat, Jesus, **calling His disciples near**, said to them...”
(Mark 8:1 LITV)

Jesus called His close followers and friends to Himself to demonstrate God’s life to them, and make them partakers with Him in the work that God was doing.

“according as it has been written, “I have appointed you a father of many nations;” before God, whom he believed, the One making the dead live, and **calling the things that are not as if they were.**”
[Gen. 17:5] (Romans 4:17 LITV)

The creative force of God looks at an old rundown dilapidated house and immediately sees what it could be... and *calls* it forth: purposes of God come forth!; dead spirit come to life!; what does not exist, exist!

“for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of **the One calling,**”
(Romans 9:11 LITV)

There is one *Caller*. No other can call you. Set your expectation on no one else. People (like me) may encourage you or try to help you, but only Jesus can reveal His Father to you.

“For the free gifts and the **calling of God** are unregrettable / irrevocable.”
(Romans 11:29 LITV)

Though some have ruined and wrecked and misallocated them to their own shame, God’s gifts/powers and calling are originally meant for eternity in God’s service.

“to the assembly of God which is in Corinth, those having been sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called-out saints**, with all those calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both theirs and ours”
(1 Corinthians 1:2 LITV)

The saints of God are “called out” and away... and unto God the Father through Jesus His Son. Or to say it another way, God’s Children are called to their Heavenly Father... *in* the world but *not of* the world... of HIM.

“For you see **your calling**, brothers, that there are not many wise according to flesh, nor many powerful, not many wellborn.”
(1 Corinthians 1:26 LITV)

Your calling... not someone else’s calling.

“Each one in **the calling in which he was called**, in this remain.”
(1 Corinthians 7:20 LITV)

Every individual must have a unique calling. There is no generic calling that you can simply “sign up” for, or “consent” to. The calling of God is your personal and individual encounter with God Himself. There are no “drifters” in God’s family. You must know God for yourself and seek to have your own encounter with and calling by Him. In order to say we know God we must first have met Him personally. It is impossible to have encountered God and not know it. It cannot be legitimate to only “have a guess” or “a hope” as to whether we have actually met God, with no details or life changing effects.

“This persuasion is **not from Him calling you...**”
(Galatians 5:8 LITV)

There are voices and powers that are calling to us which are not emanating from God, or His purposes for our lives or the lives of others. They are the calling of shipwreck and death. They are time wasters, energy drainers and sleepy distractions. If we draw near to God, He will draw near to us and lift us up onto His highway that is unlike any other. When He does, His Presence will be unmistakable and the fruit of such an encounter will align with Scripture.

“...the eyes of your mind having been enlightened, for you to know what is **the hope of His calling**, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...”
(Ephesians 1:18 LITV)

God’s calling will bring true enlightenment and infuse hope into the deepest part of your being.

“Then I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to **walk worthily of the calling in which you were called,**”

(Ephesians 4:1 LITV)

It is possible to walk *unworthy* and *below* the calling God has for you. Compared to God's high calling, the existence of mere natural man is like pigs wallowing in the mud, here today and gone the next. God's heart breaks when men choose mud over His high and worthy calling.

"There is one body and one Spirit, even as you also were called in one hope of your calling;"
(Ephesians 4:4 LITV)

If hopelessness fills your heart, you have not fully received your calling. You may even have a sense that you love God, but do not have a sense of direction, of long term vision and hope. If you have not have received the upward calling of God, know that God is offering it. Many are called, but few are chosen. Make it your life's purpose to know God and receive His calling.

"I press on after a mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
(Philippians 3:14 LITV)

Make no mistake... this is no ordinary calling. This is THE HIGH CALLING of God in Christ Jesus. This is not a video game, a movie, a music CD, a party, an infatuation, a weekend getaway. This is God's glorious and high reality offered to you for eternity. God sent His Son Jesus to extend the offer to bring you up into a place infinitely higher than this natural world. To the place where God is... a place so high that God must *stoop down* to behold all the stars in the universe (see Psalm 113.6).

"testifying for you to walk worthily of God, the One calling you to His kingdom and glory."
(1 Thessalonians 2:12 LITV)

You are called to the dominion of God's King -- Jesus -- and God's glory. If you can't imagine what this means, then God must reveal it to you... and for that to happen you must take genuine interest in having a spiritual revelation and encounter with God Himself.

"Faithful is the One calling you, who also will perform it."
(1 Thessalonians 5:24 LITV)

If the high calling of God frightens you... know that He is good and everything He does is good and He is Faithful and will not call you to something and then abandon you. He is eternally committed to the things He has in mind for you! Please allow yourself to be chosen. Please listen and hear and receive your calling. There is no other way besides the call of God through Jesus. The love and tears of God are calling out for you...

"For which we also continually pray concerning you, that our God would deem you **worthy of the calling, and would fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness, and work of faith in power"**
(2 Thessalonians 1:11 LITV)

You cannot decide to be worthy or make yourself worthy. These are for God to do. But you can seek God with all your heart and petition Him that you and others would be found worthy.

“the One having saved us and having **called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace given to us in Christ Jesus before eternal times”
(2 Timothy 1:9 LITV)

God’s calling sets you apart. It is unlike any other calling, or purpose, or plan, or intention found anywhere else in heaven or earth. Holy God extends a holy calling to you.

“For this reason, holy brothers, **called to be partakers of a heavenly calling**, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus”
(Hebrews 3:1 LITV)

Don’t just behold it from afar and marvel at it and desire it. Become a PARTAKER of this heavenly calling! There is no other way. You cannot be a ‘spectator’ and play the game at the same time. Enter in...

“Now the God of all grace, **the One calling you to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus**, you having suffered a little, Himself will perfect, confirm, strengthen, establish you.”
(1 Peter 5:10 LITV)

God’s calling is about God. He calls you to HIMSELF through Jesus Christ. He is from everlasting, to everlasting. He knows what will be happening a billion billion years from now when the earth has been long gone. He is not stopping the flow of time eternal for this fallen earth. No, he is moving forward for eternity and nothing will stop Him or slow Him down, not even this momentary earth. God is calling humans UP into HIMSELF for the flow of eternity... to be with Him where He is, to His eternal glory in Christ Jesus. Listen for His calling and allow yourself to be caught up in HIM when you hear it. All that this perishing earth has to offer is a dwindling downward call. Leave that behind and receive God’s eternal upward call.

“As His divine power has given to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through the full knowledge of **the One calling us through glory and virtue**”
(2 Peter 1:3 LITV)

Have you ever walked through a very tall corn field? If so, you know that your body has a highly interactive experience with the corn stalks and leaves and husks and dust. It is impossible to walk through the field without being touched by the corn and without touching the corn yourself. In a similar way, God is calling you to walk in glory and virtue. When you walk in God’s calling, there is no way your spirit can avoid touching and being touched by God’s glory and virtue. These will begin to emanate from you because the Spirit of Jesus lives in and emanates from you. God will reveal it to you.

“Therefore, brothers, rather be diligent to **make sure of your calling and election**; for doing these things, **you will not ever fall.**”
(2 Peter 1:10 LITV)

Once called, it is important to deeply value His calling and evaluate your position to ensure you are on solid footing within the calling God has given you. Being within God’s calling is to never fall. To reject His calling or wander outside of His calling is to fall and enter into the downward and dying calling of the world. God’s calling is an ongoing upward experience.

Everything else is downward. Pilots have a saying, "Push the stick forward to make the houses look bigger; pull the stick back to make the houses look smaller." I would suggest that you no longer need the houses below. Aim high and fix your eyes on things above, not on things upon the earth, for you are dead and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Or at least I hope and pray that this is the case for you. Listen for His Voice & when He calls you, enter in with all you are; step through the Gate -- which is Jesus Himself -- and enter into God.

"For many are called, but few chosen."
(Matthew 22:14 LITV)

Oh how I hope and pray for God's Own sake that you will be there.