



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHWEST

May we be one so that the world may know Jesus Christ. -John 17:23

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Listening for God's Calling In Your Life

Passages On God's Calling On Your Life

"YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU.

I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever
he will give you." John 15:16

"HOW HAPPY IS THE ONE WHO DOES NOT WALK IN THE ADVICE OF THE WICKED...

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
²but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
³That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers." Psalm 1:1-3

"He has saved us with a holy calling... with a holy calling...

and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time
and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."

"He has saved us with a holy calling...

and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began." 2 Tim 1-9

"FOR YOU WERE CALLED TO THIS,

because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 1
Peter 2:21

“We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with

all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in
with his strength that works powerfully in me.” Col 1:28-29

“For we are his workmanship,

created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. Eph 2:10

We all have equal access to God the Father through Jesus Christ on the power of the Holy Spirit, we are all called to different ministries. St. Paul writes,

There is one body and one spirit-just as you were called to one hope that belongs to your call-one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. (Ep. 44:7)

Then he lists a number of leadership sorts of ministries to which God might call a person: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. This leads up to the question at hand: Just *how* does God call such ministers?

God didn’t just call ministers in the New Testament. God chose specific people to lead his family from the beginning. Consider the following different peoples of God and their callings:

- 1) Genesis 12:1-9 – The Call of Abraham
- 2) Exodus 3:1-22 – The Call of Moses
- 3) Joshua 1:1-9 The Call of Joshua
- 4) 1 Samuel 3:1-21 – The Call of Samuel
- 5) 1 Samuel 16:1-13 – The Call of David
- 6) Matthew 4:18-22 & Luke 5:1-11 – The Call of the First Disciples
- 7) Luke 5:27-31 – The Call of Levi
- 8) John 1:43-51 The Call of Philip and Nathaniel

How diverse are these calls. From these we can draw a few conclusions. Each call is different and unique. Although there are some similarities, we can expect the Lord to call each person in precisely the same way. Secondly, some are called to a particular role and others to a particular task, while still others to a life-long state.

So if you feel that you may have a call to ministry in His Church, the following are a few suggestions to consider as you test your call.

- 1) Scripture: Does your sense of call align with what you read in the Bible? What do you see in Scripture that compels to consider God’s people a unique way?
- 2) Community: Have you discussed your sense of a call with other committed Christians? Have you talked to your priest/rector or another pastor?
- 3) Authority: If God is calling you to a unique ministry in the church, the discernment is never yours alone. Others will confirm that call (or not). This will include the ministers/Bishop that God has placed in charge of you.

- 4) Direction: If you do not already have one, find a mentor or spiritual director to walk alongside you.

While there are several approaches to discernment and listening. Next steps are outlined in our next section: ANSWERING THE CALL.