

FOLLOW THE CALL: BELIEVER VS. FOLLOWER

APRIL 11, 2010—PR. TOM BRASHEARS ☺

Alright gang, here's the bottom line up front (BLUF):

The cause of not following a call from God is the same.

People pick self interest over God's direction. They stumble and blow it because they:

- refuse to give up comfort and what seems to be safety
- won't put the sharing of the Gospel (Kingdom work) first
- cave in

2 Timothy 1:8-18 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ And of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.

1. WHAT IS A CALL FROM GOD? That moment in time when God gets our attention with message that is personal and specific and requires action on our part.

2. WE'VE ALL HEARD THE CALL. That's why we're here. A call is:

a. specific

b. personal: it's for you. He gives commands, orders, and calls us to himself. He does the calling. God has work this way through the beginning of time.

- Genesis 3:9 "But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" *This was a call to accountability.*
- Gen 12: Abraham: leaves country, leaves everything and goes—bam!
- Moses: God sends him back to Egypt to set people free
- John the Baptist: called to be the herald
- Disciples: each on was called

God issues calls. This is serious business.

3. CALLS COME IN THREE FOLLOWING WAYS:

A. A CALL TO SALVATION, the basis of this call is the cross, wages of sin is death—we're condemned, we need to have a savior, he takes our sin and guilt, suffers our punishment, pays debt in full, so God could declare us free.

B. A CALL TO SANCTIFICATION OR A HOLY LIFE.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-2 Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

God wants us to live a Godly life so that he can express his nature through us. It is a onetime event and a process. A Holy life is NOT a life that does not fail--its a heart that is bent towards God and a life that is devoted to him. Grace: takes care of your sinfulness, it is not license, but it is motivation.

C. A CALL TO SERVICE.

Ephesians 2:4-10 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. THE RIGHT ATTITUDE: Whatever you want, whenever you ask: YES. Where do we get the idea that we belong to ourselves? You don't belong to you. He owns us we're the purchased possessions of Christ motivated by love.

5. WE'RE GIFTS.

Gifts are given for the common good: serve each other, use our material possessions. He has prepared each of us for his work and its different for each one of us. No one is more important in the eyes of God. Christ died for the great and the bad. Everyone has a fallen nature. We're not worthy of God, not one. We're called to make a difference in the kingdom of God. A Christian Walk: is a lifestyle. I'm no more a servant of God than you. A woman cleaning the oven in her home is serving the living God. Serving is an attitude. If you live your life and don't give it away to serve the living God you've missed it. If I choose to live and do my thing my way: I say I'm selfish and self centered and I don't care that what he wants me to do matters.

6. THE SERIOUSNESS OF GOD'S CALL:

It is a call by the sovereign, holy God.
My response, whether yes or no, affects me immediately.
It affects my eternal destiny ([Matt. 22:14](#)).
God called me before I was born ([Gal. 1:15](#); [Eph. 1:4-5](#)).
God's call is irrevocable, no matter how tough life gets.

7. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESPONDING TO THE CALL OF GOD.

We will have to give an account for how we lived our lives ([1 Cor. 3:12-16](#)).
We will be rewarded for the mundane tasks that no one else knew we did.
He's going to reward us on the basis of how much truth we heard, how much opportunity we had, and what we did with it.

Have you answered the call to salvation? If so, are you willing to respond to a call when it comes? Are you? Really?