

CHAPTER 2

CALLED AND CHOSEN BE FAITHFUL TO THAT CALL

*For many are called, but few are chosen.
Matthew 22:14*

“Called - kletos- klay-tos’; Strong’s G2822; from the same as G2821; invited, that is, appointed, or (specifically) a saint: - called.”

“Chosen – eklekto - ek-lek-tos’; Strong’s G1588; from G1586; select; by implication favorite: - chosen, elect. □

*Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your
calling and **election** sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall
never fall: 2 Peter 1:10*

“Sure – bebaios - beb'-ah-yos; Strong’s G949; From the base of G939 (through the idea of basality); stable (literally or figuratively): - firm, of force, steadfast, sure.”

“Election - eklog - ek-log-ay’; Strong’s G158; From G1586; (divine) selection (abstractly or concretely): - chosen, election.”

In 2 Peter 1:10 we see that the word calling comes before election. You may ask, "Why?" because you would expect that election should come before calling, and that it should read, "Give diligence to make your election and calling sure." Understand that God has an order. God's order is not like ours. Our ways are far from His ways. [Isaiah 55:8]

On God's side, election comes first. In the natural realm, we would say calling first. However, with God no man knows, he is elected until after he is called.

God did not elect His people and then leave it to humans to call out whom He has elected. We must recognize that calling and election are divine and comes from God and God alone.

And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, Mark 3:14

God will and does use His people for His purpose, but we must realize that He does not have to use us. He chooses to use us and has ordained us to do His will on the earth.

For God to call us and choose us for ministry is an honor and a privilege. How does one come to realize that God is calling them?

What is the calling of God? The word call is used 196 times, called 624, and calling 24 times in the Old and New Testaments. The Greek words translated call include kaleo and its derivatives parakaleo, epikaleo, and kletos, along with legein and phonein.

Calls come with purpose and many reasons:

- To express the act of naming
 - *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*
 - *Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- To call to or address someone
 - *Acts 10:18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.*

- To summons]
 - *Matthew 15:32 Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.*
 - *Mark 2:17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
- To call something by a particular name
 - *Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*
- To call on God or on the name of God
 - *Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*
- God's call which results in salvation
 - *Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*
- Believers are referred to as the called
 - *Jude 1:1 Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:*

An Outward Call and Inward Call

Outward call - is the call of God that goes out to offer grace to sinners. It is God inviting them to come and accept Jesus Christ as Lord. It is a call to come to Christ and receive salvation. A call that goes out commanding everyone to respond; this call can be resisted. This call shows men what they ought to do in order to receive salvation, and renders them inexcusable in case of disobedience.

Matthew 22:1-3

1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said,

2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

“Effectual call – is an **inward call** that touches the spirit of man and quickens him, and this call cannot be resisted.”¹

There are two means for effectual call:

- (1.) The preaching of the Word, 'is the voice of many waters sounding in the ears of man and calling man to respond to the invitation that is uttering out of the mouth of those He calls.

1 Samuel 3:3-5

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

¹ Shelton, Sr., L.R. *The Effectual Call of God*. (n.d) retrieved September 15, 2011, from Angelfire.com Web Site: <http://www.angelfire.com/va/sovereigngrace/effectual.call.html>

*4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered,
Here am I.
5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou
calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down
again. And he went and lay down.*

*1 Samuel 3:10 And the LORD came, and stood, and
called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then
Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*

Your eyes must open to understand that a minister is a representative for the Lord Jesus Christ. When the minister speaks the Word of God, we must come to realize that it is the voice of God that flows through the minister. Ministers have the responsibility to preach God, not themselves. The reality is that when the minister speaks, it is to be the voice of God. Therefore, a minister must be in a place free from distraction to hear God. This includes shutting down the voice of the old man that wants to bring him many distractions. We must put the old man to death daily, because the old man was crucified on the cross and has no life. The new man (new creature) has been resurrected with power. [2 Corinthians 5:17]

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

God speaks by his ministers. A president speaks by his ambassadors. Ministers are called to preach, teach and exhort by God. When the message is refused, God Himself is refused.

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

- (2.) The Holy Spirit gives the effectual call. The ministry of the Word is the harp of God. Every time the strings of the harp are stroked, the sound vibrates throughout the atmosphere causing men to hear and changing their hearts. [Acts 10, Acts 16:14]

It has been taught by reformed theologies that when God calls one into ministry, it is an effectual call. The call always achieves its purpose. [Isaiah 55:11, Jonah 1-4, Romans 8:30, 1 Corinthians 1:9, 1 Corinthians 1:26, 1 Corinthians 7:21-22, Ephesians 4:4]

“The Holy Spirit through the Word of God gives an outward call to the whosoever, which we call the "general call," and then, taking the Word of God and applying it to the whosoever heart. He gives the inward call, the "effectual call, that no whosoever can ever resist. It is effective. The general call is objective; the effectual call is subjective. The one can be resisted; the other cannot. The effectual call is the Holy Spirit calling God's elect to purpose.”²

Inward Call

Inward call - The clarion call goes forth and touches the spirit of man and quickens him with the Word of God. Through His Spirit, God speaks to those persons He has called to serve as ministers in His church.

—The Reformer Martin Luther described this inward call as "God's voice heard by faith." Those whom God has called know this call by a sense of leading, purpose, and growing commitment.

²Shelton, Sr., L.R. *The Effectual Call of God*. (n.d) retrieved September 15, 2011, from Angelfire.com Web Site:
<http://www.angelfire.com/va/sovereigngrace/effectual.call.html>

Charles Spurgeon identified the first sign of God's call to the ministry as "an intense, all-absorbing desire for the work." Those called by God sense a growing compulsion to preach and teach the Word, and to minister to the people of God.

This sense of compulsion should prompt the believer to consider whether God may be calling them to the ministry. Has God gifted you with the fervent desire to preach? Has He equipped you with the gifts necessary for ministry? Do you love God's Word and feel called to teach?

"As Spurgeon warned those who sought his counsel not to preach if they could help it. "But," Spurgeon continued, "If he cannot help it, and he must preach or die, then he is the man." That sense of urgent commission is one of the central marks of an authentic call."³

Hebrews 3:1-2

- 1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*
- 2 Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.*

"Partakers – metochos - met'-okh-os; Strong's G3353; from G3348; participant, that is, (as noun) a sharer; by implication an associate: - fellow, partaker, partner."

"Faithful - pistos - pis-tos', G4103; from G3982; objectively trustworthy; subjectively trustful: - believe (-ing, -r), faithful (-ly), sure, true."

³ Mohler, Jr, R. Albert (Mon, Feb. 11 2008). *Has God Called You? Discerning the Call to Preach*. retrieved September 15, 2011, from The Christian Post Web Site: www.christianpost.com/news/has-god-called-you-discerning-the-call-to-preach-31143/

In Chapter 3 in Hebrews we are identified as holy brethren who are partakers of a heavenly calling. Ensuring those called that their call is from heaven, and their call is a heavenly calling. The call came from heaven. The earth did not summon the call. Heaven is calling and has called.

Faithfulness comes from a trusting and a believing heart. We cannot be faithful to God if we have any unbelief take root in our heart. Unbelief in its slightest form is hateful to God. It destroys the soul. It hinders God's work in us and through us. [Matthew 13:58, Matthew 17:19-20, Mark 6:1-6, Romans 4:20, Romans 11:19-21, Hebrews 3:10-12]

Understand, we can separate from all earthly pleasures, read the Word of God night and day, sing praise songs and listen to sermons all day. Unless he or she is praying, "Oh God, crucify the old man and allow me to receive your Word and walk it out by faith. Allow my new man to override my carnal nature that tries and prevents me from walking out and fulfilling the call of ministry placed in and on my life. There won't be change. For if we do all these things and never deal with submitting the flesh to the Spirit of God, all we have said and done will have no eternal effect when we stand before God. What we hear and see must be mingled with faith and obedience to the things of God.

Can we hold true what God has declared over us from the beginning, without being moved, when time flies by and we have not seen the manifestation of what he has said? What may be delayed for us will not be denied. Can we have confidence in God to stay steadfast unto the end? The Scripture does not tell us that Jesus, Abraham or Moses had ups-and-downs, here-today-and-gone-tomorrow when it came to faith. Their faith did not waver. [Genesis 18:10-12, Romans 9:9, Romans 4:1-5,16-22, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Habakkuk 2:3, Hebrews 3:14]