

Make Sure of Your Calling

**The time is shorter than you
think**



*“It is already the hour for you
to awaken from sleep”*

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What is the calling of God?

The calling of God is best understood in terms of the Internal and External Call to Salvation

“And those He predestined, He also called; those He called; He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.” Rom 8:29–31

Many people are confused about God’s calling because many desire a life with God on their own terms. When Jesus calls He calls us to die to our earthly desires so we live for Him and His desires that cost us everything. However there has been a trend to say that God calls everyone to Himself because He loves everyone. However God’s love is primarily for His children who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

To say God loves everyone unconditionally is to ignore the fact that God hates the sinner, that God has judged the sinner to be unworthy of His presence so that those who do not obey Him are under His condemnation and deserving of His wrath.

Part of the problem is that many who call themselves Christians fail to distinguish between the external call of the Gospel and the internal call of the Holy Spirit. God calls all men, but it is not true that God gives them all a new life based on man’s understanding of repentance and faith alone.

The repentance of natural man is like water off a ducks back, but the repentance that is the gift of God has eternal value because it is coupled to the faith that also comes from God.

The truth is that while God calls all men externally, He only calls those who are His own children internally. Those who truly respond to the external call are those who have been internally called by God by the work of the Spirit who gives a new spiritual birth. This inner call is a compelling drawing that is both irresistible and irreversible.

The work of the Spirit results in a life of devotion and obedience to every word that comes from the mouth of God. It is in hearing this call that they respond in faith to the external call. *“My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.”* John 10:27

Some distinction is necessary for us to understand the way the Biblical writers speak of “call.” In this parable, “*For many are called, but few are chosen.*” Jesus speaks of “call” in an external sense. It is the summons of God by the Spirit through the gospel message. This call directs men and women to come to Christ by way of repentance and faith.

Paul speaks of this internal call in 1 Corinthians 1:24 ‘*but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*’ This is the effective, saving work of the Spirit of Christ in conjunction with the gospel’s outward call.

This internal call powerfully and effectively turns the sinner from his sin to Jesus Christ. The external call goes to all people. But only the elect of God will, in God’s time, experience the internal call. For them, the gospel is indeed “*the power of God unto salvation.*” Rom. 1:16

No one can hear the internal call while they are dead; dead people have no ears to hear anyone, let alone God. Dead people manufacture their own call according to the disposition of their heart so that they can continue to live for themselves.

Consider those who believed and then wanted to kill the Lord in John chapter 8. For all who believe don’t hear the internal call of God. Jesus addressed the Jews. v29 *And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.*” v30 *As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him.* v31 *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; v32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

Then verses 46 to 47 reveals those who heard with the head and not the heart of the interior. For the false disciples are exposed. v46 *Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? v47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”* John 8:46-47

Jesus had already said to His disciples. “*But there are some of you who do not believe.*” (John 6:64) And Mark declares ‘*And they all left Him and fled.*’ (Mark 14:50) Matthew makes the shallow belief obvious. “*But all this has taken place to fulfil the Scriptures of the prophets.*” *Then all the disciples left Him and fled.*’ Matt 26:56

If the external call had been sufficient for salvation, a modern Olympic Stadium would not have been big enough to hold Christ's true followers.

But in the upper room at the time of Pentecost, those who had heard the Inner call who wanted Him as the Son of Man, who waited for the promised Spirit, were 120. *'These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together)'*
Acts 1:14-15

Only those to whom it has been granted by the Father to have life will hear the call deep in their hearts. These are the one with ears to hear. *"The one who has ears to hear, let him hear."*
Matt 11:15

The ears to hear God's call belong to those who have been harvested into the kingdom of God. Unless the Father acts first to provide the ability to hear no one will respond. *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him."*
John 6:44

'And He was saying, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."
John 6:65

The real call: "Follow Me" But this call has a condition

"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me."
Luke 9:23

This is the call of the Lord Jesus Christ which penetrates the heart that God alone has prepared.

Again we find some clarity in Paul's teaching in the book of Romans. *'and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified: and those whom He justified, He also glorified.'*
Rom 8:30

Romans 8:30 says those who were called by God are justified and glorified. If this verse refers only to the external call of the Gospel to everyone who ever heard the good news, it would mean that all people are justified and glorified. But Romans 8:30 can only refer to those who

respond to God's internal call so that the Holy Spirit takes charge of their lives in creating holiness in His image.

This difference between the deaf and the hearing is why some claiming the Christian faith show the fruit of the Spirit and some don't. A new spiritual birth will result in a life lived for Christ. And those who have relied on their own choosing to be Christian don't have the Spirit of Christ and cannot live His life.

The internal call always produces new life from those who were dead and under the power of the devil.

'And you were dead in your offenses and sins, in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),'

Eph 2:1-5

Ephesians 2:1-5 says that we were dead before God called us and quickened us. A dead man cannot respond to anything. A dead man cannot resuscitate himself so he can hear anything. He cannot cooperate with any kind of call, external or internal. Like Lazarus in the grave, he cannot come back to life unless God raises him from the dead. God's internal call, like that of Jesus, calls us from the grave.

Jesus said all those who are securely grafted into Him will produce fruit of His life. *"I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit."*

John 15:5

Because the Church includes those who only have the external call, and who practice a religion acceptable to them, and also those God has chosen and indwelt by His Spirit; the Church has for centuries been understood as being the visible Church of men outwardly, and the invisible Church under the compulsion of the Holy Spirit.

As far back as 420 A.D. St Augustine recognised that all those claiming to be Christians were not clothed in the white robes of righteousness

washed in the blood of the lamb, which is given to them who joined the Lord on the Cross of self sacrifice to sin and the world.

In fact we should take care to remember that the visible Church consists of all those who have responded to the external call and the internal call. But only those who are called by God into a relationship with Christ have the indwelling Spirit to cement that union with inexpressible love. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’* Matt 7:21-23

However it is the prerogative of God that He may well call some who are in the Church not already called, because in the Church His word is proclaimed concerning the Gospel of Christ and it is the power of God unto salvation. When deciding on what teaching needs to be given, this distinction is important.

This understanding of unbelievers living amongst the chosen children is consistent with Jesus' parable about the wheat and the tares, the weeds. *"But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ And he said to them, ‘An enemy has done this!’ The slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.’”* Matt 13:25-30

And again:

"If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned." John 15:6

Many are called but few are chosen.

Matt 22:14

‘Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who held a wedding feast for his son”.... “But when the king came in to look over dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless.”

Matt 22:1, 11-12

It is possible to respond to this internal call in a non-saving way. The man without the wedding garment provided by the host responded to the invitation on his own initiative. But his lack of the garment proves he doesn't belong at the feast, and he is justly excluded. *“Then the king said to the servants, ‘Tie his hands and feet, and throw him into the outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”*

Matt 22:13-14

The wedding garment indicating here could well be the garments worn by those in heaven. *‘I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Rev 7:14

This garment may well be a picture the gift of salvation freely offered in the gospel. Only those who receive this gift will be seated at the wedding banquet of the Lamb at the consummation of all things.

The Chosen of God

Who are they who sincerely respond to the call and receive Christ in faith? Jesus calls them the “chosen” or, as the Greek word may be translated, the elect. These are all whom the Father has chosen in Christ from before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. *‘just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love.’* Eph. 1:4

Only these chosen ones will compose the company of the redeemed when Christ returns in glory. God's eternal choice ensures they will respond sincerely to the call. The fact that some were chosen indicates that others were not chosen. We cannot have a chosen people without the un-chosen. The external call goes to all people. But only the elect experience the internal call that gives a holy life in peace with Christ.

Some chosen children sleep

‘Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.’ Rom 13:11-12

These words were not spoken to unbelievers; this is addressed to those in the Church in Rome. So why do so many believers fail to realise the new life they have received is really the life of Christ Himself? Why is it that they don’t know they are to literally walk as Jesus walked in a life totally under the will of God, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit?

Without a clear knowledge of all God has for us, and the commitment to put on the life of Christ, many sleep in their faith. If we still live as to ourselves and not for Him who died for us we still live as if we are sleep walkers rather than being fully awake and alive in Christ Jesus. Therefore the sleep walker has sold themselves short of all they could be in Christ as they continue to live half baked lives in the flesh.

This state of affairs seriously grieves the Holy Spirit in His work of sanctification in the believer. And since the sleep walker often sees the behaviour of the flesh as only natural, he makes excuses for his weaknesses instead of casting them off. Then the Spirit grieves the loss of opportunity to see God glorified in the believer’s life, and He grieves the wasted salvation opportunity to see others bought into the Kingdom of God. *“he who does not gather with Me, scatters.”* Luke 11:23

Sleep walkers are not dumb and uneducated. They may know much about God and Church practice, they may know all doctrine, and have lots of experience in the Church, but have not fully realised they are not their own, that they have died in Christ to actually live His resurrected life here on Earth. They may also be ordinary people who have not gained adequate teaching of their new life, but alas, they still sleep. And sleeping means not living the Supernatural life empowered by the Holy Spirit to ensure the disciple is just like his Master having victory over the flesh and doing the work of God. The sleep walker cannot quiet grasp the oneness and the unity of their life with that of the Risen Lord who said we are one with the Father and the Son, having one life, one purpose and one Spirit.

Sleepers have an unrealised potential

Consequently there remains a separation in their/our minds between themselves and who they think Jesus is. They fail to see that His will is for them to live His life, to walk as He walked and to show His glory here on earth as they dwell with Him.

The Lord addressed the Church of Laodicea as being mediocre. *“you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”*
Rev 3:16

God’s power has made it possible that we are well endowed with useless insurance against mediocre behaviour. On the basis of our personal devotion we are either overcomers, or underdoners.

Jesus has called us to do His work as His ambassadors in the Supernatural work of being changed into His image and in doing His work of saving the lost. If we struggle to comprehend what He brings to our life, we do not know Him intimately enough and therefore who we should be.

How can we become like the master if we don’t really know what He is like, if we don’t really know what we are changing our life to be?

The potential of the chosen is the fruit of the Spirit’s life

What attributes and qualities does the Spirit bring to those who live in Christ Jesus? We can read that *‘the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self control.’*

Gal 5:22-23

But is this all, what can we expect when we live in the River of God’s Spirit? If we are to walk as Jesus walked then the qualities of His life as He lived before the Father will flower in us who live for Him, because He is our life.

Col 3:3-4

Here are a few qualities for our consideration because our adequacy comes only from God and not ourselves. The Holy Spirit teaches us this of Christ.

He is Holy.

He is humble at heart.

He is strong and courageous.

He has great depth and character.

He is gentle.

He is loving and compassionate.

He has quiet assurance.

He has strong conviction.

He is righteous.

He has all knowledge and wisdom.

He is faithful in fidelity.

He is longsuffering.

He is patient.

He is kind.

He is self abasing.

He is passionate about the Kingdom.

He abounds in joyfulness.

He is endlessly hopeful and He has all Authority on Earth.

The chosen of God are compelled by Christ's love to live for Him

'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.'

2 Cor 5:14-15

“Controls” can also be interpreted as “compelled.” NIV it is compels. ESV controls. NKJV compels. NASB controls.

The Greek is Transliterated: sunechó

Part of Speech: Verb Phonetic Spelling: soon-ekh'-o

Definition: (a) to press together, close, (b) to press on every side, confine, (c) to hold fast, (d) to urge, impel.

Three dictionary definitions assist in this context.

- A very strong feeling of wanting to do something repeatedly that is difficult to resist.
- An irresistible persistent impulse to perform an act.

- An irresistible urge to behave in a certain way.

This control is what God said would be the case when He gave believers a new heart and spirit. *"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."*
Ezekiel 36:27

Who can resist God who will cause us to do as He wishes? And He wishes that Christ is glorified in us who no longer walk by the flesh but by the Spirit.

So now we are controlled or compelled to serve God because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts by the Spirit of God.

Rom 5:5

'We love, because He first loved us.'

1 John 4:19

Therefore we are controlled/compelled by the love of God to be led by the Spirit.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to love Christ.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to lay down our lives and take up our cross daily to follow Him.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to live for Him.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to remain in His word.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to obey all He commanded.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to promote His kingdom.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to walk as He walked.

We are controlled/compelled to do all things as into Him.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to love His chosen disciples.

We are controlled/compelled by the love of God to use His enabling spiritual gifts for the building up of His body the Church.

This controlling/compelling is the evidence of the fruit the Spirit of His life of love working in us who God has regenerated to eternal life.

We take no credit for the fact that God's loving purpose is working in us to will and do according to His good pleasure.

A lack of this control/compulsion may well indicate either, disobedience and sleeping on the job, or it may mean we only have an external call.

'Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.' 2 Peter 1:5-8

If these qualities of the Spirit of Christ are ours we have ample insurance against uselessness in the kingdom of God. If these qualities are substantially lacking we have every reason to get on your knees and repent.

The chosen with Christ are to live in Christ

By faith we can claim these things for ourselves as we die to the old self and put on Christ Jesus. These qualities are the very things we need to put on as we put off the old self. And it is the Spirit's work to establish these things in our life but only as we yield to His leading and dominion. These qualities are what makes us complete in Christ. It is the Spirit's work to show us what we need to give up, and what we need to replace it with. But He can only do this when we obey Him.

But alas, for the sleep walker, Church is where you go on Sunday to get your top up and to meet your spiritual obligation, or to carry out your spiritual work for Christ. It is a place where you go for your weekly injection of 'nice' to keep you from the clutches of the evil one, or it is the place where you do your bit of work in the ministry so as to maintain a separation between the written words in the Bible and the physical reality of Christ Himself living in the lives of His people.

Those who work in this way do not realise that they are sleep walking, and Church leaders should know that much more is required of them if they are to lead others into the Promised Land.

Dying to self is not easy

Change is not easy. So to suggest to sleepers that they should be actually living the Christ life can be quite offensive to some, and be seen as just a bit extreme and a little crazy. However, the evidence of the sleep walker is in the excuses they make for living in the natural captivated by the world, regardless of how much they think they know about God.

They may want to see powerful evidence of the Supernatural work of God in their midst, to see the signs and wonders of God, but do not realise they are to be the Supernatural work of God and that the works of God are in them to do. However, the Spirit of God can only work through us when we are truly available to the Spirit so He can do His work in us. Our obedience turns on the light.

If Jesus is Lord I must offer myself as a living sacrifice. To live with Christ He must have all that we are because He has purchased us with the price of His blood.

By their fruit we will know them

So how do we know the sleeper? By their fruit you will know them. That fruit is the quality of their personal lives which does not conform to the life of Christ when they don't think anybody is around to see what they do. That fruit reveals an unwillingness to surrender all we are to all He is, for it is the lack of a commitment to be nothing so He can be everything. It is forgetting we need to die to ourselves in order live if we follow Him. And the sleeping pill taken by the sleeper is actually unbelief. Some sad souls administer this poison more than others, and the administration is done by the flesh itself in its efforts to stay alive in them.

The evidence of the Spirit working in the woken is that they are learning to overcome the flesh and all its ability to live its life in them. They have seen that what is only natural for others is abhorrent, repugnant and distasteful, because it opposes and grieves the Spirit in doing the work of God to change them into the Image of Christ.

This repugnance they feel creates in them a desperation that drives them to the cross of Jesus so that the circumcision not done by human

hands can be done more completely in separating them from the flesh they hate.

The chosen surrender to the light

We must ask the question; is the call to be perfect as He is perfect, to be holy as He is holy a bridge too far? It will always be too far and unobtainable if we think we have to do it in our own strength, if we don't believe He will do His work in us when we surrender all to Him. It is a bridge too far when we deny the Spirit's dominion in us, for it is our willing surrender that makes it all possible.

Without obedient surrender to the Spirit, the truth of His words cannot be heard, because the truths of these words of God are only taught to the one who is awake to the Spirit of God. To the humble and obedient that yield their nothingness to His all, all will be given. It is they who will know His empowerment so they can abide in His life.

Anyone who thinks he can bring anything of value to this awakening still sleeps. Only the humble and empty are woken, and only the woken know they are nothing and have nothing in themselves as they stand in the presence of their awesome God. When we give ourselves totally to be a living sacrifice, God can fill us with the life of His Son to do the works He did and greater works He has for us to do. Only the fully surrendered can say *it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.*

Gal 2:20

So we need to encourage all sleepers to awaken. And when they wake they will not find they are a master craftsman, but the Masters apprentice. They will find themselves in the Masters hands as He moulds them into His own glorious image and likeness.

Oh, how the heart quickens when we are moulded in the Masters hands and feel His love being poured out into our heart in a way unknown before. Great is our joy when we feel our inadequacy, and then claim His adequacy for ourselves when we live for Christ alone through and in whom we can do all things He requires of us as we serve Him.

Phil 4:13

Oh the sweet fellowship that awaits all who are in Him because they can ask Him to teach them and know He will not deny their requests. They will know He personally delights to encourage and uphold them in their walk so they will not be overcome. They will know He will

take special care to fill their hearts with His love which is beyond understanding when they are bowed low before Him. Oh what joy and delight is the life lived in Him. Self is dead, long live the King.

Awaken the sleeper

The Father wants to talk daily with all His beloved children. He wants to teach us by revelation from the Spirit into a heart that is open and empty to be taught and refreshed and nourished by Him alone.

He stands at the door and knocks unceasingly, if you are asleep, will you awaken and open up for Him to enter into divine fellowship with you? Only then can you abide in Him and have the victory over all things in Him.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.”

Rev 3:20

“He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

John 10:3-4

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”

John 14:23

We must make sure of our calling

God’s chosen people have God so there must be a continuation of His life in the life of His people, as the Vine produces fruit in the branches that are securely grafted into its life.

‘His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you

possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble.'

2 Pet 1:3-10

We need useless fruitless insurance

Peter is not addressing his concerns for a guarantee of salvation to those who have a faith like his. True believers in Christ will want to comply with the teaching of God. Therefore thoroughness is required for putting on of the life of the Spirit of Christ, and this also means taking care in putting off the fleshy ways of the unconverted.

Prevention is better than the cure, safe work practice is better than being afraid of injury. Some insurance offered in the world against disaster is seen ultimately to be worthless because the insurer won't fulfil the promise to pay up. But when God gives His word we know He will fulfil all His promises. This is the only insurance policy that has any recognition in heaven.

Therefore Peter offers some valued insurance against spiritual loss. We are familiar with fire insurance, automobile insurance, and here we have spiritual insurance against uselessness and blindness. Peter is offering insurance against a failure of faith which makes one blind to the truth and ignorant concerning the work of God in our salvation.

The context for '*make certain about His calling and choosing you*' is that the believers have already declared to have received a godly life. (2 Pet 1:3) This godliness is being threatened by their difficult circumstances, and we know from Peter's previous letter that they have been suffering.

1 Peter 1:6

Now Peter is concerned with providing the reassurance they need to persevere with their true knowledge of God who called them out of darkness into His marvellous light.

God's effectual calling is the highest calling for man to live with God.

That calling is to die to sin. When we are bent on fulfilling our own independence by following our own desires we haven't died to sin.

Our calling is to be crucified in union with Christ. A desire to avoid suffering with Christ by taking up our cross actually wants to save our life in the world.

Our calling is to be crucified to the world. A love for the world reveals an effort to preserve our natural life.

Our calling is to live by faith in what is not seen. A failure of faith is an indication God is not present.

And most of all our calling is a calling to live in loving fellowship with the Father and the Son by obedience to the Spirit. A lack of obedience indicates we still live for self.

A lack of passion for these basic truths of the Christ life indicates the heart is not sensitive to God's desires.

This effectual and capable calling to holiness cannot be achieved by the free will and choice of natural men who is dead in obedience to God. Dead men have their own call in making a god after their own desires.

God provides the effective power to live for Christ, so a lack of fruit shows we are not attached to the true Vine.

The effectual calling is only possible by the grace of God who overturns the heart of stone of the natural man for a spiritual heart that is responsive to the divine majesty and authority of God in Christ.

To those God calls He gives Himself in His Omniscience, having all Knowledge, in His Omnipresence, everywhere present in His fullness, and in His Omnipotence, having all power over all things.

So the called out ones can have every assurance He will keep them for Himself. This effectual calling comes with the gift of faith which enables trust in God for who He is, regardless of what disturbing events He allows to happen in the world.

For all men, the called and the hopeful, the goal is never the things below, but always the will of the Lord Jesus Christ and His eternal kingdom and dominion.

Therefore a humble and obedient heart of repentance in every situation is the only way to live and remain in fellowship with our Holy God. When we are willing to lay down everything for Christ, we can gain and retain everything in Christ who is God and Lord.

When our thoughts and actions are more about loving and honouring Him, and promoting His kingdom, than seeking the things of the world, we can know He has called us into divine union with God.

Therefore in this fallen world that is under the curse of sin and the judgment of God, we can face trials and tribulations and daily disappointment with joy and thanksgiving, because we know we are united with Christ into union with God who created and maintains the heavens and the earth according to His predetermined will. In this we trust because we know, Christ is our life.

So nothing in the world can prevent us from overcoming sin and the corruption of the world because the Spirit of God keeps us in Christ.

Therefore those who are in Christ will show evidence of how He lived His life as they live their own as His disciples in a troubled world.

The overarching principal is this: Only when the heart is given in absolute surrender and obedience to honour and love God in all things, especially when experiencing trial by fire, can we see evidence that someone has been called into eternal fellowship with God.

Make sure of your calling

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned."

John 15:5-6

How is it possible for anyone to become a signed up member of any church where Jesus is Lord, without a solid and abiding commitment to live with and for the crucified and risen Christ of the Bible, while showing increasing evidence of that self crucified reality?

'I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.'

Gal 2:20

There must be a compelling daily reality of constant loving devotion to serving and walking with Jesus Christ as Lord and Master, and not just a theoretical ticking of religious boxes for external acceptance. While theory is important, it is nothing without the reality. Theory alone

amounts to having a useless ticket without the angelic conveyors heavenly bus.

We cannot follow Jesus Christ if we want to have control over our lives. God has absolute authority to do as He wishes, or we have nothing to support us. God reigns or we reign. If we reign we complain, and complaining shows we have taken over from God and stand over God. If God reigns in us we will willingly comply with what He is doing in any given situation, be it distressing at the time, or delightful. Our heavenly Father God knows what's best. Humility, bowing down to God in trusting Him in all things, is paramount, of the highest importance, especially when we cannot see what God has predestined and pre-planned for our ultimate good in glory.

The Father didn't spare His Son He loves from suffering to enable His glory. And if we are in Christ His love will not refuse to use the same pathway to glory for us who identify with our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has two crosses we need to be concerned with, Christ's and ours

God reigning in us means that under His power and Majesty we gain heaven; or otherwise, we are separated from God for eternity.

It's time to make sure of your calling.

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

Make Sure of Your Calling

**The time is shorter than you
think**



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