



---

---

## Understanding our Calling

### **Background**

To accompany our series of studies on the Holy Spirit, in this supplementary study we hope to provide some insight into understanding our calling. There are a number of important truths regarding our calling that we need to recognise:

1. We **all** have a calling - a role to play within the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 15 - 16). This may not be an openly 'visible' ministry (prayer, words of encouragement etc.);
2. The 'Great Commission' applies to all believers (Matthew 28: 18 - 20);
3. At the heart of our calling we should seek to implicitly follow the two greatest commandments (Mark 12: 28 - 31);
4. The manner in which God's will unfolds in and through our calling may be unique to each of us (Ephesians 4: 11);
5. Even though we all have a calling, it does not mean that once we recognise that our walk with the Lord will be easy. We need to have courage and be sensitive to areas in our lives that we have yet to lay before the foot of the cross. We all need to take up our cross for Jesus (Matthew 10: 38);
6. It takes time, and if we think we need to have reached a certain standard before we can be used by God, we are mistaken (just look at the story of God's people, and the whole of salvation history in the Bible) (1 Corinthians 1: 26 - 29);
7. We cannot and should not live out our calling in our own strength. We are to be strong in the Lord and His mighty strength (Ephesians 6: 10, 1 Peter 4: 11);
8. It is God calling us...not us deciding what we would like to do! (2 Timothy 1: 6 - 9)
9. Everyone should stay in the calling to which they are called. (1 Corinthians 7: 20 - 24)
10. We need to strive to live a life worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4: 1 - 3)
11. We need to be in an environment where we can realise and discover, and test our calling. An environment where we are free to make mistakes, free to learn and free to be loved. It is right to test our calling (2 Peter 1: 10);
12. It may involve an outworking of our giftings in a secular environment, whether at work, or at home, or with friends and strangers. It is all too easy to think that the only way we can be used by God is within the Church! We should not just be 'Sunday Christians';
13. We are partners in a heavenly calling with our focus on Jesus (Hebrews 3: 1);
14. God will not give us more than we can cope with (1 Corinthians 10: 13), (Isaiah 42: 2 - 3);
15. We need to have persistence (1 Corinthians 16: 13 - 14);
16. We all must live in grace (Ephesians 4: 7);
17. It requires discipline and effort on our part (1 Timothy 4: 10)



---

---

### The Great Commission

*“And having approached, Jesus spoke to them, saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Me. When you have gone, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to be observing all things, as many as I commanded you. And listen! I am with you all the days, until the conclusion of the age! So be it!”. (Matthew 28: 18 - 20)*

*“For you see your calling, brothers and sisters, that there are not many wise according to the flesh, not many powerful, not many of high social status; but God chose the foolish things of the world, to humiliate the wise; and God chose the weak things of the world, so to humiliate the strong; and God chose the insignificant things of the world and the things that are looked down on, and the things that are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, in order that no flesh shall boast before God.” (1 Corinthians 1: 26 - 29)*

Read 1 Corinthians 1: 17 - 1 Corinthians: 2: 16