



CALLED to WORK

FROM THE DESK OF
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What is Calling? Debunking Myths & Finding Freedom webinar on June 25, 2022

Debunking the Myth that calling is only for those going into full-time church work or missions.

First, I'd like to applaud you for participating in this webinar. Once you have been "born again," the single most important question that any believer can ask is, "Lord, what is my call?"

During my session, I'm going to share many Scriptures, but I won't read them all. I urge you to meditate on the Scriptures after this webinar, and let the Word of God and the Holy Spirit speak to you.

1. What is a call?

A call is a spiritual summons; a deep impulse to carry out some mission. A summons is a request or order to appear, attend or perform some action.

In my experience, few Christians know God's Call in their lives, other than a generic call to grow and mature in Christ.

In reality, the moment you're born again, God makes you a member (part) of the Body of Christ and gives you a divine call. Every believer is part of the Body of Christ; therefore, every believer has a call, not just full-time Christian workers.

Think of the human body. There are many, many different parts, some smaller, some larger, some visible, some not visible, that function together to enable us to live.

Spiritually, if God divinely called you to be a finger, but you don't know you're a finger, you can spend your entire life not functioning within the body of Christ as God called you to be!

- Your calling as a Christian is a HIGH calling (Philippians 3:14)
- Your calling as a Christian is a privilege (Luke 14:16-17)
- Your calling is according to God's purpose (2 Timothy 1:7-9)

God doesn't play games with His people. He wants you to know and abide in your call as soon as possible after you're saved.

2. Why does the Lord want you to know your call?

- So you can have maximum fellowship and peace with him (1 Corinthians 1:9)
- So you can live a victorious, holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:7)
- So you can enjoy maximum liberty (Galatians 5:13)
- So you can bear maximum fruit for His Kingdom (Matthew 13:1-23)

3. How do you discern and know God's call? Here are some tips.

- **By reviewing how you came to Christ** (1 Corinthians 7:20, *Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.*)

For example, I was saved at a Christian business breakfast on Saturday, June 8, 1985. Ever since that morning, I've known that I am called to be a minister in the marketplace.

- **By asking and listening to His answer** (James 1:5-8, *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*)

Shortly after I was saved, I became a bit double minded. So, I went to the altar at church and told the Lord that I was willing to get out of the business world, go to seminary and become a pastor if He wanted me to. He immediately said NO. I was to remain in the business world and be an Ambassador for Christ there.

- **By seeking wise, godly counsel—including your spouse. He will not lead what He has made One in two different directions.** (Ecclesiastes 4:12, *And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*)

After watching me go to the altar at church, my wife Dawn confirmed the Lord's call in my life by emphatically stating that I am not a pastor, and that I belong in the business world! She has consistently affirmed that calling for the past 37 years.

- **By examining what you gravitate toward, what you're gifted in, where you have a passion, and where you seem to bear fruit** (Matthew 7:20, *Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*) My gifts, passions, abilities, personality, experience and fruit reinforce my calling in the workplace.

4. What are some benefits of knowing and abiding in God's call?

Vision
Purpose
Peace
Direction
Clarity
Motivation
Confidence
Enthusiasm

5. Is a calling for life?

Romans 11:29 says, *The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.* My understanding of this passage is that God's gifting and call is for a lifetime. Once bestowed, spiritual gifts and callings are not to be revoked or withdrawn. Some of you older webinar participants may be familiar with Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Bill Bright, Larry Burkett, and James Dobson.

Billy Graham – saved at a tent meeting as a teenager, called to be an evangelist. He abided in that call most of his life, until his health could not allow him to. He died at 99.

Bill Bright – called for a lifetime, to minister through colleges and universities.

Larry Burkett – called for a lifetime, to minister through Biblical principles of finance.

James Dobson – called for a lifetime, to minister to married couples and families.

Less obvious are those who faithfully abide in their calls in various vocations and professions. The exact title, organization, and geographic location may change, but the call remains the same.

Common obstacles to abiding in your call

Testing. Mark it down, you will be tested! When God called me into Christian entrepreneurship in 1988, I faced some very large tests from the first day on! (Literally, on my first day in business, during my first client meeting, I shared with the company president that Keep In Touch was going to be a Christ-centered business. His first words were, “You’ll never make it.” Here I had left a good-paying, steady job with salary and benefits, with a family to support, and the last thing I needed was a discouraging comment like that!)

In the early years, some people would have quit, but I was so convicted and persuaded that I was abiding in God’s call that I persevered. Coming up on July 1, my business will celebrate its 34th anniversary. We haven’t swerved from our mission statement, which is online for all to see at www.KeepTouch.com.

Materialism. As you seek to discern your call, be very careful. We live in a very materialistic culture. Don’t let the love of money distract you or vex you.

There was a specific time when the economy in Connecticut was very bad, and I flirted with the idea of moving to Atlanta, where Christian businesses are more readily accepted, more common, and the economy was stronger. The Lord told me NO, and reminded me of Jonah and the whale. If I had moved to Atlanta, he would have led me back to Connecticut!

Discontent. The foundation of your calling is contentment (1 Timothy 6:5-11). Our culture breeds discontent, but God builds lives on the foundation of humble contentment, satisfaction, thankfulness and gratefulness. Obey Him day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, decade after decade--and leave the results to Him, in His time and in His way.

Retirement. Your ultimate retirement is in heaven for eternity. Don’t turn what the world describes as retirement in this life into an idol. Where are you laying up your treasures, here or *there?*

THANK YOU for your attention during my message. I hope that it was, is and will be a blessing to you as you seek to discover and abide in the specific Call that God has given YOU!

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Drew Crandall is the owner of KEEP IN TOUCH, a marketing and media business in Vernon, Connecticut (a suburb of the capital city of Hartford, approximately halfway between New York City and Boston). He was called to Christian entrepreneurship in 1988, and describes the business as his “everyday laboratory in applied Christianity.” Feel free to contact Drew with questions at 860.871.6500 or dcrandall@keeptouch.com.