

SUPERNATURAL CALLING

OPEN

When we think of the word CALLING.. All kinds of thoughts can run through your mind. Haven't you heard someone saying:

'That's their calling' 'I see this as a calling' or 'did I miss my calling?' 'What is my calling?' 'Teaching's a calling' 'I think I'm called into full time ministry'

I'm sure questions like these go through our head: Who's doing the calling? Or why am I being called? Is it possible to miss your calling? How do I decisively know it's God?? This word 'calling' can be vague...

Just to keep in mind, this isn't about finding your calling in your profession, or discovering what you're good at, it's about finding your spiritual calling and purpose. What is it that God has called you to?

I'd like to divide this into 2 parts:

- 1) **What are we all called into?**
 - 2) **What about our unique calling?**
- ⇒ **Until you understand the first question, you'll never get the second question.**

BODY

What are we all called into?

1 Corin 1:26-27

²⁶ Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

What is Paul referring to?

Their job? Being a carpenter? Homemaker? Teacher?

No.. He is referring to the work of God in calling us out of darkness into light, out of death into life.

Jesus says in Matthew 16:24 - *If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me*

- ⇒ **So .. would you agree that our spiritual calling throughout our life is to first follow Jesus? Our initial calling is to come into relationship with God.**
- ⇒ **It's for our eyes** to see Christ as true and powerful and wise and beautiful and compelling so that we receive him for salvation.

God's call is his life-giving command: *Come!* God called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

It's not a passive invite, it's not implied – It's direct and it's addressed to you and to me.

⊖ **Do any of you enjoy** being woken up by surprise in the night? No-one! Sometimes I would tap Em a little hard in the morning and she would wake up a little startled.

- Gods call to come, is like the effectiveness of a command that someone uses to wake you from a deep sleep. You lean over to their ear while they are asleep, and you shout out: *Wake up!* And they bolt upright. They didn't hear the command and ponder it and then decide to wake up. The command accomplished what it commanded: *Wake up!* That is the way God raises us from spiritual death. And only God can do it. All we have to do is accept it. It's nothing we do. Make sense?

Ephesians 2:4 says it was because of God's "great love" that he made us alive when we were dead. You were about to sleep yourself into hell, and God woke you up to the ugliness of sin and the beauty of a great Saviour. He loved you with a "great love."

⇒ **The Cross isn't a revelation about your SIN, It's a revelation about your VALUE**

So we're called into relationship with God, and we're called to share that with others.

SO ONTO OUR SECOND QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT OUR UNIQUE CALLING?

Does God call us each to different assignments and tasks for him? Yes? God

The Bible gives us plenty of examples of God calling people out:

- Abraham – go to a land I will show you, I will make you into a great nation
- Joshua – be bold and courageous
- Gideon – Gideons army
- King David – Gods chosen King of Israel
- Esther – call as queen in an intercessory role
- Jonah – Called to tell the city of Nineveh to repent
- Jesus called out his 12 disciples

What did he say: Come and FOLLOW me. There's a clue there.

But the man I want to focus on in **Paul**

Let's check out Acts 9:1-22 The amazing story of Paul's Damascus Road Story

Saul's Conversion

9 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (There's the WAKE UP MOMENT)

⁵ *"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. (Term of respect but not sure who it was)*

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Marching Orders right)

⁷ *The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing.*

they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul in Damascus and Jerusalem

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

1) NO-ONE IS TOO FAR FROM THE CALL OF GOD

- PAUL WAS AN UNLIKELY CANDIDATE - God had a plan for Paul, the 'chief' of sinners.
- When I was in High School, there was a guy called Michael van Vledder, who was in our grade. He was known as the pot head, always smoking behind the tree's. We all thought he would never really amount to much.

In his first year out of School the Lord spoke to him, and called him into ministry. He started studying and to this day he's in ministry. It's not for us to decide.

- ⇒ Don't write anyone off – You never know who God can work through
- ⇒ Someone who you think is far from the Lord can actually be so close to salvation

You know why, because 2000 years ago, God could have easily written off human kind after their sinfulness, Israel time and time again let God down and followed Idols. But instead God made the biggest statement of love ever by sending his Son! We were the unlikely candidates. We weren't even the Jewish Race. GET THIS:

- **God had you in view when he saved Paul**

Look at **1 Tim 1:14-16**, ¹⁴ *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*

¹⁵ *Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.*

- ⇒ There is an eternal purpose in every salvation
- ⇒ **Who are the people** in your life who you need to pray for and contend for? Sometimes we let people go too easily. I know people need freedom, but don't forget about them
- ⇒ **Maybe you think you're an unlikely**, far from the plans of God. God never called anyone when they had it all together. He called them in their mess. Look at the story of Jonah – After he has disobeyed, God causes the fish to vomit Jonah onto the shore, in his fish filth. In his mess, he knows what he has to do

Secondly, ask yourself the question:

2) WHAT IS IT THAT THE LORD HAS TOLD YOU?

- It's not our decision, it's not what we decide on one day to go with. God calls us
- God was very direct with Paul. God knew how committed Paul was to his Jewish roots and his persecution of Christians, and he knew how committed he would be to spreading Christ.
- ⇒ What were you saved out of? Sometimes we forget. There can be a clue from what we were saved out of to what God has saved us into.

Verse 15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

How's that hey! God was clear!

Paul was clear on his calling: Check out Romans 1:1

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God

Our calling is bigger than one day, it's what the Lord lays on your heart as your life calling, what you get passionate about, it's what the Lord has burdened you with. You may know what this is, or you may not, it's never too late, seek the Lord.

3) STAY TRUE TO YOUR CALLING

Paul continually stayed true to his calling. He never lost track of it. Even in the suffering and the pain. He knew what the Lord had anointed him to do.

Sometimes it's easy for us to throw in the towel.

- I remember being frustrated in a ministry position in my previous church, and I asked a mentor figure one day what I should do, expecting some great revelation, and you know what he told me, he said, keep serving faithfully in that ministry. God

Sometimes when you doubt if you're walking in Gods will...Ask the question, what was the last thing that God called you to walk in? Remain faithful in that.

Our calling will always require obedience. Look at what Paul had to do.

- ⇒ **When we walk in obedience to Gods calling, we begin to walk supernaturally.** It's in the obedience that we prove our love and allegiance to God.
- ⇒ **There will always be a test, a path that we need to walk in obedience in.** Calling is something that we wrestle through, something that we work through..

- Story of being obedient and coming to Cape Town
- Story of being obedience and giving up music

MY CALLING: I know that God has called and appointed me to help build the local church, to build community life and live it out together, to teach Gods word, To seek Intimacy with God, to connecting searching people with Jesus, to create a culture of excellence, and to empower people in their giftings.

- This came through lots on inquiring. We need to learn to inquire of the Lord, to ask him! And expect him to answer.

If you don't know what your calling is, inquire of the Lord, have a coffee with one or us, we would love to journey that through with you. Getting involved in the local church is a great way to start.

⇒ Don't walk in whats' not yours to walk in

⊖ **STORY OF AVICII (Pics)**

A while ago Em and I watched a documentary on the life of Avicii

Famous for Levels – da da da da da Da da da da Dddd da

Avicii was a Swedish musician – DJ and producer

Avicii really found what he loved and what he was good at.

Now I don't know if he knew Jesus, and was necessarily walking in Gods call for his life, but he was definitely walking in a passion of his.

“Figure out what you're most passionate about in life, and what you're good at. And the mixture between the two and then you should give it your all, all the time”

What Avicii loved was the producing and the mixing. He would spend days just working on a song, but this led to an extremely busy live performance schedule. In one year he did 250 shows. The thing is, he never enjoyed the shows. He would in fact get anxious and nervous doing the shows. He sadly committed suicide on the 27th of April this year. He was conflicted.

What can we learn from his life?

Don't do what you're not called to do. Don't walk in someone else's purpose, walk in yours.
What is it that you know

Our Calling as Christians is to Love God, be loved by God, and to love people
Our unique callings, are designed to help towards that end

PM ONLY - What do you feel is your calling in life? Your purpose? Share in small groups

KEEP IT REAL

Sometimes we think that a calling isn't quite the same if you aren't in full time ministry.
Almost likes it's not a full time calling.

This couldn't be more wrong. We all have a calling from God, to live out Christ in your workplace or home environment, to reach others for Christ, to minister to people in a certain way.

Tim Keller says it like this:

"God is creator of the world, and our work mirrors his creative work when we create culture that conforms to his will and vision for human beings-when it matches up with the biblical story-line."

"Everyone will be forgotten, nothing we do will make any difference, and all good endeavours, even the best, will come to naught. Unless there is God. If the God of the Bible exists, and there is a True Reality beneath and behind this one, and this life is not the only life, then every good endeavour, even the simplest ones, pursued in response to God's calling, can matter forever."

⇒ **God has placed you where he has for a reason, it's not by chance, but maybe your eyes need to be opened up.**

⇒ **Walk in your spiritual giftings, that's what helps to empower a supernatural calling**
Sometimes we can see the spiritual gifts as tame, or as a part of our personality.
Spiritual gifts are from the HS! When we pursue them and walk in them, there is great power and effectiveness. But we need to walk in them.

Paul says, eagerly desire the gift of prophecy! Do we? Do we long for it, do we practice it, do we put ourselves out there at work and step out in faith to share a word with someone? If our gift is encouragement, so we seek this, and ask the Lord to empower the gifting.

We need to start taking our spiritual giftings seriously! In the Church, and in Society

CLOSE

As I start to draw to a close, there is a final question to ask..
How do we grow in confidence in our calling?

ULTIMATELY: You will walk in your calling when you are convinced!

What have you been convinced about before?

- Who wants to be a millionaire and you're convinced of an answer

- If you're married, think of the moment when you were convinced it was right, you were prepared to act on it
- Think of the career path you chose, when you knew, to pursue it, you invested

When we're convinced of something, we'll back it, we'll go for it, we'll put our life on it.

Acts 5: 29-32 – We are witnesses of these things

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings!" ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

- What was it that Changed Paul's mind so quickly?
- What was it that convinced the apostles to travel over 2000 kms to spread the Gospel?

They were completely and utterly convinced. They have seen the truth and they could not deny it.

This is what Fuels a Supernatural Calling, when you're Convinced!

- Are you still convinced?
- Maybe you don't know what your calling is?
- Maybe you've been walking in it for ages, and it's time to assess and to say Lord, what are you saying? What things have I been doing that can change?
- Maybe you've 'retired' from your calling. Did God tell you to?

What is it that burns in your heart? That you long to see happen? What did God lay on your heart years ago? What is God saying to you?

⇒ **Start somewhere!**

We've made small involvement cards for you to get involved in?

Don't be passive, step into it.

EVENING: SHARE ABOUT WHAT YOU SENSE YOUR CALLING IS OR COULD BE