

Help: I Want To Know God's Calling For Me!

Q: What does the Bible say about the concept of "calling"?

A: Scripture emphasizes that all believers are called to be with and like Christ (Phil. 3:14), to freedom (Gal. 5:13), and to a holy life (2 Tim. 1:9). We are called to Christ, not necessarily to a specific worldly role (1 Cor. 1:26).

Devotion: Called to Christ

Scripture Focus:

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

As believers, our highest calling is to know Christ and become like Him. This upward call is not defined by specific roles in the world, but by our relationship with Jesus. We are called to freedom (Galatians 5:13), leaving behind sin's bondage to walk in holiness and righteousness (2 Timothy 1:9).

Not everyone is called to a prestigious position in society, but we are all called to Christ (1 Corinthians 1:26). This means that no matter our vocation or station in life, our ultimate purpose is to glorify God by growing in Christlikeness. True freedom and fulfillment are found not in worldly success but in living out this call to holiness and transformation.

Reflect today on how you can press into this upward call, seeking to reflect Christ in every aspect of your life, whether in your work, relationships, or daily actions.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for calling me to be with You and like You. Help me embrace this upward call with joy, knowing that my worth and purpose are found in Christ alone. Empower me to walk in the freedom and holiness You've called me to. Amen.

Q: Should Christians expect a specific “calling” for their life’s work?

A: Scripture doesn’t suggest that believers should wait for a specific, supernatural calling for particular roles, even pastoral ministry or missionary service.

Devotion: Trusting God's Guidance Without Waiting for a Supernatural Call

Scripture Focus:

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." (Colossians 3:23)

Many believers wonder if they should wait for a supernatural call from God for particular roles like pastoral ministry or missionary work. However, Scripture doesn't command us to wait for such a specific call. Instead, God invites us to step into service where there is a need and where we are gifted (1 Peter 4:10-11).

We are called to faithfully serve the Lord in whatever we do, trusting that God will guide us as we make decisions with wisdom, humility, and prayer (James 1:5). Whether in ministry, missions, or any other vocation, our ultimate purpose is to glorify God and serve others.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to trust Your guidance as I make decisions. Rather than waiting for a supernatural sign, give me wisdom to see the opportunities before me. Lead me to serve You with all my heart in every task I undertake. Amen.

Q: How should we understand a “call to ministry”?

A: The biblical concept of a call to ministry isn’t necessarily about receiving a direct message from God. Instead, it can involve:

- **Internal Call:** A desire for ministry.
- **External Call:** Affirmation of one’s gifts by others.
- **Formal Call:** Being offered a position by a church or ministry.

Devotion: Understanding the Call to Ministry

Scripture Focus:

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12)

When we think of a "call to ministry," many imagine a direct message from God. However, the biblical concept of calling often involves three elements. Read the following passages carefully.

- **Internal Call:** A personal desire to serve in ministry (1 Timothy 3:1).
- **External Call:** Affirmation from others in the church who recognize your gifts and spiritual maturity (1 Timothy 4:14).
- **Formal Call:** An invitation from a church or ministry to serve in an official capacity (Acts 13:2-3).

These three aspects work together to confirm and guide one's path to ministry. Instead of waiting for a supernatural sign, Scripture encourages us to seek wisdom, be active in the community of believers, and trust God's guidance as He reveals the right opportunities for service.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to discern Your will for my life. Give me clarity as I seek to serve You, and surround me with people who can affirm the gifts You've given me. Lead me to where I can best build up Your body and glorify Your name. Amen.

Q: Can “calling” language still be useful?

A: Yes, but we should use it carefully. It’s helpful when discerning if a step is wise or fitting, based on self-knowledge, input from others, and opportunities. However, we should avoid attaching divine authority to every vocational decision.

Devotion: Discerning God’s Will in Decision-Making

Scripture Focus:

“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

When facing important decisions—whether in career, ministry, or life—it’s wise to seek guidance based on self-awareness, counsel from trusted believers, and available opportunities. While we can prayerfully consider if a step is wise and fitting, we should be cautious not to claim divine authority for every choice we make. Scripture encourages us to seek wisdom but ultimately trust God to guide our paths (James 1:5).

Prayer:

Lord, grant me wisdom to make sound decisions. Help me seek godly counsel and trust in Your guiding hand, knowing that You establish my steps. Amen.

Q: What approach should Christians take instead of waiting for a special calling?

A: Christians should focus on knowing themselves, seeking advice from others, and considering opportunities where they are needed. Growing in wisdom is more beneficial than waiting for supernatural confirmation.

Devotion: Growing in Wisdom Through Discernment

Scripture Focus:

"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

As Christians, rather than waiting for supernatural confirmation for every decision, we should focus on knowing ourselves, seeking advice from others, and considering where our gifts are needed. Scripture highlights the importance of growing in wisdom and understanding as we navigate life's choices (Proverbs 4:7). Seeking wisdom allows us to make sound decisions that honor God while trusting Him to guide us.

Prayer:

Lord, help me grow in wisdom, seeking counsel and discerning opportunities to serve. Amen.