DISCIPLE'S CALL

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity" 2 Timothy 1:8-9

A KEY FOUNDATION STONE FOR ONE'S LIFE IS TO MAKE SURE OF ONE'S CALLING.

By: Dr. James Paul Humphries

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Author: Dr. James Paul Humphries

Editor: David Van Pelt

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Disciple's CALL

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Forward

Foundations are always the most critical part to every structure that one builds. You see so little of it because they are buried away in the ground where they are not visible. They say about the CN Tower in Toronto Canada that there is as much concrete under the ground keeping the tower firm as there is above the ground.

It is the same with spiritual foundations. We need to build on a firm foundation of the word of God and means to know and understand all we can about Him. In real life often, the foundation builders are a different group of people then those who build the superstructure. The one group has to rely on the other, but what keeps everything on tract is the architect who oversees everything.

Then years pass by and the structure that was begun in faith comes tumbling down because the foundation was not inspected or built right by the original builders.

What the church needs is craftsmen who are mature and can inspect and teach others on foundation building. We are always one generation away from the next generation not knowing truth about foundation-building when it comes to the things of Christ.

Most spiritual structures in the world today are weak and frail. They have cracks and are crumbling. They cannot withstand the winds and the waves of life and of the world.

The Lord tells us to pray for the laborers but the kind of laborers that are needed for kingdom-building are today foundation-builders, people who know how to build strength, maturity and firmness into people's lives. As a discipler I see the need to go out and be a foundation inspector, to make contact with people's hearts and to make sure that, that which they are building is firmly planted on the rock of Christ. There are no short cuts, Jesus gave us a way to build, one truth that teaches us the building code and one life to do it in.

The first that a builder must do is set the foundation of the building, we to as a disciple must affirm in our hearts, how does one has a true disciples heart one that is committed to follow Christ. This takes us right back to the first day when we heard and accepted Christ's call on our lives.

This book is an attempt to help guide the disciple through a journey of examining the foundation stones of our call in Christ. Our desire is to make sure that the structure is being built in a disciple's life is firmly established and built on the foundation of Christ who is our Rock.

Preface

The cover pictures for you what this book is all about. In times of old, specifically amongst the Jewish people, they would use a ram's horn, that they would turn into a horn which they would use to call out the people from their homes and their place of work to gather together at a prescribed place. The ram's horn was known as a shoffar. The instrument was used to mark times and seasons, it was used to call people together for worship as well to battle and finally to celebrate when the battle had been won, but in every case, it had to be a clear and a powerful call.

The challenge to the disciples today is hear the call of God now. We need to hear His call clearly so that when it comes we will know where to look and be ready to go off to battle.

In the last days, when Christ is about to return, there again will be a clear call sent out from heaven, to call out God's people, the Church to meet Him in the sky.

The hymn writer penned these special words:

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more, and the morning breaks, eternal bright and fair; When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore, and the roll is called up yonder, Ill be there

(When the Roll is Called up Yonder by James M. Black, 1856-1938)

God is calling. Are we hearing and are we ready to go forward with Christ when He calls each day and at the end will we hear when He calls His church into His very presence.

Introduction

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and <u>called</u> us with a holy <u>calling</u>, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity. II Timothy 1:8-9

Can and does God the Creator of all the universe take time to call out to every man, woman and child of this world and invite them to walk in fellowship with Him? Does He have time and interest in us? Has God been calling out to you, and if so, what does that mean to you today?

The subject of God's calling has been a subject of great debate among theologians and people throughout time and history. However, by taking the time to study this subject one will soon find the answers to this question of how God calls us often this will led to having more questions.

Moreover, this topic is a key foundation stone to all that a disciple may or may not do with his or her time and life. The call is basic if we hope to see any type of revival in our lives or in the churches. The disciples are touched daily by this one word, "Call".

Throughout history God has been calling out to men and women, touching their hearts and changing lives in such dramatic ways, that even the course of history has been gets changed and affected dramatically.

The very first call came from God to Adam and then to Eve. It was a call to fellowship and love, to walk and work together. They were called by God to even give names to the animals (Gen 2:19). Nevertheless, the lines of communication were twisted, because of man's disobedience man's, and his intimate and personal relationship with God was damaged and corrupted. Even after this sad event took place God called out to them again, *"Then the LORD God called to Adam and said unto him, where are you."* (Gen 3:9)

It was not long after that when man began to call out to God. Genesis 4:26b says, "*Then men began to call upon the name of the Lord*". Often when man took time to call upon the name of the Lord he would also build an alter, a place of holiness, a place of sacrifice, and a place to praise his God (Gen. 12:8 & 26:25 & Psalms 116:17). Calling upon God also bore witness to others of the existence and presence of God here on earth (I Kings 18:24).

The word call means, to cry out, to call aloud, to roar, to proclaim, to summon, to invite, to appoint, to praise, to celebrate, to be named. The idea of call means that someone is clearly and specifically speaking directly at someone, to summon them to a specific task (Gen 12:18; Ex 2:7; Isa 55:5; 65:12) (See appendix for a more in deep definition of the word call.)

Mankind saw the need for a relationship with God, to have a focus and bigger picture that was outside of one's own self. No matter what one tried to do to fill that need it could only be met by God.

The Old and New Testament are full of historical examples of God calling people out from humankind to serve Him.

Abraham:

God called Abram to move to another land, to take up his family and move to an unknown place. This would require a step of faith. He even has his name changed by God from Abram to Abraham. Moreover, God gave him a promise of making him a blessing to many nations. God also promised to walk with and be with him and his descendants, in a personal relationship. Abraham entered into this pledge and took the first step of walking out his love with God but it was birthed from a call. A call that the very fiber of he who was.

Joseph:

God called Joseph by dreams, dreams that directed and challenged his way of thinking. They also went against cultural traditions. His father Jacob also knew the call of the Lord and how God keeps His promises. He took Joseph the second youngest in the family and brought him through many negative and sometimes heart breaking challenges. He was sold by his brothers into slavery, then spent time in prison several times, before being elevated to the second highest leader in Egypt. God had called, Joseph had faith, and together they walked the call out.

Moses:

God had a plan for Moses, a slaves' baby, being born in a time when the Pharaoh was killing all Jewish babies two and under. The call came through his mother and father and moved on through to one of Pharaoh's wives who intervened, she took baby Moses as her own and raised him as an Egyptian. However, the call did not stop there. In due season and through many twists and turns, God raised up this man who had little faith in himself and sometimes in God to lead the Jewish people out of a life of slavery into the promised land. God reaffirmed His call to Moses a shepherd by way of the burning bush and by the staff he had in his hand. Sometimes we struggle with God's calling on our lives, but we must understand that when God calls he will also provide and help us to walk that call out with Him.

Samuel:

Samuel was called as a boy through a dream but even before that time God was calling out to his mother, with the mother asking God to give her a son and in turn she would give him back to God. Samuel became a disciple and student of Eli whose own sons were sinful and wicked. Nevertheless, God shaped Samuel out of those challenges for ministry to His people.. He grew up knowing how to hear God's voice. He would become the one who would anoint Saul the first King of Israel, and then he would go on and anoint the second king, who was part of the genealogy of Christ, King David. God's call one one's life for a purpose and how we respond to it will affect others around us now and in the future.

David:

David a shepherd boy, the youngest of the family, the last on the family tree for receiving blessing or heritage was called of God to do a variety of things throughout his life. When Samuel was seeking God's man to anoint as king over Israel, David's father presented all the other brothers before Samuel asked whether there were any more in this family. David was not even thought about by man yet looked for by the prophet Samuel and then called and anointed by God to be the next king of Israel.

He was a man who was going to have to learn patience and timing through the school of hard knocks and to be able to lead his followers and specifically teach them lesson about God whom he served and loved. David would be one who would be part of the root system of Jesus Christ, and God called described him as, one whose heart was after God.

Isaiah:

Isaiah was called of God to be a prophet, to speak out to Israel, to be used by God to predict the future as God spoke it to



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