

# CALL OF GOD—Part 2      Ps Kevin

## Re-Cap

What did we learn last week as we laid a foundation to talk about the outworking of the call of God on all of our lives?

### 1. WHY :

- **The World Sits in Darkness** - in the smallness of its own self centered thinking,
- **People are in desperate Need** - like sheep without a shepherd to help them home,
- **Time is Short** - our world is winding up as we head towards the time when Christ will return not as Saviour to save people from their sins, but as Judge to reward each person on their response to the salvation gift offered to them from the Father,

**2. WHERE:** the call came from. It starts in eternity & the fullness of its function is again in eternity, however it also has an expression here on earth within the church, "Christ Body" taking its lead from the head Christ and it is to fulfill Gods plan & purpose in offering the gift of salvation to all of his creation.

- **Foundation of the World**
- **Separated Unto Him**
- **To Fulfill His Purpose - here on earth,**

**3. WHAT:** did we bust the call down to at its **Core?**

**Motivation:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul & with all your strength. And then out of that Love your neighbour as yourself.

**Rom 8:28** - We also learned that God makes everything in our lives work out for good.. If we truly love him & are called according to His purpose then even our mistakes & failures God can use to still keep us moving in the right direction.

**4. WORTHY OF HIS CALLING** - we also learnt that the reason many don't achieve God's plan & purpose for their life is because they live lives unworthy of His call. Or in other words our behaviour & life-style is such that God cannot put his stamp of approval on us. For we are called to be a Holy People belonging to God.

## How the Call from eternity to eternity finds its expression in this life we live here on earth.

How is it worked out here on earth! Even though its expression is here on this earth it is still part of a Heavenly Calling finding its fulfillment in Christ. Isaiah foretold about him thousands of years ago. Let's read it:

### [Isaiah 49:5-6 \(NIV\)](#)

5 And now the LORD says-- he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength--

6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Isaiah is declaring for God the coming of Jesus Christ - and the Calling on his life to be a light to to the Gentiles & bring salvation to the ends of the earth. This heavenly calling was prepared before hand for Jesus to walk in & it is this same heavenly calling that Jesus passed on for us to walk in while here on



earth. You see as believers in Christ we now share in Christ's calling. Everything that was predestined for Christ, is now our destiny. We now participate in the ministry calling upon Christ's life. Like Christ we were sent by the father so we too are now being sent by Christ to continue this calling.

### [John 17:18 \(NIV\)](#)

18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Jesus became the light of the world & now in Christ we participate in the same heavenly calling to be a light to the world on his behalf. Mt 5:14-16

### [Hebrews 3:1-6 \(NIV\)](#)

1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in *the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.*

2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.

3 Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself.

4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

5 Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, testifying to what would be said in the future.

6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.

So our time on this earth is to be about the outworking of the heavenly calling which Jesus passed to us, and the way we will fulfil it is to fix our eyes on Jesus the author & perfecter of our faith.

**Diagram** - Jesus said, I am in the Father & he is in me, I am in them by my spirit (church) & they are in Us.

Only those who continue to fix their eyes on Jesus & stay connected to him will fulfill their calling. WHY - because he is the head & the head is giving direction to the body (the church). Can the body live without the head.. NO - so if you are not in the body you will be able to maintain spiritual life because you are cut off from the head. **Jn 15** - Vine & The Branches..

**Our time on earth is to fulfill God's heavenly calling which is being out-worked through His body the church.** As we obediently step into that calling we are then slowly conformed to the image of Christ ready for eternity.

**Our Call** - here on earth is to fulfill the **Heavenly Call** that God the father started in his son Jesus Christ. We are called to continue to bring salvation to all, we are his representatives, his body, the church. We are called to be a light on a hill pointing people to Christ...

Love This City Campaign - we are allowing God to insert us into every area of society. Simply to love, serve & bring the light & love of God into the world. How will people in the world ever begin to explore & respond to Christ until they are first impacted by the love of Christ being out-worked in someone close to them.

- Local Councillors - Prayer
- Kids Hope in Schools, Chaplains, Re - Teachers
- Mentoring/ Pastoral Care 5 & 6 kids
- Movie In Park - disciple community & allow people to see the love of Christ in us for them from God.

- 3 x Experiences over a weekend,
- Exploring more & more ways to insert a voice, a light, a witness for God back into all areas of society.

God is calling us to function as his people, his church everywhere we go!

God is Calling

Can I use you in your current location?

Will you accept my call - or mute it?

Will you follow obediently or simply put me on hold until you get another opinion?

Will you live your life on loud speak so people can see & hear me living in & through you?

Will you accept or decline my call?



**Our time on earth is working** out our part in the heavenly calling that Jesus passed onto us. It's the call to be his body, his bride, his church to a world that sits darkness without hope.

**TWO DIMENSIONS OF GOD'S CALL** - and they only work in sequential order. Many have tried to force God's hand to speed up or get around the process and they always end up in the same place. Disaster!

Starts in eternity & it climaxes in eternity, but for now it has a part to play in God fulfilling the heavenly calling. It's the outworking of learning to love the lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul & strength. And then loving your neighbour as yourself!

There is a General part of the Call - and then later there is a Special part of the your Call!

**1. GENERAL CALL** - has to be engaged in by every believer regardless of your individual gifts, talents or personality. Every believer is called to function in this way.

**To Serve** - (Gal 5:13, 6:2, Phil 2:5-7)

- Serve One Another in Love
- Jesus being in nature God did not consider equality with God something to be chased after but he made himself a servant. We also find this in Jesus last act before heading to the cross when he took of his teachers robe & picked up a towel & washed his disciples, his friends feet.

**Eg** Designing Graphics, serving coffees, setting up chairs, cleaning ready for Sunday, running the sound, working the lights, baking cakes, greeting on the door, picking people up in the bus, loving on kids, serving youth, serving in LifeReach projects, or setting up for Movie in Park, helping mow someone's yard, babysitting someone's kids so that they can have a date night. We all have to learn to pick up the towel & serve to fulfill the general call.

**Eg** Leaders - if not careful can loose this & it causes them to become out of touch with humanity. Ps Bill Hybels - church 20,000 yet he sneaks out to serve in a soup kitchen in a poor community every few weeks to make sure he stays functioning in this call. Anne & I do things as well to try make sure we stay grounded in servant hood part of the call.

**To Pray** - (Eph 6:18-19)

**[Ephesians 6:18](#) (NIV)**

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind,

be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

In another portion of scripture we discover Paul saying - pray without ceasing! How do you do that? You cultivate a lifestyle of prayer where you live in a place of constant communion with the Father. Jesus was the master of this. We must live life prayfully, otherwise we will be living life from our flesh's perspective instead of from God's spirit & power.

**Eg** I feel as a church we are still a little weak in this area. Our first response is often to the doctor? And please hear me I am not saying don't do to the doctor as they are very often a gift from God. But before we go to the doctor let's PRAY - bring it before the Father and give him the opportunity to work first.

The Gap - prayer-mail 300 people,

- Pray is a vital part of our Life Groups,
- At the end of every experience we always have team available to pray with people,

And we continue to search out the heart of God on how to see prayer become even more of a value in the life of our church.

**Eg** Prayer Meetings & Evangelistic Services - if not careful it can send the message that this is the time we share faith & this is the time we pray... These are values & should be a part of every minute of our lives.

### **We have to be people of prayer....**

- Ourselves, families, friends, the leaders of our nation. we need to pray that God's will be done in every aspect of life.

**To Worship** - (John 4:23-24, Heb 13:15, 1 Pet 2:9)

This is to live a life that is fully surrendered to the Father's plan & purpose for our life. Part of a life of worship is declaring God's praises to the next generation. And listen up Men this is your responsibility.

Singing, shouting, dancing, bowing, kneeling & raising of hands these are expressions of worship & the woman and the children need to see us leading the way. It's all part of us truly being free & modeling for the next generation what a fully devoted relationship with God looks like. This is part of stage one process of your calling.

**Eg** Raise your hands in here before you will be able to raise them out there.

**To Give** - (Rom 12:13, 2 Cor 8:7)

### **2 Corinthians 8:7 (NIV)**

7 But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us--see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

Under the old covenant God asked his people to bring a tithe which simply means 10% - and the promise was as everyone contributed to the community by giving to him first he would bless them abundantly. Now under the new covenant God encourages us to go out beyond the tithe to practice extravagant generosity & see ourselves as stewards with everything belonging to him.

**Eg** Bill Hybels- World Vision - if every Christ follower in the world would just simply commit to giving the old testament principle of the tithe 10% - then the church could actually solve global pov-

erty situation several times over. So imagine what could happen if the church moved beyond the tithe?

You will never discover the full call of God on your life until you surrender this area of your life to Him. Its part one of your calling..

**Eg** Biblical Finance Course - get signed today. Kirsten is going to help show us exactly how God wants us to approach finances in life so we end up living the Blessed Life.

**Eg** Life Church - Law of Multiplication through the feeding of the 5,000men - 20,000 all up. Gift comes from the people through the leaders and given to Jesus, Jesus then blesses the gift & breaks it, then sends it back through the leaders & out to the people. 5 loaves & 2 fish at start fed 20,000 with 12 baskets left over.. Robert Morris

**To Encourage** (1Thes 5:11, Eph 4:16, 2:21)

[1 Thessalonians 5:11](#) (NIV)

11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

We all need courage poured into us. This devil comes to steal, kill and destroy us. We need each other encouraging.

**Eg** Peter & Joy Caine, Robyn Arnold, Ron Garvey, Elders, Ps Cam - he & Wendy do this with many.

**To Teach** - (Col 3:15-16, Eph 5: 18-19, Matt 28:19-20)

This level of teaching is not a stand up front & deliver information teaching. That's the special call of teaching. This level of teaching is to do with our lifestyle. Its our life teaching others by means of example. It comes as we daily read our bible says & apply scripture to our lives so that the people around us see that our life is lived differently. They can ask questions about why our life is so different & you can share how you are molding your life around God's Word!

**Eg** Devotions & Journaling

**To Show Hospitality** - (1 Pet 4:9, Heb 13:1-2)

[Hebrews 13:1-3](#) (NIV)

1 Keep on loving each other as brothers.

2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

We have to learn to more generous with our lives. We should be in each other homes hanging out & having FUN. Invite people around for BBQ, get them in for a coffee & desert, play cards, darts, table tennis etc. Open you home for a Life Group be a Host, or put your hand up to lead a Life Group. Showing hospitality is part of the general call stage one!

**Eg** Campus Meet Ups in homes

**To Witness** - (Matt 5:16, 2 Cor 5:18-20)

[2 Corinthians 5:18-20](#) (NIV)

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

We have to share with people our faith pointing out to them how much God loves them, & how much HE desires a relationship with them. We are to be the ones to set up the meeting. Telling people about Christ is part of the general call...

**Eg** I will try & work in faith, church being a pastor into every conversation when given the green light by God. In fact the scriptures say that everything in God is yes & amen. I pretty much assume its all a green light & start and then God will give me a yellow or red if I am to back off. So i come from the position that unless God tells me know I am going to assume it is a YES, but doing this is keep me on High Alert to what our God might be up to.

So the General Calling which we wall have to fulfill is to:

- To Serve
- To Pray
- To Worship
- To Give
- To Encourage
- To Teach
- To Show Hospitality
- To Witness

It is essentially learning to pick up a towel & serve others. Out of this area of function God then begins to release you into your specific calling.

## **2.SPECIFIC CALL**

This part of your call is unique to who you are designed to be. God works this out in conjunction with the particular gifts, talents & personality mix he has given you.

**Eg** 4x Es

**Engage** - our culture & community for Christ,

**Establish** - is about us learning developing our relationship with God & allowing him to love us & then us learning how to love him,

**Equip** - start to pick up a towel & serve - this leads us to walk in the general call on our life with everyone else,

**Empower** - out of the function of the general call everyone notices a certain unique giftedness rise to the surface which leads you to into the special call,

The reason that most people never find the special call of God on their life is this. God only releases a person into the special call on there life once they have proved faithful in functioning in the general call first. Most people give the general call a try & then after awhile the short term pleasures of sin are more important so they never become faithful people.

**Eg** Just this last week - a couple of up coming leaders have hindered the outworking of there call due to an unwise decision. They went to a questionable place in town & someone saw them.

**Jesus made reference** to this when he made the statement in Mat 22:14 Many are Called but Few are Chosen.

What this means is that God's call goes out to everyone but very few will actually respond to the call in order to be chosen. Many make unwise choices & not found worth of calling.

## **RESPONDING TO THE CALL**

There call of God comes to us on to distinct levels:

1. **The Call to Salvation** - this call has gone out to every single person on planet earth. Its the call to receive God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ as our Lord & Saviour. Through him we gain access back into relationship with the Father. **Rom 10:14,18** - so truly MANY are CALLED - however only those who will respond & ask forgiveness of their sin's receiving Jesus as there Lord & Saviour will be CHOSEN - THE FEW..

I wonder if there is someone here who has not surrendered their life fully Christ, I wonder if you are sitting her still carrying the weight of your own sin, still sitting in guilt and shame trying to figure out how to make things right with God. Well the way to make things right is to stop trying in your own strength & receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Right now you can change your eternal destiny from death to life, from darkness to light, from guilt & shame over sin to righteousness. Lets pray together & if you have never received Jesus as your Lord & saviour here is your moment to make peace with your creator and start a whole new life.

First call governs your eternal destiny in following Jesus, this second determines of the fruitfulness of your life in your call here on earth.

2. **The Call to the Purpose** - only after you have responded & are settled into your first call to salvation, will then God call you again but this time to HIS purpose (Eph 1:11-12, Rom 8:28)

This starts in the arena of the General Call - and then once you have proved faithful God takes you on into the Special Call.

**Just like the call to salvation - with many are called** but a few being chosen, because a few will respond to the call. It is exactly the same with the call to purpose to work alongside him - once again many are called but only few are willing to respond to the call in order to be proven faithful & chosen.

Most just goof of preferring the short term pleasures of sin rather than live the disciplined life worthy of God's calling. This is all worked out in the arena of Faith.

**Heb 11** - list a great number of heroes of faith - who were all just being faithful in the general calling of God until God release them into his special call.

**They were just loving the Lord** there God with all there heart, mind, soul & strength & then out of that they were loving others as part of the general call...

**Abraham** - being called to be the father of faith when & Sarah are as good as dead,

- **Moses** - shepherding for & then a special call comes to get the people out of Egypt,
- **David** - 17years just looking after the sheep as a shepherd, then after he knows he being called into the special role of king it is still another 13 years..
- **Jesus** - just living life outwork God's general call until the special call had reached the appointed time. **Eg** child, young adult & a man

We are encouraged like these guys to run the race set out for us. The race appointed for us before time began. God warns us in **Heb 12:1** that there are a great cloud of witness watching us from the heavenly stands waiting to see if we will take seriously our responsibility to walk in the call of God on our lives.

### **So how are we called?**

Those he foreknew before the world began, he also did predestine to blessing & relationship with him, however we have the freewill to accept or decline that destination, if we respond to call we get justified, which means saved by grace just like I had never ever sinned, those who choose walk in step with the spirit who brings us justification, they get glorified which means transformed into the image of Christ.

### **We must understand:**

1. We are made by God - (Mat 4:19, Jer 18:1-10)
2. We are taught by God - (John 14:26, 1Cor 2:12)
3. We are sent by God - (John 17:18, Mark 16:15)

We must always remember whenever God calls he also provides the grace to accomplish what he calls us into.

**WILL WE BE LIKE THE SAINTS OF OLD** - and fulfill God's purpose in our Generation like King David did? **Acts 13:36**

Will we live a life worthy of our calling?

The heavenly calling was started by Jesus on the cross & then he passed the baton to the first disciples to birth the church to continue his mission, and nothing has changed!

**Your call is from eternity** - eternity - with an expression here on earth in the church to fulfil the heavenly calling.

It's a call to salvation & then a call to purpose,

- Outworked practically through the general & specific call.

### **As you faith in the general call to;**

- Serve
- Pray
- Worship
- Give
- Encourage
- Teach
- Show Hospitality
- Witness

Then God releases the special call on your life. Once you start functioning in the special call - we need to make sure we still do some things to keep us grounded in the general call. As way to many leaders have lost it because getting beyond pick up a towel to serve!

We must take great care to build our lives in Christ!

**1 Corinthians 3:12-15 (NIV)**

12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,  
13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

This is scary I could build wonderful things in this world, but if that is not what God called me to do, then it will be burned up & my life will have counted for nothing. I fear that so many who will experience this if we don't get back to our pure devotion in Christ and be about his business & now ours. We must get back to the call, we must allow the Holy Spirit to clean out the well so that we once again become the light of the world for all to see. A people after God's own heart!

**Altar Response:** -will you stand before God & commit to run you leg of the race as a witness to the next generation.

**When God's call defines your life**, then all the blessing, all the benefits, all the rewards of that call are automatically credited to your account. **Heb 11:39-40** - if you're in the call then all things will work out for good for you! WHY - because it is God's plan, and God always sees His plan and purpose come to pass.