

I BELIEVE I HAVE BEEN CALLED BY GOD INTO MINISTRY!

INTRODUCTION: In my attempt to be a good steward and servant-pastor for our Savior and Sovereign **GOD, JESUS The CHRIST**; this booklet of information has been compiled in an effort to aide and assist those persons who believe they have been called by **GOD** into CHRISTian service.

While this booklet is being compiled with those who believe they have been called to teach or preach, it is nevertheless good for all of those who all of those who believe they have been called by **GOD** into some area of service in the ministry of The gospel.

The goal of this booklet is to help the reader confirm their call to CHRISTian service, qualify their call to CHRISTian service and continue their work in the gospel ministry until **GOD** calls them home.

I. THE MATTER OF CONFIRMATION!

We begin our journey into the area of Confirming **GOD'S** call on your life into CHRISTian service by noting some key facts from Scripture~

a. Every CHRISTian has been saved to SERVE!

JESUS said:

“...Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

-Mark 8:34b

“And *whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you **SERVE THE LORD CHRIST.***”

-Colossians 3:23 & 24

The book of Galatians records:

“*For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love **SERVE ONE ANOTHER.***”

-Galatians 5:13

One Great Quote:

“*The call to Salvation from The Savior, is a call to serious **SERVICE.***”

-Gospel preachers throughout the years

Another Great Quote:

“*We have not been saved to sit, we've been saved to **SERVE.***”

CHRISTian Church Mothers, over the years

b. While every CHRISTian has been saved to serve, it is nevertheless true that CHRISTians have also been called to specific areas of service!

Examples of this fact abound in The Scripture. As we look into the lives of men and women in the Bible (*and even into the lives of some contemporary believers today*), we can clearly see how **GOD** has called believers into very specific areas of service.

Some Biblical and contemporary examples include:

<i>Moses</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr.</i>
<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Billy Graham</i>
<i>Mary</i>	<i>Yolanda Adams</i>
<i>Abraham & Sarah</i>	<i>Frank & P. Bunny Wilson</i>
<i>Peter</i>	<i>Bill Bright</i>
<i>John the Baptist</i>	<i>Edward V. Hill Sr.</i>
<i>James</i>	<i>Manuel L. Scott Jr.</i>

While on my very first (*and to this point only trip*), to Israel in March 2005, our Jewish tour guide made a very compelling statement about The Holy Scriptures. He said, that when it comes to the Bible our **GOD** is “*stingy with words.*” WOW! How true that is! What our guide meant by that by that is that we need to pay attention to every single word in The Holy Scriptures.

In the same way, let me say that our **GOD** is stingy with people! *YES!* By this I mean that **GOD** chose you to be His child, and He has equipped you with very specific gifts and very special tasks that He wants you to do!

I applaud you for acknowledging the tug on your heart from **GOD** that He has called you into CHRISTian service.

PERSONAL NOTES!

*Write in brief on the following lines your salvation experience. This should include a retelling of when and how you received **JESUS CHRIST** into your heart as your personal Savior and **LORD**.*

*Follow that writing with the way or ways in which you believe **GOD** is speaking to you to enter **CHRISTian** service for Him.*

In our pursuit of confirming, qualifying and continuing our service to our Savior and **LORD, JESUS CHRIST**; let's be careful at this point to state that we want to measure our experiences with The **WORD** of **GOD**!

That is, we want to be as sure as we can that we perceive as our call to serve is not simply some emotional decision that is the result of a pseudo-suggestion made to us by other well meaning believers or the result of some underlying desire for what we perceive to be notoriety or special place in the local church.

c. Abraham and the principle of SEPARATION!!!

Genesis 12:1-13:17

Note to the reader: Read all the verses in these two chapters over and over again!

1. One pressing and oft-repeated practice we see in The Scriptures is this: When **GOD** calls a man, He tends to speak to him most intimately when that man is by himself!

And while we see this principle over and over again in The Scriptures, we see it very clearly in Genesis chapters 12 & 13, when **GOD** calls Abram into service!

“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get Out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you,’

-Genesis 12:1

Note also:

“Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, ...”

-Genesis 12:7

Note again:

“And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him;...”

-Genesis 13:14

~It's worthy of repeating at this point, that this principle of hearing **GOD** speak to you about intimate and intricate matters, is seen **THROUGHTOUT** The Scriptures. Take a moment and conduct a personal study of the men and women in Scripture who **GOD** called into service.

II. THE MATTER OF QUALIFICATION!!!

Now that we've looked into the matter of confirmation, let's examine the matter of Qualification!

That is to say, let's take a close look at how you can qualify whether or not GOD has called YOU into the specific area of CHRISTian service that you have such conviction about.

A Great Quote:

*“Whom **GOD** calls, He qualifies.”*

Some Helpful Definitions:

1. Qualify: *“To reduce from a general to a particular form.”*
2. Qualifier: *“One that satisfies requirements.”*

-Source: Webster's New Dictionary of the English Language

- a. As we talk now about qualification, we're speaking of your living up the Biblical standard that **GOD** has for you as His servant-leader. While some qualifications are specific to a specific area of service, there are some general qualifications for EVERY CHRISTian servant that we will examine right now.
- b. One major Biblical model for this portion of our lesson is Moses! Like Jeremiah read: Jeremiah 1:4 & 5, Moses was chosen by **GOD** from his mother's womb to provide specific leadership, for a specific people, during a specific period of time in history.

Read about the life of Moses. Read: Exodus 2:1-20:36

1. Moses and the matter of PREPARATION!
 - i. Moses is born and blessed by **GOD!**
 - ii. Moses is burdened and groomed by **GOD!**
 - iii. Moses leads according to **GOD'S** direction; and teaches according **GOD'S WORD!**
2. One unique fact about the life of Moses is that his life is recorded in three separate periods of 40 years each!
 - i. First 40 years in Pharaoh's house as the Prince of Egypt.
 - ii. Second 40 years in the desert as a Shepherded.
 - iii. Third 40 years in service as a leader of GOD'S people.

3. Another unmistakable fact about the life of Moses is that **GOD** took him through a pruning period of Preparation, prior to **GOD** giving him promotion.

That is to say, that **GOD** took leadership for His people so seriously that He required specific preparation of His leader, before He ever promoted Moses to a place of service.

One great tragedy of leadership today, is that many leaders are self-appointed and ill prepared for the positions that **THEY** assume!

It has long been said, "*The call to preach is a call to preparation.*" And in truth, the call to any area of **CHRISTIAN** service is a call to preparation!

And our chief teacher during this period of preparation is **GOD** Himself! Let me quickly, very quickly applaud and salute every believer who seeks academic education from a legitimate, **CHRISTIAN** institution of higher learning. And let me quickly say that **EVERY** leader should take his or her growth in **CHRIST** so seriously that they are willing to make such sacrifices in their time, finance and energy that academic learning requires.

Nevertheless, in all honesty we have some people in **CHRISTIAN** service today who have degrees from institutions, but no learning from our **LORD** Himself.

It's really not a case of either or, it is both and!

The call to be a **CHRISTIAN** servant-leader is a call to being prepared.

We must not only confirm our call in moments of quiet separation with our **LORD**, but we must also qualify our call with serious **PREPARATION** by **GOD** Himself!

Some great keys to preparation.

1. Get alone with **GOD**!
2. Listen to **GOD** speak to you in prayer!
3. Do what **GOD** says do, no matter how crazy it may seem!
4. Become an "*Under shepherd*" (a lover and care-taker of sheep).
5. Study the occupation of a Shepherd in Scripture. Compare how often **GOD** speaks to, uses and refers to shepherds in The Scriptures.
6. Study the times that **JESUS** uses the word "*shepherd*" and "*sheep*".
7. Study the characteristics of a sheep. Now compare those with **YOU**!

Write down your findings below:

A deeper Biblical examination for those who desire to be teachers and/or preachers of
The gospel reveals much for your consideration- before you take on this task.

Consider the following verses of Scriptures:

-A word of caution to those who would become teachers:

*“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers,
knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”*

-James 3:1

-A pre-qualification for those who would become pastors or deacons:

*“This is faithful saying; If a man desire the position of a bishop,
he desires a good work.*

*A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate,
Soberminded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ...
Likewise deacons must be ...”*

1st Timothy 3:1,2 & 8a

A BRIEF WORD STUDY: 1. TEACH= “Yarah” (yaw-aw). This verb has 2 meanings. The first is to ‘throw’ or ‘shoot’. The second is to ‘direct,’ ‘teach,’ or ‘instruct.’. A craft can be taught, a child can be instructed.
2. Teach= “Matheteuo” (math-ayt-yoo-oh). This verb is used intransitively, it means “to be” or “become a pupil” or “disciples,” as in Matt. 13:52; 27: 57. when used as a transitive verb it means “to make a disciple of” or “to teach someone,” as in Matt 28:19; Acts 14:21. the cognate noun is derived from the verb that means “to learn.”

Pastor Fort’s comment: Teaching can mean: To cast or throw with aim or direction the correct information to the receiving student.

The qualifications for being a teacher or preacher according to The Scripture go beyond mere academic ability. The Bible requires holiness from the would be teacher and preacher as a pre-requisite for their service.

Let me quickly point out that by holiness I do not mean perfection. Rather The Scripture requires that a person in such a position of trust be a person of character, integrity , a good reputation, prayerful, disciplined, humility, honesty and studious. The Scripture requires that the Bible teacher and preacher be a person who takes their relationship with The **LORD** seriously and spends time with **GOD** daily in prayer and devotion.

PERSONAL NOTES!

A Great Question:

- What are some things I can look for as signs that I've been called by **GOD** to teach?

This is a great question, and one that quite frankly is not asked (nor answered) often enough.

Let me share with you the wisdom of Dr. A. Louis Patterson Jr., pastor of the Mount Corinth Missionary Baptist Church, in Houston Texas. While attending the Conference on Expository Preaching in Dallas Texas several years ago, I heard Dr. Patterson give the following observations on how we can tell whether or not we've been called to a certain task. I've shared these principles with others ever since.

~You know you're in the right area of service when...

1. You experience great pleasure while serving **GOD** in your **GOD**-given area of service!

This refers to the fact that while you are doing what **GOD** has called you to do, you will experience pleasure or joy. Namely, you enjoy doing this work for **GOD**. It makes you happy, it makes you smile, it brings you joy!

2. You have peace when your performing whatever that task is!

Many people describe the anxieties of life that come upon all of us. And they go on to describe the peace they experience (regardless of their present problems), while they are involved in the action of performing whatever their task is.

3. Your work in The **LORD** produces fruit!

You will notice that your labor of love for The **LORD** in your area of service will produce fruit. For example, if you are a teacher of **GOD'S WORD** you will watch and witness the **SPIRITUAL** growth and development of others. If you are a preacher or evangelist of **GOD'S WORD**, you will see people come to faith in **JESUS CHRIST**. That is you will lead people to salvation through **CHRIST JESUS!** Whenever **GOD'S** seed is planted in good soil it will produce fruit!

In concluding this section of our booklet, remember that it is **GOD** and **GOD** alone who give His children the gifts and abilities of service that He desires.

Remember further that the purpose of every gift our **GOD** gives His children is so that His people may be edified!

The Bible says:

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets,
Some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

*For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, For the edifying of the body of Christ,..
-Ephesians 4:11 & 12 (NKJV)*

III. THE MATTER OF CONTINUATION!

The last and most certainly not least of the areas I hope to address in this booklet is that of continuing in this good work that our **GOD** has called you to. Please note that while this section may be smaller in length than the others, it is very large in terms of its importance to you as a teacher or preacher of The **WORD** of **GOD**!

Many people start this race as a teacher or preacher of **GOD'S WORD**; unfortunately along the road of ministry- many have fallen of the path.

With this fact in mind, I want to point out some reasons this happens and encourage you to stay on course.

Some reasons many people turn back.

1. They were never called to teach or preach in the first place!

*“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that
The Antichrist is coming; even now many antichrists have come,
By which we know that it is the last hour.
They went out from us, but they were not of us: ...”
-1st John 2:18 &19a*

2. They got off track with their teaching and preaching and chose instead to “scratch some itching ears!”

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine,
But according to their own desires, because they have itching ears,
They will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth,
And be turned aside to fables.”
-2nd Timothy 3:3 & 4*

3. They saw this work as a means to popularity, position, prominence and pay!

*“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh,
Not many mighty, not many noble, are called.”
-1st Corinthians 1:26*

4. They were discouraged by the fiery darts Satan threw at them!

*“Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
...Above all taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench
All the fiery darts of the wicked one.”
-Ephesians 6:11 & 16*

5. They were discouraged by the negative comments and response of close friends and family members!

*“An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire.
A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.
-Proverbs 16:27 & 28*

*“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
-Psalm 1:1*

6. They desired the temporary pleasures of this world more than they did obedience to GOD, His Word and Work!

*“... Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He Suffered.”
-Hebrews 5:8*

7. They lack the stamina to remain, because they have abandoned both books and the Brotherhood!

*“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some,
But exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
-Ecclesiastes 4:12*

PERSONAL NOTES!

A SUGGESTED BOOK LIST FOR THE BIBLE TEACHER/PREACHER

1. The Holy Bible! Get a good STUDY BIBLE! There are many to choose from.
2. A good Dictionary! A great one is the Noah Webster 1828 Dictionary.
3. An Exhaustive Concordance of The Holy Scriptures! Strongs Concordance is good.
4. Vines Expository Notes on the Old and New Testaments
5. Rogets Thesaurus
6. A good Bible Study Program! The Pastor's Library by Logos is a good one.

Some good authors to look our for:

- Wuest. His study on Key words in the Bible is great.
- Dr. Howard Hendricks
- Dr. Warren Weirsbe
- Dr. McKissick
- Max Lucado
- Haddon Robinson

Some examples of lives you may wish to study:

- All of the personalities in The Scriptures
- Dr. E. V. Hill Sr.
- Dr. Manuel L. Scott Sr.
- Evangelist Manuel L. Scott Jr.
- Billy Graham
- Joel Gregory
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Malcolm Little
- Mahatma Ghandi
- Nelson Mandela

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE TO BECOME A BIBLE TEACHER AND/OR PREACHER

- Week One: Read Genesis Chapters 12 & 13 Write down your personal observations. Share those observations with the group.
- Week Two: Read Exodus Chapters 2 Through ? Write down your observations regarding GOD'S preparation of Moses as His Servant-leader.
- Week Three: Purchase your own Exhaustive Concordance and Dictionary of Old and New Testament words. By following the direction in each book and listening in class, complete your own word study on one of the following words: Salvation, Faith, Power, Love, Sin, Anointing or Patience. Write down your finding's, be sure to include your sources of reference. Be prepared to do a presentation in class.
- Week Four: Purchase & read at least 3 of the Biblical sermons available in this book; along with the accompanying interview and commentary. Write down your observations. Share your observations with the group.
- Week Five: Purchase and read the book: _____

Now select a passage of Scripture from the list provided to you by Pastor Fort. Develop a Bible Lesson based on your passage selection. Be prepared to present this in class.

Week Six:

For Preachers only!

Purchase and read at least five of the available twelve sermons in this book, along with the accompanying interview and commentary that go along with each sermon.

Order, purchase and read one of the many books of sermons by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., or by Dr. Gardner C. Taylor. Sermon styles and preaching method will be discussed this week.

Week Seven:

Receive a Scripture passage from Pastor Fort and develop a complete sermon based on that passage.

Your message should be an expository message.

For extra help follow the guideline sheet provided by Pastor Fredrick L. Fairley Sr. from the H.O.P.E. Conference 2005. if you do not have a copy of Pastor Fairley's outline, request one from Pastor Fort. Write your message out in manuscript format. Turn a copy of your manuscript in to Pastor Fort.

Week Eight:

Be prepared to preach your message in class. You will be given a time frame for preaching.