

## **“The Call of God”**

Genesis 6:13-14

Sunday, January 21, 2024

**Introduction:** I want to talk to you today about the call of God. The call of God is simply God calling someone to do something. As you read your Bible, you will see God over and over calling people to do things.

- God called Noah to build an ark (Genesis 6:13-14). God told Noah to build a large boat. Throughout history God has raised up someone in times of widespread immorality.
- God called Abraham to leave his home and go to a land that He would show him later (Genesis 12:1).
- God called Moses to go to Pharaoh (Exodus 3:10).
- Later God called Moses and Aaron to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage to the Promised Land (Exodus 12:31f).
- God called Isaiah to be a prophet (Isaiah 6:8).
- God called Jeremiah to be a prophet before he was born (Jeremiah 1:5).
- God called Jonah to go to Nineveh (Jonah 1:1-2).
- God called Phillip to go down the road from Jerusalem to Gaza where he met the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26f).
- God called Paul to go to Europe to preach the gospel when Paul wanted to go to Asia to preach the gospel (Acts 15:6-10).
- God called Peter to go to Caesarea and the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentiles (Acts 10).

**T.S.** You may think “all that is in the Bible and happened long ago! What about today? Does God call people today? The answer: Absolutely! I speak from experience.

- I was 27 years old when God me to be a preacher. Dottie and I had been married three years. I was in the business world. Dottie was working with Delta Airlines. God’s call changed our lives.
- God’s call to me was not audible. An angel did not appear. I had no vision.
- How did I know? I had an inward understanding that God wanted me to be a preacher. What I felt was more real than an angel appearing or a vision.

**T.S.** Let me mention three things about the call of God that is both biblical and my own experience.

### **1. The call of God is (personal).**

\* God’s call to Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jonah, Phillip. Paul, and Perter was personal.

\* God called Samuel by name (1 Samuel 3).

\* God called Saul on the Damascus Road by name (Acts 9:4).

\* God speaks to our heart.

**Illustration:** My salvation experience was personal. As a seven-year-old boy God put a feeling in my heart. My call into the ministry was personal. My family did not call me into the ministry. Friends did not call me into the ministry. God put that in my heart.

### **2. The call of God is (specific).**

\* God told Noah, Moses, Abraham, Issaih, Jonah. Phillip, Paul, and Peter specifically what to do and where to go.

\* My coming here 34 years ago was specific.

**Illustration:** About two years before Pasadena contacted me, I struggled with going to the First Baptist Church in Irving, Texas. Their pulpit committee was very kind and thoughtful. They came to Sulphur Springs several times and we visited them in Dallas two or three times. I wanted to go to the church because I was familiar with the Dallas area living 80 miles away. One Friday night our family was in a motel in Las Colinas, Texas. After we met with the committee we went back to the hotel. The boys went to our room. Dottie and I sat down in the lobby to talk about the situation. Sitting in a chair in the lobby next to Dottie I cried like a baby. I wanted to go to the church because I was familiar with the area, liked the committee, and saw the possibilities, but I knew this was not what God was calling me to do.

**Illustration:** About two years later the First Baptist Church Pasadena, Texas pulpit committee contacted me. We were very familiar with Dallas but knew little about Houston. The pulpit committee was very patient with me. They felt that I was to come here as pastor. One Thursday afternoon I had a word from God in a strange way about what His will was for me. The following Sunday morning God made clear to me coming here was what He was calling me to do. Through these 34 years I have never doubted God call me here.

### **The call of God is (progressive).**

- Norman Vincent Peale, Pastor of Marble Collegiate Church in New York for more than 50 years said, “Following the will of God is like following the beam of a flashlight on a forest trail.”
- One step must be taken before the next step becomes clear.

**Application:** On my 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I am not just looking back in reflection, but looking forward to the future. I am humbled and thankful for what God has done in our years together. The truth is, I am n\more excited about what God has for us in the future than I was when I started 34 years ago.

### **My passion and goals for the future:**

1. To personally be as close to God as I can.

2. To lead our church members to be as close to God as they can.
3. To reach as many people in our community as we can possibly reach. They are there. We saw a glimpse of this on Christmas Eve.
4. To expand ways to take the gospel message beyond the walls of our church.

**Conclusion:** One day God's call will be "homeward." Your eternal home will either be heaven, or your eternal home will be hell.