

SUMMONED, SUBPOENAED AND COURT ORDERED

WILLIS 2/5/12

Phil3:8-12

The theme of our Conference is “Called”...a very Biblical theme but at the same time a very friendly and potentially innocuous theme. You can be called by God, you can be called by a friend or you could be called by a perfect stranger.

- However, a call from God should carry with it a different connotation than a call from a perfect stranger.
- **A call from a friend or stranger is inherently optional, however to be called by God is to be ordered by the appointment of God.** Those who God calls (and everybody is called) He also orders and appoints.
- Daily life for the called is by “appointment only.” To live called is to live in search of what God has appointed for that particular day.
- That is precisely what Paul is asking for in our text, he is asking that he might “lay hold of that for which he was laid hold of.” Knowing he was a called man, Paul was pressing to lay hold of that appointed pursuit for which he was subpoenaed for.

I have entitled what I want to share today “**Summoned, Subpoenaed and Court Ordered.**” Not quite as friendly as “Called” but perhaps more descriptive of what God has in mind when He calls those He loves.

- Paul referred to it in our text as “The Upward Call of God.” **The upward call of God is an authoritative command. To receive an upward call is to be given a citation from an authority to appear in a specific place.**
- To understand the “upward call” we must see it as a subpoena from God. A subpoena is not something you ignore or take lightly. A subpoena is a court order compelling a witness to appear under penalty of fine or imprisonment.
- Of course there is one major difference from a court ordered subpoena and a subpoena from God. In the Kingdom of God we are subpoenaed to be overwhelmingly blessed not punished.

- **The Call of God is the authoritative command of God to appear in your specific place so He can overwhelmingly bless your person and your purpose.**

When we speak of being “Called” we are speaking of both our person and our purpose. In 1Cor 1:1-2 Paul says we are called as Apostles and Saints. To be called as a saint speaks of our person. To be called as an apostle speaks of our purpose.

- **Every man and woman of God is called both in their person and in their purpose.** As we see with the prophet Jeremiah, we were created to fit our call. Jeremiah was called to be a prophet then created to fit his calling. He then lived according to his call.
- **There is a big difference between a God called man and a man called god.** If you don’t live as a God called man (woman) you will live as a man called god.
- **How do I know if I have been called? Were you created? Then you were called?** If you were created you were called because you were created to fit your call. Those created desires within...the burdens...the dreams...they are all evidence of your call.
- And when we answer that summons and live aligned with the subpoena...we truly live. The only way to answer a call is to surrender...train...serve.

Let me tell you why calling is so integral to living:

1. **Callings Apprehend: Phil.3:12 It is in the calling we get apprehended, consecrated, authorized and endowed.** It is in the calling we get focused. Where there is no sense of calling people live preoccupied. (text, call)
 - There is a new epidemic rampant in the world and in the Church today. It’s called Distracticide. Distracticide produces a social disorder called FDD...Focus Deficit Disorder. Have you noticed how preoccupied people are? (Starbucks Mother)
 - **The greater the calling the greater the distractions.** 1Cor16:9 “A wide door for effective service has opened to me and there are many adversaries.”
 - This level of preoccupation is not coincidental nor is it non consequential...it is strategic warfare keeping you from your call.
 - **Callings Awaken.** Some of you are living in snooze mode. You need to wake up, turn off your snooze and return to your call.
 - **Callings Align.** Some of you live in voicemail mode. You never answer your call; you let your machine answer for you. You need to turn off your voicemail, disable your caller I.D. and answer your call.

- **Callings Restore.** Some of you are living as prodigals to your call. You love Jesus even love Father but you are running as a prodigal from your calling. You need to come to your senses and return to your call.
- 2. Callings Direct: Rom8:28-30 you're calling determines your direction.** Your calling is the source of your burdens and the definitions of your boundaries. Your calling is what gives you motivation and unction.
- **If you never discern your calling you will never engage your cause.** This is why I say, never court a person who is not already engaged or before you get engaged make sure you are already engaged.
 - What does it mean to be called? For some it means you are hearing voices and need meds. For others it means you are having auditory hallucinations and need help.
 - For us it means the providential hand of God has ordered our purpose to fit our person and is now directing our cause for His will to perform.
- 3. Callings Send: Gal 1:15-16 It's through calling we get sent. No one gets sent who isn't first called.** Many wonder why they were never sent when in reality they never trained like they were ever called.
- Between the wonder of our calling and the adventure of our sending is this amazing period called training. The reason Paul could say a "wide open door of effective service" is because he was a man who qualified for his call.
 - To live like you are called is to live in training for being sent...whether that be sent to your neighborhood, to your business or to the mission field.
 - Though called of God, Paul spent 14 years in Arabia training for his call. Jesus lived 33 years with only the last 3 ministering...all 33 the Scriptures say "He was learning obedience through the things He suffered."

What you are called to you must develop the capacity for. Calling without capacity is potential without possibility. This is why Paul says in Gal4:19 "I am in the pains of child birth until Christ is formed in you." Christ in you is the basis of your capacity.

- Your calling will never become your destiny if Christ isn't formed in you. So as Paul says in Ep4:13 we must attain to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Your stature and your capacity are one in the same.

- Your calling is a gift. Callings come by way of inheritance. Capacity comes by way of process. **Our calling is something we are birthed into. Our stature is something we grow into.**
- Scores of people are gifted beyond their capacity so their depth of stature never reaches the level of their calling. Consequently their gift is void of impartation.
- We have a mouth by virtue of our call. We get a voice by virtue of our capacity. Spiritually speaking, your voice of authority comes because of your spiritual stature not your gifting.
- **Voices come by way of dealings; voices are received in the crucible of suffering.** Peter had a gift but he didn't become a voice until he was sifted like wheat. Jesus let Satan sift Peter because without the sifting Peter could not strengthen his brothers.
- **When we are willing to embrace the fellowship of His sufferings then we will walk in the fullness of His stature where our gifting and our capacity become as one.**

How many have been created? Then you are called. Since you are called then you are to live apprehended, awakened, aligned, restored, directed and sent. How many can say here today I AM DONE WITH PREOCCUPATION, I AM GOING TO LIVE CALLED?

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