

REDISCOVERING YOUR CALLING

How Do You Know That God Has Called You?

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Email: info.afem2004@gmail.com

Dedication:

I'd like to dedicate this book to Christie, my gorgeous wife and life partner, and my four wonderful children, Aldan, Shiloh, Joi, and Princeton Francois.

Special Thanks

I'd want to express my gratitude to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the first time in my life. For me, he died on the cross. A special thank you to my entire Francois family, especially my biological Father, Alexandre; my 4 brothers (Yvens, Bernex, Alix, and Alandre), and my sister Ashley. My cousin, Ermita, and my family. I would also like to recognize the entire Desir family: Marie Nancy, Midwin, Bianca, Chercy, and Huberman for your unwavering support. Last but not least, thank you to those that have had an impact on my spiritual life; my spiritual parents, Gregory and Patricia Toussaint, and my entire Tabernacle of Glory family all over the world; my first mentor, David James Thomas, pastor Fred Ulysse, pastor Foxworth Livingston, and pastor Jacques Morissette.

Summary:

I often hear a lot of believers of Jesus Christ ask this Question: *How do you know that God has called you?* After eighteen years of being a believer, I have come to discover that the Bible has a lot to say regarding this matter. How can we answer such a question? We will look at seven key points that will help us derive a clear and insightful answer:

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1. What is a *calling*?

"call on God or the Lord" is a frequent biblical expression: it occurs fifty-six times in the Bible (Old Testament, 45; New Testament, 11). On four occasions, it is applied to other gods. It often appears in the fuller form, "call on the name of" (31 times). The highest concentration is in the psalms (16 times). One of the definitions of the call of God that we will talk more about in this book is that *"God's calling is His invitation to you, to have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ."*

The author of the book of God's Generals, Robert Liardon; also defines calling as follows: *"A calling is an invitation from God to you, asking you to work for Him at this time, in His manner, in this location in the earth to get something He needs to get done."*

It is a moment where God says: will you work for me to do this, at this time in the earth my way, my timing, my speed, and the location I require?

The call of God can come to you at any moment, either during service, prayers, reading of the Word, vision, dreams, prophecy, or during worship. People next to you or around you may not know it, but you know that the Lord has spoken.

The Bible tells us that God must first call or invite us to enter that relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. **John 6:44 KJV** *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me **draw him** (invite him): and I will raise him at the last day."* How does He do this? He does this by opening our minds to a basic understanding of the Scriptures and our need to repent.

2. The two major types of God's call in the Bible you need to differentiate.

Here are the two major types of God's call in the Bible:

a) Call to belong to Jesus Christ

*The term "call" is used in the Bible to describe God's endeavor to lead people to Christ and to participate in his redeeming mission in the world. "The call to belong to Jesus Christ," I called this form of call. Whether or not the term "call" is used, the feeling of *calling* is very strong in Paul's writings.*

In Romans 1:5-6 AMP, *"⁵ It is through Him that we have received grace and [our] apostleship to promote obedience to the faith and make disciples for His name's sake among all the Gentiles, ⁶ and you also are among those who are called of Jesus Christ to belong to Him."*

1 Timothy 2:3-4 NRSV *"³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (Jesus)."*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 NRSV *"¹⁷ so if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, ^[a] not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ since God is making his appeal through us; we implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."*

The call to belong to Christ is a call to a restored relationship with God, other people, and the world around us. It encompasses a person's being and doing.

We see clearly in **2 Corinthians 5:17-20** that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself. Are you one reconciled to God through Christ Jesus yet? If not, that is the real reason you are reading this

booklet right now. God Almighty wants to reconcile with you now through Jesus Christ.

Here are the simple steps to receive Reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ. It is easy as saying **A B C.**

A, you must *admit* that you are a sinner (**Romans 3:23**).

B, you must *believe* that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (**John 3:16**).

C, you must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and that He was raised from the dead **by God (Romans 10:9)**.

I'd want to congratulate you for making the wisest choice you've ever made. I promise you will never be sorry. May the Holy Spirit use you mightily for God's glory worldwide in every area of your life.

The call to belong to Christ is a call to a restored relationship with God, other people, and the world around us. It is more applied for unbelievers to come to Christ Jesus.

b) The Universal Call to Work.

The second kind of call is what Pastor Robert Liardon entitled *The Universal call to work*. We'll focus on this kind of calling throughout the remainder of the book. We must understand both that God created individuals to work and that He compels them to labor to the extent that they are able in this sort of vocation. Work is built into the nature of people by God from the beginning of the Bible. He is a craftsman who produces individuals in His likeness. He assigns Adam to labor in the garden. Later in the Bible, God instructs all individuals to labor to the best of their abilities in several places. The project will continue till the conclusion of the Bible. Here are a few Scripture references:

Genesis 1:27-28 NRSV ²⁷ *So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.*

²⁸ *God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply**, and fill the earth and subdue*

it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

Genesis 2:15, 19-20 NRSV “¹⁵ *The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it....* ¹⁹ *So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.* ²⁰ *The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field, but for the man^[a] there was not found a helper as his partner.”*

2 Thess. 3:10 NRSV “¹⁰ *for even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.*”

Isaiah 65:21-22 NRSV “²¹ *They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.* ²² *They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*”

Based on these Scripture passages, we could say that *everyone* who is ***called to belong*** to Christ Jesus is ***called to work***. “Called” in this meaning entails being “made” and “commanded” to labor. Even if God doesn't send you a specific job offer, he created you as a worker and commands you to work. It might be difficult to determine the specific labor to which God is calling you, but there is no question that he created you to work and that he wants you to work to the best of your ability. *This type of call is more for people who are already believers of Christ Jesus and ready for service unto the Lord.*

This second type of call, entitled “***The Universal Call to work,***” is what I believe that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ meant by “chosen” in **Matthew 22:14 NKJV** “¹⁴ ***For many are called, but few are chosen.***” It is not everybody will be willing or will qualify to be chosen. When someone is chosen for a position, that person does not just come to the position and does nothing. The manager makes sure that person does work. The called and the chosen in this verse are likened to a company

that advertises it is hiring. Many candidates will put their applications, but the company has a limited amount of positions available. The manager will not hire all the candidates. He or she will choose the most qualified ones—the same with the call of God. The question, "Are all believers of Christ called?". Let's continue to explore further.

3. Are all believers of Christ called today? (2 Timothy 1:9 NIV)

*⁹ **He has saved us and called us to a holy life**-not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before time.*

The text says that God has saved you and called you. That means, if you are born again, yes, you are called (*Call to belong to Jesus Christ*). Biblically speaking, this latter call is available to everyone (John 3:16). However, the majority of people who are called do not respond to their invitation. There may be many reasons for that. Some people just refuse to accept the burden of carrying out what God has intended for them. Others are just satisfied with coming to church. Those believers are often very critical of others while they sit and watch on the sidelines of ministry. No different than the children of Israel.

For forty years, the Israelites walked in circles in the wilderness until all of the males older than twenty had died. My beloved, people with no purpose tend to walk in circles, blaming their failures on someone else or God. They are full of bitterness, jealousy, and envy. For the most part, they are the gossipers of the church—no purpose for the glory of God.

Only Joshua and Caleb were alive to see the Promised Land during their age. They were of a different spirit. They knew they had a purpose and a call on their lives and that by faith in God, they could possess the land.

I remember when I got saved in April of 2004, one of the first things that I told the Lord was, "Lord Jesus, please do not let me be at church, doing nothing for the glory of your name." Since then, the Lord has always kept me busy for him in ministry.

Sadly, Joshua and Caleb had to wait forty years to take what rightfully belonged to them. They could have been enjoying their destiny, but they had to wait because of the whining and complaining of

others around them.

My beloved, beware of the type of environment that you are part of. Your environment can make you or break you. An adage says, *"tell me who you are hanging out with, and I will tell you who you are."*

Brothers and sisters, be wise regarding whom you associate yourself with, including church people.

My beloved, as a Christian, you are not here by accident. You cannot stand before Jesus one day and say, "I was never called." He saved you and called you according to His purpose and grace. You have a destiny in God to fulfill, and you must find out your purpose by seeking God.

Our text verse above says that God's purpose and grace were given to us in Christ before the world began. Never question God's plan for your life. You were born into this generation and at this particular time for a reason. Do not waste your time among the mockers and complainers. Please, follow the example of Joshua and Caleb and go forth to possess the land God has for you.

4. What are the ways to know that you are called?

Here are 10 biblical ways to know that God Almighty calls you:

1. There's a burden on your heart you can't shake. (Romans 9:1-5 NKJV)

*I tell the truth in Christ, and I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² **that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.** ³ For I could wish that I were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; ⁵ of who are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is overall, the eternally blessed God. Amen.*

The first thing the Holy Spirit will put in your heart when God calls you is a burden for that thing or that group of people. I remember when I first got saved, the Holy Spirit put a great sorrow in my heart for the souls of the people in Haiti; in a village called Pointes Des Mangles, near the city of Gonaives. Until today, I would not trade Pointes Des Mangles for any other place in the world just to see the entire community turn to God and worship Him only.

There is no difference from Apostle Paul, for his Jewish "brothers and sisters" would willingly take their punishment if that would save them. Like Jesus, Paul was willing to sacrifice himself so others would be saved. How concerned are you for those who do not know Christ? Are you burdened with a task the Lord has given you?

2. An Outward Confirmation (Most likely a church). Acts 13:2 KJV.

"2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2 KJV).

For many years, I had co-workers and people at the church come up to me and ask me about

things in the Bible or what I thought about their Life circumstances. Things like what can I do to save my marriage? I struggle with pornography and battling an addiction, and I just can't overcome it; how can I grow spiritually?

Time after time, my friends, family, and mainly my co-workers told me that I'd make a great pastor because of the counsel that they received from me. I didn't rely on my wisdom. I picked the brains of Christian marriage counselors and Bible teachers and searched the Scriptures for biblical responses. In 2009 When I came as a guest to a church that wanted me to preach for them, I was asked by the overseer/board director to fill the pulpit that very year. The church validated my inward calling by telling me that they sensed that God was calling me to be a pastor...their pastor! That same year, I even had unbelievers that came to me and told me for them to become a believer only if I had a church in Pointe Des mangles. I did not accept the offer because I did not have any revelation from the Lord that my time had yet come to step into a pastoral role. Later on, I did receive confirmation from the Lord to become a leader in pointe Des Mangles. I resisted this for a long time before they finally became exasperated and told me flat out, "You're ignoring what God is trying to tell you!" Oh, God! May it not be so?

3. You will have a specific group of people or territory for which you will have great passion.

*"³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for **my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,** ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises" (Romans 9:3-4 KJV).*

*"Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm **going through labor pains for you** again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives." (Galatians 4:19 NLT).*

The third thing the Holy Spirit will impress upon you is the types of people or territory that need

your help. Of course, the Holy Spirit will even give you strategies to approach and serve those people or that territory. No different than Nehemiah, who saw the need to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, or Esther, who pleaded/interceded to king Ahasuerus for the Salvation of the people of Israel.

When I received my calling from the Lord on December 30, 2004, it was specifically clear to me by the Holy Spirit that it was the people of Pointes Des Mangles, Haiti. The Holy Spirit showed me the place in a dream.

In the case of Apostle Paul, it was the Jewish people:

*"³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for **my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,** ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises" (Romans 9:3-4 KJV).*

Brothers and sisters, who or where do you have a burden for?

4. The Scripture passage(s) that you read encourages you to have faith and step out.

Another way to recognize your calling is through passages of Scripture that the Holy Spirit will reveal to you that will stir you up. Those passages will awaken your zeal for service.

One day, as I was reading the Bible, I heard a still small voice inside me. It was like the voice came from my belly as the sound of an echo. After I got more mature in the faith, I knew it was the voice of the Holy Spirit talking to me. The Holy Spirit told me these words: "Alex, these are my promises; remember them when you feel like giving up, frustrated, and discouraged."

The first scripture was found in the gospel of John the 15th chapter and verse 16 KJV: "Ye have

not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it to you."

The second Scripture was found in the book of Isaiah the 43rd. Chapter and verse 2 NLT: *"When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. You will not be burned up when you walk through the fire of oppression; the flames will not consume you."*

And the third Scripture was found in the book of **Isaiah 61:1-2 KJV**: *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"*

Honestly, I say to you, my brothers and sisters, if it were not for those promises, I would go about my own business, but not the Lord's. Church people and my family and friends would make me hate Christianity, but thanks be to God Almighty, who already made provisions for me; by giving me those three promises from His Holy Word. To God alone be all the glory.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for being my spiritual alarm to wake me up daily. Whenever I want to give up, or be discouraged, if I do not hear it automatically from the Holy Spirit, I always say to myself, "Alex, remember the promises of the Lord God to you." And instantly get me together to pursue His calling over my life.

Beloved, which passages of Scripture have encouraged you to have faith when you feel like giving up and step out to do what God has called you to do for His Kingdom?

5. When you pray, you sense that God asks you to act.

"16 And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, lay the earth's foundations, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people" (Isaiah 51:16 KJV).

Additionally, the Holy Spirit will download the fire, zeal, and desire to act in you. The Holy Spirit will even reveal how to proceed to you, either through dream, vision, prayers, or reading of the Word. Since April of 2004, th

ere hasn't been a single moment when I haven't felt compelled to act as a result of my prayers.

I get revelations while I am praying in the spirit (tongues). As I pray in tongues, I usually hear that small voice from my belly, telling me what to do. And most of the time, the voice is connected to the desire, hunger, and thirst that God has been putting in my heart to do for Him.

Precaution

As a human being, even after I have received those revelations from the Holy Spirit, my flesh battles with the will of God, telling me, "you are not prepared! God does not call you for real! Where is the provision for the vision? You are wasting your time! It is all in your mind!" And I become complacent, doubtful, and discouraged. But the promises of God redirect me on the right path! Thank God Almighty for His promises.

There is a passage in the book of Jeremiah that I experience anytime I want to turn away from the call of God over my life. It is:

Jeremiah 20:9 NLT: *"But if I say I'll never mention the LORD or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!"*

Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ has become second nature for me. I can do it without fear,

either on stage, in my neighborhood, or on the streets. The Holy Spirit always puts His words on my lips. As the Scripture asserts, “**And I have put my words in thy mouth,** and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people” (Isaiah 51:16 KJV).

Beloved, what is it that God is asking you to act upon?

6. You see the impact of your calling on others

The Holy Spirit will allow you to witness the kind of impact that your calling has on those people or territories for which God has called you. Your impact is greater when these three following conditions are met in your Life:

- **Find your joy:** If you want to make others happy, you'll need to start with yourself. What makes you happy? What brings you joy? Thinking about these questions will help you figure out how you can spread happiness to others. The Bible states in the gospel of **Mark 12:30-31**NLT, “³⁰ and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. No other commandment is greater than these.” ³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor **as yourself**. If you don't love yourself first, loving others will be tough. Why? You can't offer what you don't have, because you can't give what you don't have. It's that simple!
- **Make a plan for your life:** When your life is in disarray, turmoil, or disorder, it's difficult to serve people efficiently. If you want to positively impact the world, you will be better at it if you are not too distracted or disjointed by your problems. In **1 Corinthians 9:27** NLT, the Bible states, “I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that **after preaching to others, I might be disqualified.**” No matter how anointed you are with your God-given gift(s), if you are living a double life as a Christian, there are some

opportunities or places you will miss and will not be able to impact. As my spiritual Father (Gregory Toussaint) would say, *“Your gift(s) can take you places, only your character (discipline) can keep you there.”*

- **Aim for improvement rather than perfection in your own life:** While improving yourself is one of the first stages toward helping others, don't put off starting your new strategy for too long. You'll never be completely happy, content, employed, or satisfied. You'll never get started if you wait for the conditions to be ideal before attempting to leave your impact on the world. I remember when the Lord called me in 2004 to go to Pointe-Des-Mangles, Haiti, to start God's Grace Ministries. At first, I had all kinds of thoughts; I am not prepared enough, I don't have any money, the people are not going to respond or believe in me, etc. But when the Lord calls, He makes provisions. All I did back then was, obey the Lord. When I got to Pointe-Des-Mangles, I saw how much impact my presence had. People (young, old, a voodoo priest) got saved as I would never have thought. Kids went to school; people received food from eating and clothes to wear. The Bible states **in Philippians 4:6-7 NLT**, *“⁶ don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then, you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”*

And, The Bible also states in the gospel of **Matthew 6:34 NLT**, *“So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its worries. Today's trouble is enough for today.”*

13 *“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. **14** “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, giving light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father*

in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16 NIV).

To bring taste and light to people, you must live your life as one that reflects the true salt and light that Jesus teaches. You cannot give what you do not have.

7. You don't have time, but you have a seed of faith.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1 KJV).

The seventh thing that the Holy Spirit will download in your spirit is a level of faith in what the Lord revealed to you; the desire or the burden that He has placed in your heart.

Most of the time, the Lord shows you where or what you will end up doing, but He barely shows you when and how you will accomplish the vision. If you don't love yourself first, loving others will be tough. Why? You can't offer what you don't have, because you can't give what you don't have. It's that simple!

Make a plan for your life: When your life is in disarray, turmoil, or disorder, it's difficult to serve people efficiently. For example, in my case, I knew that I was going to preach, teach, and enlighten the body of Christ around the world; I made sure that I consumed the Word of God through devotions and spent time in prayers and fasting revelations from the Holy Spirit.

Remember, God gives you the seed of faith, which is His Word, but; you have the responsibility to fertilize the ground (yourself) very well for that seed to grow and manifest in due season.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not tell us when the seed would bring fruit. He only says that "others fell into good ground and brought forth fruit." In the sower's parable in Matthew 13:8 KJV, "But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold." The Lord only shows us that there are three levels of good ground: a hundredfold,

sixtyfold, and thirtyfold. Now, what kind of ground do you have?

8. God brings someone into your life to encourage your calling (spouse, pastor, men or women of God, and godly friend).

“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” (Jeremiah 3:15 KJV).

If God truly calls you, He will bring someone into your Life to encourage or confirm your calling. In my case, it was my first spiritual mentor, Pastor David James Thomas, a young preacher at that time in the inner city of Dorchester, Massachusetts (2004 - 2006). I got saved under his ministry in April of 2004. After six months of being saved, I started serving him. I was older than him. I enjoyed serving him. I was hungry and thirsty for the Word, and David never refused to pour whatever the Holy Spirit had downloaded to me. He was the first person that I shared my vision with. I did not know what to do and what the vision meant because I was a baby in the faith. That vision became a burden increasingly in my heart. One day, as I was telling David how passionate I was about the vision, God used him powerfully to encourage me to pursue that vision.

On June 13, 2008, while I was going through difficult times in my life, the Lord used one of His servants by the name of Phillips Mercurieu (Pastor Phil); who had seen me for the first time, to reaffirm the call of God over my Life while prophesying over me. May our faithful Father confirm His plan for your Life through His servant.

9. You feel as if you can't do it alone.

Once God calls you (*The Universal call of God to work*), and you have a vision or a glimpse of what you need to accomplish, you will automatically realize that the task is too big for you to achieve on your power or resources. The condition of the lifestyle that you are living is different from what God has asked you to do. When you are completely dependent on the Holy Spirit of Almighty God, for the

Bible says, *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of the Almighty"* (**Zechariah 4 :6 VIN**).

God often calls you to do what is beyond your abilities and resources. If you can serve the Lord without leaning heavily on Him, maybe you are not in the right ministry! The apostle Paul wrote **2 Cor. 1:8-9 KJV**: *"For we do not want you to ignore, brethren, our affliction which came upon us in Asia, that we were overwhelmed exceedingly, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; for we had the sentence of death in ourselves that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead."*

Two chapters later he explained in **2 Cor. 3:5 NKJV**, *"Not that we are able to regard anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy comes from God."*

The Lord must often teach us that unless we rely on His presence and His strength, we can do nothing (**John 15:5**). Either He calls us to do something far beyond our natural abilities, or, like Paul and Moses, He shows us our inadequacy so that we must rely on His presence and His strength.

The only basis for serving God is His abundant grace.

In **Exodus 3:18**, the Lord told Moses that the elders of Israel would heed him when he told them that the Lord had appeared to him and promised to bring them into the land of Canaan. But now, in **Exodus 4:1 NIV**, Moses asks the Lord, *"What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The Lord has not appeared to you?'"* And, there are more questionable questions to come! But the Lord graciously answers everyone.

When the Lord told me to start going to Haiti, particularly in Pointe Des Mangles (Gonaives), I had no idea how to go. I had no money and did not know the word of God in French or creole; because I received and studied the Word of God only in English at that time. I had to depend on the abundant grace of God. I came up with many excuses, including; I am not good enough! I do not have all the

answers! People will not believe me! I do not know the Word in French or Creole! I will be a terrible representative of you! In other words, Lord, I am not qualified. When I told the Lord that I was not qualified to go, He directed me to a couple of Scripture passages

I have to do a little self-reporting. He first sent me to Exodus chapter 3 and chapter 4. Before that time, I had only read the New Testament. I had never read the Old Testament before in my life. I had never heard about those stories about Moses' calling from God.

For one thing, I grew up Catholic. We did not have Sunday school in catholic churches, where people would teach us the Bible. Before my conversion on April 11, 2004, I knew nothing about the Bible.

So, after I read those passages of Scripture, I cried like a baby. I repented to the Lord and went on to Haiti by faith and God's abundant grace.

I have concluded that God works with each of us and takes us to where He wants us to be. We just need to be willing to leave behind the excuses.

God often chooses the most unlikely candidate to fulfill His works and mission. Jonah, Gideon, Peter, you and me. He sees past the man or woman standing before him and sees eternity. He sees our potential for good and how our broken vessels can fulfill His ultimate purpose for our own and/or someone else's life.

Like Moses, God did not accept my excuses because they were the same excuses anyone could use.

The Lord also pointed me to the Apostle Paul, who writes in **1 Corinthians 1:27-29 NKJV**,
“²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the ^[a]base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to

nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.” In her book *Undaunted: Daring to do what God calls you to do*, Christine Caine quotes a remarkable statement that I find very powerful. She states, *“God does not call the qualified; he qualifies the called.”*

10. God will bring people to you to fulfill the call.

The tenth sign you will experience when God truly calls you is the book of Numbers, the fourth book of the Old Testament in the Bible.

Numbers 11:16-17 NKJV *“¹⁶ So the Lord said to Moses: “Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear alone.”*

Here, God tells Moses that He will put the same zeal and gift of the spirit on the seventy He had given to Moses. These seventy people will have their portion in Moses's same divine gift.

Even our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ needed the twelve disciples to fulfill his mission on earth. In Luke 6:13, the Bible says that Jesus chose twelve disciples. Why? Because He needed them to help Him fulfill certain required things, the Lord may accomplish what He came to do. For example, Jesus needed two people to go get the donkey for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Exodus 4:27-31 NKJV *“²⁷ And the Lord said to Aaron, “Go into the wilderness to meet Moses.” So he went and met him on the mountain of God, and kissed him. ²⁸ So Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which He had commanded him. ²⁹ Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel. ³⁰ And Aaron spoke all the Lord's*

words to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people. ³¹ So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

The Bible tells us in verse 27 that *“And the Lord said to Aaron, “go into the wilderness to meet Moses.”* We see clearly that the Lord delegated Aaron for Moses to fulfill the call. Moses met Aaron near Mount Sinai, and the two brothers caught up on the past forty years, but especially on what the Lord had said to Moses about delivering Israel from Egypt. They went together back to Egypt, and Aaron spoke the Lord's words to Moses, who then performed the signs. Then we read **Exodus 4:31 NKJV**, *“So the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.”*

The elders' response fulfilled what the Lord had already promised Moses. Nothing had changed yet for Israel. They were still slaves in Egypt, and a difficult road would be ahead of them. But now, God worked in their hearts to make them responsive so that they had not been forty years earlier. So, they believed God's promise through Moses and bowed in worship of God because He was concerned for their affliction.

The lesson here is that you can't serve God effectively by yourself. The Lord wants to build His church, which means working with others. As Moses will soon learn **Exodus 5:21 NKJV**, *“21 And they said to them, “Let the Lord look on you and judge, because you have made [a]us abhorrent in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to kill us.”* That's often a difficult, frustrating process. But, it's God's way. Sometimes, as Jeremiah experienced, you labor for decades but meet resistance and hardness of heart. But more often, God graciously gives you some faithful people to work with. Work with them to help build the Lord's church.

I do not doubt that the people God has sent to me to fulfill His call over my Life are: My wife, Christie Francois, My spiritual Father, Pastor Gregory Toussaint, and many other saints along the way.

5. What is the key to answering the call of God?

After going through the entire Bible in my personal life, I realize that one of the main keys to answering the call of God is Reluctance.

What is Reluctance? According to a web definition, *Reluctance is unwillingness or disinclination to do something.*

The Bible states in the book of **1 kings 19:19-21 NKJV**, *“So he departed from there, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yokes of oxen before he was with the twelfth. Then Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle on him. ²⁰ **And he left the oxen, ran after Elijah,** and said, “Please let me kiss my father and mother, and then I will follow you.”*

And he said to him, “Go back again, for what I have done to you?”

²¹ So Elisha turned back from him, took a yoke of oxen, slaughtered them and boiled their flesh, using the oxen's equipment, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and followed Elijah and became his servant.”

We see it clearly in the passage that Elijah came when Elisha was plowing (working). When Elijah threw his mantle on Elisha, Elisha ran after him.

When you are called, your plans don't matter anymore. You should run after the call of God, which is proof of no reluctance. Here in this passage, Elisha destroyed his farming instruments (his business).

When God calls you, all your plans come secondary. I am pretty sure that Elisha had a great business going on. The text says in verse 19 that Elisha had *12 yokes of oxen*.

In the Gospel of **Matthew 4:18-22 NKJV**, *“¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ **They immediately***

left their nets and followed Him.

*²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, mending their nets in the boat with Zebedee, their Father. He called them, ²², **and immediately they left the boat and their Father and followed Him.***

It is about the call of Peter and his brother Andrew; James and his brother John, the sons of Zebedee. The Bible tells us here in this passage that those guys were fishermen. They had a successful business. However, the text says they left their business and Father with the servants immediately and followed the Lord. This is what I call No Reluctance whatsoever.

Then we see in **Matthew 8:21-22 NKJV** “²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”

²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me and let the dead bury their dead."

The Lord, when He came to a man and said to the man "follow me," and the man said, "let me go bury my father;" and the Lord rebuked him, saying to him, "let the dead bury the dead." That was a sharp rebuke to that man. In other words, the call of God is more important than your family members.

We see that in the Word of God when Jesus says, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back. If you do, you are not fit for service in God's Kingdom." (**Luke 9:62 NIRV**). That was another rebuke. Some of the great men of God have been disqualified for looking back after they have put their hands into the plow because of putting first their career, family, kids' tuitions, and money before the call of God. I heard Kathryn Kuhlman say one day in an interview that God had three other men in line before her for her calling. All three of them were busy taking care of other things they were not qualified for the call. She said, "Lord, if you can use nothing, here I am. Use me!"

In **Luke 14:26 NKJV** “²⁶, “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”

The Lord made it very clear that if you don't love Him above all else, you are not worthy of Him. The Lord is not asking us to hate our family or not provide for our family. He simply wants to be number one. He does not want our hearts shared with another. That's why in **Genesis 22:2 NKJV** *"² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

God asked Abraham to offer Isaac because Isaac was becoming number one in Abraham's life/heart, and God said, "no, no, no, I AM number one; give Isaac up into sacrifice to me."

I feel like God is telling you to give up whatever has been a priority to Him. Whatever you give up for God, God always gives them back to transform. Jewish Rabbis believe that Isaac was in his thirties when he was on the altar. Think about a thirty-year-old man whose Father says that he will be sacrificed. Brother, there would be some fights breaking out right away. But, Isaac was obedient, meek, and submissive to his Father Abraham.

Think about the fact that Isaac showed no resistance. And when God gave Isaac back to Abraham, He gave him back with a promise, with something more. God says with a promise of the Messiah, "now, you will destroy Satan." Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies" (**Genesis 22:17b KJV**). When Abraham offered up Isaac, the promise of victory through the Messiah (Jesus Christ) came. Prophetically, that was speaking of the death of the Messiah and the resurrection of the Lord. Have you ever asked yourself this question, why did Abraham agree to offer Isaac as a sacrifice? I believe the reason was that Abraham believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead and because of the promise. The author of the book of Hebrews writes, *"19 for he considered [it reasonable to believe] that God was able to raise Isaac even from among the dead. [Indeed, in the sense that he was prepared to sacrifice Isaac in obedience to God], Abraham did receive him back [from the dead] figuratively speaking"* (**Hebrews 11:19 Amp**).

It was after the offering of Isaac (the dearest thing to Abraham) as a sacrifice, the promise came in

Genesis 22:15-18 NKJV *"¹⁵ Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself, I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷ blessings I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore, and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed, all the earth's nations shall be blessed because you have obeyed my voice."* Hallelujah!!! Later in the New Testament, the enemy's power will be destroyed through Jesus Christ.

Many people say, *"well, first God, then your family, then your call or ministry."* Sorry, I disagree with that concept. Why? Because for me, the call of God and God Himself are one. When God calls you, that's His heart, will, and love for you. And someone's heart, will, and love are parts of that person. The next chapter will see how your family is part of your calling. The best way to go about this is too well-balanced the two (family and the call).

Let me clarify this for some of you. I think we need to stop separating the call of God and our family. Because God does not contradict Himself, he gives us family to take care of, to provide for. How in the world that same God will want you to ignore your family. *"⁸ But if anyone does not provide for his own, especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever"* (**1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV**).

In the New Testament, we also see that Apostle Paul did not wait too long to preach about Jesus after being called by the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. In the book of **Acts 9:20 NKJV**, *"²⁰ immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God."* The Bible says that Paul preached about Jesus in the Synagogue Immediately.

Whenever you see Reluctance, there is a problem. In the book of Acts 15, we also see that John-Marc was reluctant. And, because of John-Marc's Reluctance, there arose an argument between Paul and Barnabas. **Acts 15:39-40 NKJV** *"³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one*

another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

But years later, when John-Marc got it together with no reluctance, he was with Paul again; whereas Paul called him a "fellow worker" **Philemon 1:24 NKJV** *“²⁴ as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.*

John-Marc had matured through the years and had become a faithful servant of the Lord. Paul recognized his progress and considered him a valuable companion. And near the end of Paul's Life, Paul sent a request to Timothy from a Roman prison, saying, *"get Mark and bring him with you, because he is a help to me in Ministry"* (**2 Timothy 4:11**).

Beloved, as you are reading this book, you are probably one who had been reluctant from the call of God over your life. You are probably working under another man or woman of God's ministry, or, in your ministry, I want to encourage you that the God we serve is not a respecter of person. What He did with John-Marc, He can surely do it for you. You just need to acknowledge your fault and repent of it. Just stick with the call of God no matter what, and you will see God's glory manifested in your Life.

Reluctance is a sign of unbelief. Remember the children of Israel in **Numbers chapters 13 and 14**, when God said, *“Doubtless ye shall not come into the land concerning which...”* (**Numbers 14:30 KJV**). They were murmuring, debating, complaining, and questioning what God had already called them to do.

Reluctance is so dangerous, my brothers and sisters; if God does not intervene supernaturally, it could bring death to your destiny. Only Caleb and Joshua had entered the promised land, as we see in the Bible. They were the only adult Israelites in that first generation who went into the fullness of God's calling. They alone went into the promised land. *“¹¹ Surely none of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and above, shall see the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob because they have not wholly followed Me, ¹² except Caleb, the son of Jephunneh, the Kenizzite, and*

Joshua the son of Nun, for they have wholly followed the Lord” (Numbers 32:11-12 NKJV). Why?

Because only Caleb and Joshua were not reluctant when it came time to invade Canaan, the latter two individuals did not settle for less. They were not hesitant when it came to God's Word (call) *“I will bring you up out of the land that is flowing milk and honey” (Exodus 3:17b NKJV).*

Think about how the children of Israel saw the power of God against Egypt (the ten plagues); they heard Him speak out of the fire (in the mountains), but yet; they still said, *“No, No, No, God cannot do it, the giants are too big.”*

As I said earlier when God calls; run after it by faith; because if you do not run, you can miss it. That is what Elisha understood in **1 kings19:20**. And, when you run, go all the way. Do not look back because you will miss the Anointing for that moment if you go back.

There is an Anointing for every moment that God speaks in your Life. And if you miss that moment, it may never come back that way again. As a man from the near ocean in Pointe Des Mangles (Gonaives), Haiti, I realize that the Anointing comes in like waves, each in different forms. No different than the ocean. God sometimes sends very powerful waves your way. For eternity! If you miss it, you will miss it for the rest of eternity, not just for the rest of your life on earth.

As I already mentioned his name above, I remember on April 11 of two thousand and four (04-11-2004) when David James Thomas spoke those words to me, as he was prophesied; *“The Lord says that He is ready to use you for His glory, and only you can run with it or stop it to happen.”* That same night I received those words, I immediately ran with them; by believing, meditating on them day and night with all my beings (spirit, soul, and body). Oral Robert said, *“The Anointing is always coming toward you or passing by you.”* So, it is up to you to catch that moment.

I sense in my spirit that the Holy Spirit is telling you, ***“Do not miss that moment.”*** Is it joining a ministry? Is it starting the church that the Lord has asked you? Is it building the orphanage? Is it starting the business? Is it applying for the job position or registering for the classes? Beloved, please, do not

miss the moment!

My brothers and sisters, the voice that you are hearing now is the voice of the Holy Spirit, telling you to let go of that relationship or that environment you are in (**Not for those who are married**). That relationship is the blockage of your blessings, the Anointing of God over your Life, your breakthrough, your Canaan. Pastor Benny Him said one day, *“you cannot find God’s will for your life until your will dies.”*

Throughout the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, there is no reluctance when God calls someone. There is no; let me go and pray about it. I remember the first time God called me into the ministry in 2005, and I immediately forsook all. I let go of everything I was doing and immediately ran after the call. The second time the Lord had tested me about Reluctance was in February of 2017 when my spiritual Father, my pastor Gregory Toussaint asked me to join the Tabernacle of Glory staff full time. I did not even say, let me go pray or think about it. I went home the same day, talked to my wife Christie about it, and said, *“Let’s run with it, babe.”*

By the way, if you are married, make sure your spouse is fully on board with you. That will create a lot of trouble in the relationship/ household. See my book *“Are you Ready to Say I Do?”* for more on this matter.

Pastor Gregory told me that on a Sunday morning service, the next day, Monday, I gave my two weeks’ notice at my job when I went to work. Even though there were many hearts broken at my job that Monday, I had to pursue the call of God over my life that is bigger than me. I did not even think about how much money I was going to make. All that I had in mind at that time and still today was to seize that opportunity, privilege, and honor; by accepting the call of God over my life. Being in full-time ministry at Tabernacle of Glory was something that the Lord revealed to me in May of 2008 and; a part of what God was about to do in my life.

6. Are my spouse and children also called?

Acts 16:30-31 KJV “*30 and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Belief on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*”

Based on these two verses we just read, the answer is **yes**. Even though the verses did not mention spouse and children, the word says "and thy house," including children and spouse.

After hearing the Apostle Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, many people asked him what they should do? He replied, "Repent, and let each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **For the promise is unto you and your children, and to all those which are afar off, as far as the Lord our God shall call**" (verses 38-39).

In this passage we see that God calls people to himself, expecting them to repent and be baptized into his family. Realize that people cannot come to God until they are called (**John 6:44**). We naturally wonder about the children of those whom God calls. The passage in **Acts 2:39** answers this question. The children of those whom God calls are also promised to receive the Holy Spirit if they repent. Because this call or invitation to have a relationship with God is offered to these children, they are also called "saints" in **1 Corinthians 7:14 NKJV** “*14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the husband sanctifies the unbelieving woman Otherwise your children would be unclean, **but now they are holy.***”

Those children received a blessing, protection through their parents. But not Salvation! Those kids must receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior personally to be saved. God will not force anyone to respond.

In **John 1:12 NKJV**, “*But, as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of*

God, to those who believe in His name.” You are protected through your parents but not necessarily saved to go to heaven.

In **1 Corinthians 7:14**, which we just read, the word *sanctified* is not indicated that the children or the spouse of a believer are automatically born into the family of God. The word *holy* and *unclean* in this text are equivalent to “*sacred*” and “*profane*.” The unbelieving spouse and the children are considered holy in a positional sense. Together with the believer, they share in God's blessing and are more likely to become converted. Not all the way around, which means that they are automatically saved. There must be a confession. Look at **Romans 10:9-10 NKJV** “⁹ *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* ¹⁰ *For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and confession is made unto Salvation.*”

In **1 Samuel 2**, the Bible tells us that the sons of Eli did not know the Lord. But, they were sleeping with women in the house of the Lord. “¹² *Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the Lord.* ²² *Now Eli was very old, and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.*”

Because their Father Eli was the priest, they were also priests in the tabernacle. They were involved in the ministry. Not because you see people involved in the ministry means that they are automatically saved. They have to know and receive the Lord Jesus Christ personally as their Lord and Savior.

7. What if you reject or accept the call of God over your life as a Christian? What will and will not happen to you?

Before I begin to talk about the effects of rejecting or accepting the call of God over your life, let me say this to you; based on what I experienced in a lot of men and women of God in ministry. One of the reasons you see many people frustrated in ministry is because of the doctrine that they have been taught, where if they reject the calling of God over their life, they are going to hell, or they are not Christians. Well, I want to let you know, my brothers and sisters, that God is not an old man with a grey beard and a long stick telling you, "*if you do not say yes, you will get it.*" God is a gentleman. He does not manipulate, intimidate, control, dominate or even kill people to make them do what He wants. That is called witchcraft! That is how Satan's kingdom operates. God respects your free will. Rarely do we see that God ends up using somebody that supposedly did not want to do something then, He ends up using that person anyway; that was in the case of Prophet Jonah. That is what the theologians call the absolute perfect will of God. In most cases, God respects someone's will.

Now, let us elaborate on those two important questions that many are struggling with:

A. If you reject or say No to the call of God, what will NOT happen to you as a Christian?

Remember the definition of a calling that I gave you earlier. "*A calling is an invitation from God to you, asking you to work for Him at this time, in His manner, in this location in the earth to get something He needs to get done.*" An invitation can be something that you say yes or no to. You can say yes or no to the invitation. No different than when someone is inviting you to their party, wedding, or church.

Seven things will NOT happen to you if you say NO to God's call (*Universal call*) as a Christian.

Those seven things that we will discuss below are based on what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ tell us in **John 15:7 NRSV** *“If you abide (remain) in me, and my words abide (remain) in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”*

1. You will NOT lose your Salvation. (John 3:16 NKJV)

Your Salvation is not based on your work for God. It is because of your faith in Christ Jesus based on his death, burial, and resurrection, not on saying yes to the call of God. The Scripture says: whosoever **believes** should have everlasting Life. Not whosoever **works** for God.

2. You are NOT less of a Christian.

Once you give your life to Christ and *remain* connected with Him, you are still protected under the blood of Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus's love for us is the Agape love. It is unconditional love. That means it is not because of what we do that causes Him to love us.

3. The Holy Spirit baptism DOES NOT leave you.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is still there. He does not leave you on your own. He will still develop the fruit of the Spirit and the nine major gifts in your Life to help you at different times and situations. The Holy Spirit is not mad at you. He will not say, "I am not flowing today through you." So, saying no to the call *does not* stop the Holy Spirit from doing the perfecting work of Salvation in your Life.

4. Every biblical promise made to the believer IS STILL yours.

As it states from the verse, *“in you abide in me.... ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you”* (**John 15:7 NKJV**). Once you remain a believer, you can have all the biblical promises by faith. Why? Because you are still His child, you are a part of God's family. And

these are the rights and the privileges of those who are saved and have faith in Christ Jesus.

5. You ARE NOT disqualified to receive healing, prosperity, protection, and other blessings from God.

The Bible tells us in **Acts 2:39 NRSV**, “*For the promise is for you, your children, and all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him (The call to belong to Christ).* As a believer who stays abiding in Christ Jesus, you have the legal right to inherit God Almighty's healing, prosperity, and protection promises.

”

6. It DOES NOT give the devil quicker access to you nor open doors for the enemy to come into your life and mess you up.

Most of the time, we think that God will give up on us, and the devil can get access to us and mess us up if we do not do certain things, such as; saying NO to His call over our lives. Today, I come to tell you NO, and He does not. God still loves you passionately and cares for you unconditionally. Our Lord says in **John 10:28 NRSV**, “*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.*” This promise from the Lord is not just for those that are preaching or doing ministry work only. It is for *whosoever* believes or confesses Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

7. You DO NOT become a lower-class Christian.

The kingdom of God is not a democracy ruling by the people. It is a theocracy ruling by God Almighty. That means it is not about your works but; by grace through faith. As Paul, the apostle, states in **Ephesians 2:8-9 NRSV**, “*8 for by grace you have been saved through faith,*

and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”

However, if a person says NO to the call of God (*The Universal call to work*), he or she will live with this question: **What could have been if I had said YES?** That question will stay with you always (during your quiet time, worship, prayer, fasting, services, etc.....). It will not be a stick beating you physically, but an honest reflection of "*if I would have obeyed or answered yes to the call, how many people could have been saved in my city, community, church, area, country, etc.*" You will live with that question throughout your Life.

B. If you accept the call of God (*The Universal call to work*), what will happen to you as a Christian?

The reality of the man, the woman, or the couple that says YES to the call of God is based on two major elements:

8. Carrying your cross daily

The call of God (*The Universal call to work*) has a price attached to it. When you look at the lives that your friends and family live, you will see that there are certain aspects of your life that you must lay down, things you will never be able to do again. It is all done. For instance, you will give up on spending too much time watching TV, social media, sports, gossip, fornication, adultery, unforgiveness, etc. You must now spend time with the Lord in the Word, devotion, prayer, and reading other books to help you be more effective with what God has called you to do. In my case, I had to give up a lot—especially basketball and soccer. I was a huge fan and a good player in both sports. I was passionate about those sports. Trust me, giving up

on basketball and soccer was one of the toughest things I've had to do.

That is why Jesus said in **Luke 9:23 NRSV**, "Then he said to them all, *"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."*

I declare over your life right now that you are free from any kind of bondages over your Life in the powerful name of Jesus Christ. No matter what is holding you bound right now, you can get out of it by the power of the precious blood of Jesus. If He can do it for me, He can surely do it for you and others, for he is not a respecter of a person.

Some people will have a chance to do something four to five times a year, but you probably will do it only once or never in a year. You will not have so many pleasures that others have. John Wesley wrote, "pleasure and I have parted away, and we shall never meet again in one of his journals."

9. Do not be a negotiator with God when He calls you

A *Negotiator* is a person who discusses a problem to achieve agreement between different people or groups of people. When God calls you (*The Universal call to work*), as we stated in the definition of calling, God hires you to do things His ways, at His time, in His manner, in the locations He wants you to be on the earth. Do not tell God these:

Well, I want my kids' school to be paid first.

I want my family to have a house first.

I want to get married first.

I want my finances set first...

The invitation of God to us is not to be negotiated. It is a YES or NO. Once we start negotiating with Jesus, He says to you, "NO, thank you and looks for a Kathryn Khulman that He can use to move his plans forward. Kathryn Khulman explained in one of His services in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, that she was the third and the only woman God chose for the healing ministry. The first two were men who rejected the call because of the price they had to pay.

When you accept the call of God in your life, it requires less of you and more of God. A calling does not guarantee fame or popularity. It is required obedience. Nowadays, especially in the western hemisphere, when people think about the ministry, they automatically think of preaching with a microphone, radio, camera, news, etc. It could be that God has called you to be a preacher, pastor, evangelist, prophet, etc. But it could also be that God called you to be one in the prayer department, where you will be behind the scenes, interceding for your home church.

Most people do not understand in our churches today that the prayer department is the motor or engine of a church. That is why the devil does not want our churches to have a lot of people in our prayer bands. The prayer department is where Satan attacks the most in a church. The three most powerful demons he sends to that department are laziness, slumber, and discouragement. That is the same thing he does to a believer who wants to pray. We need to submit to the Lord and resist the devil, so he can flee from us **James 4:7**. Most people prefer to volunteer in the media department (especially cameras), ushering, welcoming, and music (worship team or choir) for people to recognize them.

Some of you might be called by God to remain planted as a pillar in your home church for the rest of your life. Nevertheless, you need to stay faithful regardless of what your emotion feels. Others may have to leave their homeland to go where the Lord leads. Or, you may be at your current church for a short period. That is why you and I need to constantly seek His face to know what He wants. Make sure your heart is pure. Your relationship with God is tight (you are strong in the Word, prayer, and fasting). You will encounter many challenges or tests, which I talk about in my book entitled *Your Call*

will be Tested. In any case, make sure you hear from God about your vision; later, when you face those challenges, you will not give up on the work of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

My point to you, brothers and sisters, is that you are doing what God has called you to do with joy. Whether you receive applause, recognition, fame, or not, you still do what God calls you to do without murmuring or complaining. Do not think that because someone is doing something big, they are doing something bigger than you. You stay obedient and faithful to what God tells you to do. God is interested in seeing how well we handle what He has given us to do. Not how many people applaud or congratulate us.

Based on my personal experience in answering the call of God, when you decide to step out, your schedule will not be automatically clear. It never does. Instead, God will show up. He will give you extra wisdom, energy, resources, and strength. But mostly, He will give you Himself (during your communion with Him)! When you have Jesus in your calling, you have everything. When you give others the knowledge of Him, they can have Him too. And when lives around you are transformed, all the "stuff" you were busy with doesn't seem as important anymore. And God is glorified! Because it'll be clear to everyone that it's Him doing the work!

Finally, in Numbers 8:14 NKJV, God clarifies that we are a special people when we answer His call. We will receive a special or a different treatment from God than the other people. The Lord says to Moses, *“Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the people of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine.”* The Levites were God's chosen ones for His service (*The Universal call to work*). They did not reject the call of God over their lives. And, because of that, their reward was that they were very special to God.

Prayer

*Heavenly gracious Father, I come before your throne of grace and mercy right now, presenting our brothers and sisters who will be reading this book about one of the most important topics in the kingdom, knowing the **Call of God over their lives**. Lord, first and foremost, please forgive their sins and bless them in every area of their lives. I pray that You order their steps daily. I pray that You preserve them unto Your heavenly kingdom. I pray that they serve and obey Your voice every day of their lives. I pray that they possess and enjoy the kingdom in its fullness. I pray that you shower them with Your blessings. Lord, I pray that You bless their latter end more than their beginning. Turn every curse sent their way into a blessing. I pray none of them misses Your voice that is calling them. Lord, let them receive extraordinary favor from You and men. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen!*