

Discerning Your Missions Calling

Objective: To understand how God calls to missions and how to be proactively pursuing it.

1. Motivation

- a. Jesus (God) commands us to GO
- b. Matthew 9:37-38
- c. The treasure in a field

2. Hindrances to the Call

- a. Uncertainty

“Elijah went before the people and said, ‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’ But the people said nothing.” 1 Kings 18:21

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” James 1

Everyone is called to some kind of service. Because the missionary call is unique and challenging, the devil will give us reasons why we may not be called. In listening to him we will be hindered from serving God like we can.

“The essence of motivation is to know where you are going and how you will get there.” Peter Daniels

- b. Mistaken Expectations

In some circles the idea of “Apostle” is so lofty you wonder how anyone could qualify. Is this calling for today, unique, or is it a general calling? How do you know you have the call?

Apostle (apostolos): to send one on a mission as an envoy. A personal representative of one sending him. One who speaks with divine authorization. This is one sent by God and acting on His authority.

A missionary is all that he is at home coupled with cross-culture understanding and language.

The picture of a missionary from Matthew 9:35-38

3. How to know your call

Because each person is unique, the call will also be unique. There are two parts to a call: the subjective (i.e. inner voice and the witness of the Holy Spirit) and the objective (i.e. outward confirmation, circumstances). A combination of the following may be objective evidence of a call:

- Encouragement of the body of Christ
- Prophetic words
- Supernatural events (dream, angelic visitation, vision)
- Scripture
- Confirmation after action
- Collaboration of circumstances
- Divine appointments
- Unity with your spouse

If you step out in faith believing that God has called you to missions, can you be making a mistake?
“The work of God is by faith.”

4. The body affirms the call

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.” Acts 13:1-4

5. Steps to proactively pursue a call

PRAY - LISTEN - FEEL - THINK - ACT

Thinking and feeling have their place but must be followed by action.

- Take steps of faith - a one or two year training mission is a good launching base for longer term.
- Meet with your leadership.
- Begin writing out plans.

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.” Habakkuk 2:2

Diagnostic questions - Who - Where - What - When - How ?

Below are some of the “unknowns” that you will have to have answered in missions.

Who

- Supporters (prayer and finance)_____
- Field_____
- Sending church(es)_____
- Sending agency_____

Where

- People group_____
- City / Country_____

What

- Type of work_____
- Your gifts_____
- Guidance from church and mission leaders _____
- Cost you are willing to pay to see the mission accomplished_____

When

- How prepared are you and your family _____
- How long will training take _____
- When will children enroll in school _____
- When will your team be ready for you _____

How

- Consider issues like health, support, visas, housing, language, host (or mentor), strategy
- Come to the next Missionary Training Camp at Living Waters Farm October 30-November 2.**