

What is YOUR service of Calling?

The Day You Met the Lord!

The Apostle Paul met the Lord while on the road to Damascus with a blinding light and a voice from heaven. Our Lord called Paul to serve Him and gave him a *Service of Calling*. Paul knew his *Service of Calling* the day of his conversion as he was told directly by the Lord what he had to do. Paul accepted his service readily, knowing that he would have to suffer many persecutions and sacrifice his very life in the end for God's Kingdom.

Most Christians vividly recall the day their eyes were opened and the day they accepted the Holy Spirit into their hearts, but polls show that many don't realize that they personally also have been given a specific "*Service of Calling*" as a member of the Body of Christ. Most newly "born from above" Christians realize that they must follow Christ and His leading, but they understand this in a generic sense as they now study the scriptures and drink from the "Milk of the Word." Eventually, as with children growing up, they will ultimately need solid food, but unfortunately, many Christians never grow up. Even Paul had the same problem with some Christians over 1,900 years ago (1 Cor 3:2).

As with Paul, we are also given a specific "Service of Calling" by our Lord. Your **Service of Calling** is what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has called you individually to do to serve Him while we are still sojourners here in this world. It is true that as followers of Christ we all have a common purpose to walk in Him and be a witness to the world through the leading of the Holy Spirit but that is not your specific *Service of Calling*.

After being Born from Above, we are a new creature (no longer serving sin)

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Cor 5:17). For true Christians, our prior life serving ourselves and what we desire has died and was buried in Christ, and we are now part of our Lord's Kingdom instead of the kingdom of darkness in which we were originally a part. As a new citizen of our Lord's Kingdom, we are instructed to grow in the knowledge of our Lord. *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* (Rom 12:2) As we grow in the Lord, we naturally follow the pattern described in 2 Peter 1:2-8:

- Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,
- According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue ... And beside this, giving all diligence,
 - ✓ (1) add to your faith **virtue**
 - ✓ (2) and to virtue **knowledge**
 - ✓ (3) and to knowledge **temperance** (self-control)
 - ✓ (4) and to temperance **patience** (endurance)
 - ✓ (5) and to patience **godliness**
 - ✓ (6) and to godliness brotherly **kindness**
 - ✓ (7) and to brotherly kindness **charity** (God Love)
- *For **if these things be in you, and abound**, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *But **he that lacks these things is blind**, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

Look closely at that sequence of seven items above. Is your walk with our Lord following that sequence? Where would you say you are in that sequence? Peter says anyone who lacks these things is "blind". Be honest, do you have all seven attributes? Are you still partially blind?

There are some who never proceed beyond the first step of "virtue" and think they are a "good person." How many times have you heard in your life that this person or that person is a "good person" or a "good Christian"? The scriptures tell us that there is not a single person on earth that is good (Rom 3:10). Those "Christians" that never proceed to study God's Word as required to obtain knowledge are "blind".

We are told that God's people perish for lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) and that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge (Prov 1:7). We are also told that God gives knowledge liberally to all that ask: "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*" (James 1:5-6)

Notice that Peter emphasizes that it is our "minds" that are to be renewed (turned from our own desires to what Christ desires), and we should grow in the "knowledge" of our Lord and Savior. We are commanded to study the scriptures (2 Tim 2:15). Many make the grave mistake of reading and studying man's works primarily which include daily devotionals, commentaries, sermons, and a variety of books written by man. Many "Christians" spend the first hour every morning listening to sermons or reading man's writings instead of following God's instructions in studying His Word directly for themselves. If we truly study God's Word and not man's "interpretation", our minds will be naturally renewed, and we grow in the knowledge of our Lord otherwise, we open ourselves up to the extremely strong possibility of being deceived by well-meaning pastors and theologians.

After Paul's conversion, he learned only from the Holy Spirit for around three years in the wilderness, not wishing to be deceived by listening to any man's teachings or thoughts. We likewise should learn from the Scriptures and be led by the Holy Spirit and not man's teaching. We are to be Bereans and test everything we hear against the Scriptures ONLY (Acts 17:11; 1 Thess 5:21).

What is Your Service of Calling?

As a new child in the Kingdom of Heaven, we start by drinking the milk of the Word and many will drink the same milk over and over again for the rest of their life instead of growing in the knowledge of our Lord and partaking of the meat of the Word. The primary reason for this is that they are following man's words, sermons, and theology instead of studying God's Word for themselves and praying without ceasing (1 Thess 5:16-18). We are to have a personal relationship with the Lord and not a theoretical one. How can you have a personal relationship with the Lord if you're only listening to other people talk about it?

Believe it or not, God knew you before you were born and knew precisely when your eyes would be open and whether you would follow Him or not. He has also prepared you throughout your life with everything you need in preparation to serve Him after your conversion. Your education, friends, family, job, and even your bad experiences in the past have all been permitted by our Lord to prepare you for your specific Service of Calling. God had already placed you exactly where he wants you to be to serve him after you put off the old man (Eph 4:22-24).

Some think that they need to change their life after their conversion by doing something different such as going on a mission or changing their job. God has already placed you where you need to be, and your first calling is to witness to those around you. First with your family, friends, associates, and then

with all you meet. *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* (Matt 5:16)

God has also given you gifts as the Holy Spirit chooses

Paul states the way we should all walk in a concise, beautifully worded summary:

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.” (Eph 4:1-7)

What are these gifts? In addition to preparing our lives prior to us serving the Lord where we are and to our family, friends, and co-workers, the Holy Spirit has further provided us with at least one gift to use to edify the body of Christ. It is your responsibility to use the gift(s) that the Holy Spirit has given you. I encourage everyone to read 1 Corinthians chapter 12, where the gifts of the Spirit are covered, and we are told that we each have different tasks assigned by the Lord. The Lord never gives us a task without also providing us the means or gift to accomplish the task.

We are to determine that Service of Calling and serve the Lord using those Gifts; but above all, we are to have charity or Love for one another (1 Cor 13), including our enemies as we desire that they all should find Christ as we have, and it is our duty to witness to them. Paul (1 Cor 13) concurs with Peter (2 Peter 1:8) that having Love (God-Love, or perfect Love) is the final goal we should all obtain.

Have you started your Service of Calling?

The first step is to be serious about following the Lord (Matt 5:48). This is not a half-hearted task but one which requires all your heart, soul, and might. You must study God’s Word and not be persuaded by listening to man’s flowery sermons or books that might mislead you. Most importantly, in these end times, determine your Service of Calling, and witness to your family, neighbors, co-workers, and all you meet and be a light to the world.

In these special last days in which the Lord has chosen to have you live, we are required to put on the *“Whole Armor of God”* as there will be a significant deception that will fall over the entire earth, and many Christians will be deceived. The next more important thing you can do is pray and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and study God’s Word. The end times are upon us, and we must work while it is still day because when the night comes, no one can work. (Paraphrasing John 9:4).

The Pure Word is a Resource All Christians Must Have!

The Pure Word is a word-by-word translation from the Textus Receptus Koine Greek (the exact same text that the 1611 KJV scribes used) to English and it also incorporated the original Greek Parsings which the King James scholars completely ignored because they didn’t understand them. Don’t get me wrong - The King James Version is an amazing translation, but the scribes didn’t go far enough because they simply couldn’t because of lack of knowledge. At the time of the 1600’s no one understood the majority of the Koine Greek root words used in the New Testament nor did they understand nor use the Greek parsings. It took another 260 YEARS before the Greek words were separated into their root components which was published by Strong in 1890. Without identifying the root words, the meanings they assigned to words in different verses constantly varied and had little to do with the true meaning of the text.

Not only that, but the scribes had no clear idea of what the Greek parsings were that were assigned to over 115,000 of the words (of the 140,745 total words). The purpose of the parsings is to provide text that could not be misinterpreted which then resulted in a crystal-clear message. Since they didn't use the parsings, the context and meaning of the English words they assigned constantly varied between verses and that gave rise to hundreds of denominations and disagreements which fragmented Christianity we see today. Their own letter to King James clearly states their frustration and their limitations in not knowing the words and their inconsistency in the final English text and they chalk it up to their "creative freedom or liberty". It wasn't until 260 years after the King James Version was compiled that the parsings of each of the 115,000 words were clarified and released in 1894 by Dr. Scrivener using upwards of 100 scholars spending decades of work on the task.

The Pure Word has taken each of the 5,624 Koine Greek root words and took the single primary meaning at the time of Christ of each word and directly substituted it into each use of the same root word. In addition, the precise parsings of each of the 115,000 words that were mostly ignored by the KJV scribes and nearly all scholars since, was applied to each word. This process removed all known discrepancies and provided a clarity of meaning that was never before possible.

I would strongly suggest that every Christian obtain a copy of ***The Pure Word*** and use it alongside your favorite Bible version to see the original meanings and open your eyes like never before. I humbly wouldn't even say it was a translation as verses were not "translated", but a Pure extraction from the Greek into English using the original meaning of each root word as closely as possible as it existed at the time of Jesus Christ and the Apostles along with the original parsings applied to each word.

May our Lord Bless you and lead you into a deeper understanding and relationship with Him,