

Green Pastures Ministries

Discipleship Course

Train to Reign

by Pastor Chris Govender

"Many are called but few are chosen..."

Who does God Call?

1 Timothy 1:9

"Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers." (KJV)

1. God does not call people or use people in His Kingdom based on their credentials, gifts, talents, works or accolades.
2. When God saves you, He does not save you based on your abilities and what you can do or on your capabilities.
3. God calls those who are fools so that they can be fools for Christ. He calls people who have suffered rejection. Rejection and foolishness are the building blocks for God's plans and purpose. He does this so that you can come to a place of total surrender and dependency on Him.
4. God calls those who are humble. God sees humility in people and a person cannot be seen by God until they humble themselves.
5. God chooses people before they are born, before they were even thought of by their parents, God called them. You can never be a mistake.

I have been called by God...

The Gifts

1. God has given us all a gift and there are many gifts and talents that when joined together form the body of Christ. God has given each of us a ministry function and purpose. The gift will make room for your ministry.
2. When there is a need or time for your gifting God will use you.
3. God always honors the gift that He has given to you. If there is a need and a opportunity God will use you and your gift for that moment. (Judges 16:1-3) the gift was made manifest in Samson's life whenever the need arose. Even though he didn't walk a righteous life, a life without repentance.
4. The gift is without repentance. You will have the capability of moving in the gift/power of God but still lack the presence of God in your life. But as an individual you will stand accountable for the gift. God will judge you based on how the gifts have been used in your life.

5. Covet the best gifts. Always ask God for the best gifts of the spirit. God gives everyone in the body of Christ a gift. Always pray and covet the best of God's gifts in your life.

The Call

Luke 9:57-60, 62

"And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." (KJV)

1. When you are called you cannot seek your own glory or platform.
2. When you are called there will be a public manifestation of the gift. But once this is shown in public you will suddenly be faced with all sorts of problems. There is always a price to be paid. David faced many problems after he was called.
3. The greater the revelation/gifting/anointing the greater the price to be paid. Jesus had nowhere to lay His head meaning that He didn't have comforts or a luxury lifestyle. He paid a price throughout His ministry and at the end He paid the greatest price.
4. To be chosen you need to see Jesus as LORD of your life. He has to be the sovereign Lord in your life. He has to be first and all that you live for.
5. When God calls you to do His work, He will keep you. Judas was never called by Jesus to be a disciple. Unless you decide to walk away from the calling, God will never let go of you.
6. Never let the call be delayed, take it up at once. "Bury my father" the man asked Jesus if he could first bury his father and then come back and follow Him. In Jewish burial customs, they would bury the body in a tomb and when that body has turned in bones the eldest son returns to the tomb to get the bones. And then they bury the bones. So Jesus tells him "let the dead bury the dead." meaning that he would have to put his priorities second to the call. The call comes first. Jesus was also telling him that if he waited so long that he might miss his season.
7. When the call comes surrender at once. Don't waste time. If you miss it, you will never get it back. You will miss it for eternity.

Matthew 22:1-14

"And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen." (KJV)

1. A call from the King comes (King - God/Christ) the people made light of it and didn't take the servants messages seriously. They came across as having an attitude. This is the thing that governs us and the call. God looks at your heart depending on how you treat His servants. Once you make light of the message they bring or treat them badly this will disqualify you from the call. Elijah was a difficult, robust man. He came from a rugged area and was a tough man to bear with. But Elisha served

him. It's easy to serve a man of God. But God watches to see how you treat just the man. Elijah fired Elisha 3 times, but Elisha still served him. Elisha received the double portion after he served Elijah as a man.

2. God always watches how you treat his servants and leaders. They killed the servants. When the King heard of what the people had done, He sent His army to destroy and kill these people. He burns their houses. God looks at our hearts and when we do things against Him and His servants, God in turn will destroy us and all things associated to us.

3. When the first call came to the people, it came to an influential lot of people, these were businessmen and landowners. These people rejected the call because they put their own priorities first. Some went back to their farms and others went back to their businesses and they continued with their daily lives. They rejected the call because their own priorities were more important to them. And they were too busy to take up the invitation.

4. The second lot of people that the Kings call is mostly commoners and people with disabilities. The lame and blind. When you don't take up the call, God will raise someone else to take your place.

5. Never think you can take up the call whenever you feel like. Take it up as soon as it comes. Jewish wedding customs says that every person that was to enter into a wedding banquet would be given a wedding garment. These were usually a cloke or a cape to throw over ones clothes. The King comes across one guest without a wedding garment. And the King was upset. This man was probably a person from the first lot of guests that rejected the call; he didn't take up the invitation but returned later after he had completed whatever he needed to. But by the time he had returned the wedding garments had already been handed out. So this man took up the invitation too late. And this disqualified him from the banquet. Taking up the call when you feel that is the time for you to go in disqualifies you from the call, because God would have already replaced you with another.

Never miss your season.

1. In every person's life God plans a season.

2. You can never get a season back. Your season comes once in your life.

3. If you postpone your season you will never get it back.

4. Once you miss your season you will always operate in a called state but never in a chosen state.

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." (KJV)

5. The 5 virgins paid a price for their oil. The other 5 missed their season and the door was shut to them.

6. When the King called the first lot of guests to the wedding banquet and they rejected the call, they could never get back that invitation. They missed their season.

7. When God calls you He will never call another to take your place. But when you fail or miss the call, He will raise someone else up.

Time of Testing

Deuteronomy 8:2

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no." (KJV)

1. When God calls you, God will test you to see if you will be chosen. He will investigate you and test you to see what's in your heart. You will be chosen only if you pass the time of testing.

2. When God is taking you from a position of called to chosen He will work with you. He will check you. He will investigate what are your motives. This will be a wilderness experience. God is all knowing, but motives are hidden in places of the heart. You cannot serve to be seen, so God will check what your motives are. Your motive should be to enlarge the Kingdom of God and not to enlarge yourself for self gain. *"I the Lord search the heart; I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." (Jeremiah 17:10 KJV)* 3. Your wilderness experience will stop when you have no more of the world within you. The reason God does this, is because He wants you all to Himself. He wants to check your heart, and He will always be working deeply with you. This will be a period of waiting and a period of testing.

4. God let the Israelites wonder in the wilderness for 40 years. And they wandered that long because God could not take Egypt out of them. Their wilderness experience stopped only when God managed to take the world out. Most of them that longed for Egypt were killed along the way or never got to see the Promised Land.

5. God might even leave you, to check what you are doing, taking you to a dry and low place without Him. Moses wilderness was the 40 years after he left Egypt, after he killed the 2 Egyptians. This was a dry time for Moses because God was silent for the entire 40 years. Moses wilderness experience ended at the burning bush. As soon as he was called he took up the position.

6. God will watch you. He will check your motives. The call is not about a title or a function. But God checks to see if you can rule over little. Then He will give you to rule over much.

7. God will even pull away from you. He checks if you will look for Him. During these dry moments and spells were God pulls away from you, never get moved away from your call.

Mark 6:48, 49

"And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:" (KJV)

Jesus here walks on the water and He was quite dramatic in His actions. He does as if He would have passed them by. Jesus is acting as if He will pass by them. Jesus wanted them to call out to Him.

8. God wants you to pull on Him. Sometimes God holds back His presence from you so that you can hunger and chase after Him. During these times when He draws His presence from you, it's time to fast and pray, spend time in the word, meditate and worship Him. He seeks communion with you.

Luke 24:28, 29

"And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them." (KJV) Jesus does the same thing again on the road to Emmaus. he does as if He is still going on to another town. But he wanted the men to constrain Him so that He could continue to have fellowship with Him. Jesus' focus was to spend time with the men. But he wanted the men to pull on Him.

9. Never get offended when God pulls His presence from you. Offense is the bait of Satan that will keep you from the presence of God. Dry and low places in your life will bring about offense easily. Having offense will keep you from going to church or spending time with God. When God pulls away from you, it's time for you to tug on Him.

How to move from being called to be chosen?

The difference between being called and being chosen is whether or not you are operating with the gifts of God with the presence of God in your life. Having a gift doesn't endorse the presence of God in your life.

Churches that move only on the power of God often lose focus because they miss that the presence of God isn't there. E.g. the Corinthian Church, in the Bible.

The anointing will work for you or against you. The anointing will work against you if you walk away from the call. Lot chose the world. Lot had everything equal to Abraham, but he lost it all because he chose the world. He lost his son-in-laws, and lost everything else by fire that fell from heaven. He lost his wife, whom he ended up as a monument because she looked back. Lot ended up in a cave. When you walk away from God, He will allow you to lose the things that He has given to you.

Psalm 51:11

"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me." (KJV) David saw the presence of God leave King Saul. As long as Saul had the presence of God, the Philistines didn't attack Israel. As soon as the presence left Saul, the Philistines attacked them. So David cried out for God's presence never to leave him. David knew that when you are called, how much you need and depend on the presence of God. He also knew exactly what would happen should the presence of God leave him. He saw the demise of Saul without the presence of God.

How to keep the presence of God in your life?

Intimacy

1. The gifts of God are without repentance, because God always honors the gift/word/office that He has given. But you have to stand accountable for the gift and you can slip from being called to chosen if you lack intimacy with God.
3. Without intimacy with God, God will honor the gift but take away His presence.
4. Without intimacy with God, you will not grow or develop in the gift. You can remain stagnant and at the same level for years.
5. Without intimacy with God, God will honor the gift based only on the needs of the people. Samson moved in deliverance only based on the need of his gifting. But God removed His presence from him.
6. Intimacy with God includes spending time in the presence of God. Fast and pray, spend time in the word, meditate and worship Him. God seeks communion with you.

Prayer

1. Having the presence of God starts with Prayer.
2. You need a base of prayer, because prayer is a weapon.

3. Don't do anything in the kingdom of God without a prayer life. Demons are always watching. And if you operate without a proper prayer life you open the doors of attack. There are always casualties where there is a lack of prayer. Demons will leave the bodies of people you pray for and follow you if you are not covered in prayer.

4. The absence of a prayer life is a presence of pride. When you pray you show a dependency on God. Pride always goes before a fall. Lucifer was filled with pride, and fell from grace.

Word

1. Everything that you speak in regards to the word, you will be tested in. Joseph shared his vision or a prophecy of future events and he was tested because of that word.

"He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him." (Psalm 105:17-19 KJV)

2. People will even pull away from you. Based on the word you received.

3. Nothing will bring you joy or comfort except the word of the Lord. The word will bring comfort and the word will give you substance.

4. Don't lead without a prayer life and without word knowledge.

5. A torn bible will keep your life together.

6. Study the word to show yourself approved.

7. Put the word in your spirit

8. With a prayer life demons back-off but with the knowledge of the word of God demons cannot kill or destroy you. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness He fought off Satan through the word.