

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD CALLED US! (II)

Why do some people accept the Gospel while others do not? “*The reason is not in the Gospel itself and the reason does not lie in the nature of the hearers*” says Pastor Stuart Olyott. Rather, “*the reason is that some are effectually called and some are not!*”

Concerning *Effectual Calling*, we’ve seen last Sunday that [1] **It Is God Who Calls**, [2] **It Is A Call By God’s Spirit and God’s Word** and [3] **It Is An Un-Changeable Call**. And now

[4] IT IS A SWEET AND POWERFUL CALL.

A mother is calling her son to come for his dinner. She calls and calls, with rewards and with threats, and yet the boy remains glued to the TV. The mother may call but the little boy continues with what he is doing. This is not what we have in mind when we speak of *Effectual Calling*.

Effectual Calling a powerful call because it is a summon: *Come to Jesus!* It gives you the warrant to come to Him. *Effectual Calling* is a powerful call because it is more than a summon -- it is a summon that actually summons. It actually and effectively ushers you into the fellowship of Jesus Christ!

John 5:25 :- “*Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.*” (See also **Romans 4:17**)

When God calls, that call is *powerful*. No one can resist it, no one can miss it, on one can ignore it. At the same time, the call of God is *sweet*. It is sweetly powerfully and powerfully sweet. God does not force anyone to come to Christ. Instead God draws the person and attracts him to come. When God calls a sinner to Christ, He does not take away the freedom of the will. Rather, He conquers the stubbornness of man's will. No one comes to Christ kicking and crying, saying, “*No, I do not want to come, I do not want to come!*” Rather, everyone who comes to Christ comes most willingly. See how willingly and joyfully Zacchaeus came down from the tree and asked Jesus to come to his house!

[5] IT IS A PERSONAL, INDIVIDUAL CALL

John 10:3 says, “*To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*” God calls us by name. It is not a

group of people or a church that He calls collectively, but individually, one by one. He calls the father and the father is saved. He calls the son and the son is saved. It is never -- He calls the father, and the father and son are both saved. No, because the call is personal, it is individual.

We say that God has children but no grandchildren because God's call to sinners to come to Christ is individual. Therefore, my dear friends, you must come to Christ *individually* and *personally*. You cannot do so by proxy, you can ask your parents or your spouse or your children or your friends to do it for you.

[6] IT IS AN ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY CALL

John 6:44 says, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day" and **John 6:65** says, "And He said, 'Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.'"

Unless God calls, no one will be saved. Once again, we are confronted with this great and humbling fact - *It is God who saves, for it is God who calls*. You cannot decide *when* you will be a Christian for it is God who calls.

Oh how dependent we are on God for our eternal salvation! And how dependent we are on Him, dear Christians, in our gospel preaching! Unless He calls, we can shout till we are hoarse and sinners will remain dead in their sins!!

[7] IT IS A LIFE-CHANGING CALL.

Effectual Calling is a called-from and called-to. We are called from darkness, from sin, from sinful self. And we are called to be saints, to be holy, to be in fellowship with Jesus and to reflect the character of Jesus.

In short, if we are called, our lives will be transformed. The transformation of Saul of Tarsus into Paul the apostle is the best illustration of this. And the same man said this: *He (Jesus) died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him (Jesus) who died for them and rose again.* (**2 Corinthians 5:15**)

I don't ask if this aspect or that aspect of your life has changed. I asked if your life's direction, your loves & likes, your taste, your attitude, your motivation has changed. What's your reply?