

The Call To Ministry

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The Call To Be A Minister Is A Divine/Human Partnership

“Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.”
1 Timothy 3:1 (NIV)

- ◆ The Holy Spirit Initiates It
- ◆ The Minister Responds To It

The Ministry Assignment Is Given By God

1. General call to fruitful discipleship.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” John 15:16 (NIV)

2. There are specific calls to specific “assignments.”

- Specific call to apostolic missionary service (Paul & Barnabas)

“While they were worshiping 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.”
Acts 13:2–3 (NIV)

- Specific call to pastoral ministry (Peter)

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my lambs.’ Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Take care of my sheep.’ The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep.’ John 21:15–17 (NIV)

- Specific call as an evangelist (Philip *the deacon*)

“Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.” Acts 8:5–7 (NIV)

“But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”
Acts 8:12 (NIV)

“Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means ‘queen of the Ethiopians’). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked. ‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?’ So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: ‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.’ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?’ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?’ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.”
Acts 8:26–40 (NIV)

How Are You Framing Out God’s Call?

- a. The Call develops (in many cases) from general to specific
- b. Fulfilling The Call requires a “YES LORD” spirit.

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

Jonah is a prophet who gives us an example of a ‘NO’ spirit – he refused the Lord’s calling, and demonstrated that refusal by going in the opposite direction from where God was calling Him.

There is a place for you to serve in our fellowship.

- We can provide guidance to get a ministerial credential.
- We can inform and explore ministry opportunities with you.
- We can (will) provide support and resourcing for you in your ministry assignment.
- What we can't do – condition your spirit to be open to saying yes – taking risks, letting go of the things that may hold you in place.

You have (perhaps) said your first yes by getting ready ... preparing through PDSOM.

Are you preparing for deployment?

When American went to Kuwait in the early 90's, some reservists were being deployed, but they were objecting to actually fulfilling their agreement. They had signed the line, taken an oath, spent months/years preparing. But there had not been a deployment in so long that these men and women felt misled. They didn't seem to think that it (deployment) would actually happen.

God is **calling** – when it's time for deployment, is your spirit conditioned to say with Isaiah, *Here am I Lord, send me?*

Let's Pray!