

## Introduction to series

**Calling = Kaleo = Invitation or naming. Are you trying to go where He has not invited you?**

### Romans 11:29

NIV For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

NLT For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

ESV For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

KJV For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

- **God's gifts and callings are linked.**
- **God grants you gifts in order to fulfil your calling.**
- **God never changes His mind with regards to His calling on your life.**
- **God never changes His mind concerning the gifts He has given you.**

### Understanding Your Calling (Part 1)

#### 1 Corinthians 3:1-22

##### 1. It requires maturity to truly understand your calling.

Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup>You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings?

- **Understanding your calling and the callings of others is very spiritual.**
- **Some people are very religious and pseudo spiritual yet fleshly in how they view callings.** Some people are still playing "my pastor is better than yours!" or tougherer!

The fulfilment of your calling might only be after you have died. There are a number of people that only became famous after they had died

- Vincent Van Gogh died in 1890 after having only sold one painting for \$109. He was only recognised after 1910 when 2000 pieces were discovered that are worth millions of dollars today.
- Galileo Galilei died in 1642 but his theories were only accepted in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He invented the telescope and would observe sunspots and craters on the moon.
- In the Baroque period of music Bach had many compositions, however he only became famous after a revival of interest in that music years after he had died.
- It takes maturity to understand the importance of not prematurely judging the effectiveness of your calling.

##### 2. We need to celebrate our nothingness.

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe

- Many people exalt and embellish their callings.
- Paul sets an example for us by minimizing himself and exalting God's role.
- Sadly, many people today are motivated by trying to make a name for themselves.

### 3. With every calling comes specific assignments.

—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it,

- It's important to know what your task is.
- It's important to know your role distinct from others' roles.
- When there is no role clarity there can be negative consequences.

### 4. We only truly understand our calling when we embrace God's role in it.

but God has been making it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

- Growth comes from God. He makes things grow.
- May I never think that I am the one who makes this Church grow.
- May you never think you are the one who makes yourself wealthy.
- God is the one who gives you the grace.
- This revelation will protect you from delusions of grandeur.
- This revelation takes stress away.
- Stress often comes from trying to control things that God has not called you to.

### 5. Our callings are linked to one purpose.

<sup>8</sup>The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. <sup>9</sup>For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

- No one is called in isolation.
- Your church and business will flourish when you synergize your callings in one purpose.
- Division comes when we have diverse purposes and agendas.
- We can have different styles and gifts but still aim to achieve the same purpose.
- Don't attempt to build God's kingdom by yourself.

### 6. Each person is accountable for their part.

- You will be rewarded for your individual contribution.
- Having a faithful and successful pastor does not mean that you are faithful and successful.
- For every calling, there are specific tasks and for every task there is some degree of labour.  
Too many people judge themselves based on the nice description of their calling but are not willing to engage in the labour associated with their calling. Teachers do certain things. Prophets do certain things. Elders do certain things. Its more than a title.

### 7. There is grace available to accomplish your calling.

<sup>10</sup>By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it.

- **Whenever God calls you, He gives you the resources and enablement to complete the work.**
- **There are some things people do based on natural talent and the results are alright. There are other things people do based on God adding His Super to their Natural and the results are phenomenal.**
- **Sadly many people are only known for what they are average at. They are limited to their natural talents.**

**Eg John Bevere writing books based on God's supernatural grace and not his natural talent.**

**Eg my revelation on how to prepare for a bashing session with your boss.**