

God is Calling You

“1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. 2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; 3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; 4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. 5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. 6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. 8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.” (1 Samuel 3:1-10 KJV)

God every now and then, even we can say continually He is calling people to worship Him and serve Him. He was calling here Samuel for a goal and for a purpose. There were certain circumstances at the time of Samuel that dictated and mandated the call of God to Samuel, and as the following:

1. In those days the Word of the LORD was rare: “And the word of the LORD was precious in those days;” (1 Samuel 3:1 KJV) Why the Word of the Lord was rare or precious? Because there was no one who was willing to listen, obey and walk in the ways of the Lord. *When God will find people willing to listen then God will speak, but when people neglect God and what He says to them, then God will remain silent. God will speak when people are humble and not arrogant as His Word says, “9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.” (Psalm 25:9 KJV)* God speaks to warn the people, *“14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. 15 In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; 16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, 17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.” (Job 33:14-17 KJV)* God would speak to warn and He wants people to listen.

2. In those days there were not many visions: “there was no open vision.” (1 Samuel 3:1 KJV) Why there were not many visions or no open vision? In fact God will give clear visions to those who are willing to listen and obey His Word. * *Therefore when people are disobedient and not willing to listen to God then you find them without vision. * And as a consequence of lack of vision we find people moving in disorder and without any plan. * Sometimes you find people have incomplete or incorrect vision; these are in fact not God's vision but their own ambitions and plans. * With disobedient generation, you will not find clear visions in their lives.*

3. Spiritual blindness and stagnation: “2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;” (1 Samuel 3:2 KJV) Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was laid down in his usual place. That does not reflect only the physical condition of the priest being weak in sight, but a symbol for the low spiritual status of the office of priesthood. As we know that Eli's children were corrupted, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt, *“2 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD. 13 And the priest's custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; 14 And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. 15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. 16 And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. 17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.” (1 Samuel 2:2-17 KJV)* Not only that but they were immoral, *“22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.” (1 Samuel 2:22 KJV)* Eli heard about all those things: *“23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. 24 Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD's people to transgress. 25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.” (1 Samuel 2:23-25 KJV)* Yes he spoke to them, and they did not respond to him, but he did not do anything about it to restrain his children and inflict on them the punishment for their sins, therefore God decided to judge him by removing him from the place and the office He assigned for him and inflicted him and his family with all the following affliction as he was informed by the man of God whom the Lord sent to him, *“27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? 28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? 29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? 30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. 31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house. 32 And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever. 33 And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of*

thine house shall die in the flower of their age. 34 And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them. 35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever. 36 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.” (1 Samuel 2:27-35 KJV) Listen church; when we fail to discipline our families, children, disciples and workers then we are igniting the wrath of God against us. Therefore we need to apply discipline and deal with sin and those who sin properly so God’s wrath will move far away from us.

4. Somebody should stand for God: With such corrupted setup, then God’s law should be restored and brought back into the reality and applied in the life of the people. *“3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;” (1 Samuel 3:3 KJV)* For sure God would do something to restore things to what ought to be. Therefore as Samuel was available there and God found in him the criteria that He was looking for, then He called him.

We read in the Scripture, *“the child Samuel”*; when we speak about a child we mean is what we can see and found in children. Jesus said, *“3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3 KJV)* In a child or a boy we can found the following:

A. Pure and clean heart: In the heart of the child there should be no malice, no politics and no manipulation. *For God to call you, He wants to see the same in your life and heart. God wants us to be pure in motive and our hearts’ desires are noble and clean. God wants someone who is with a clean heart so He can open what is in His heart to him.*

B. Faith and full trust in God: When you speak with a child he would believe everything that you would tell Him. *In the same way God wants us to have a real faith and full trust and to surrender to Him. God wants you to believe in Him even for the impossible.*

C. Full dedication to God: Samuel was dedicated by his mother to the Lord. His mother was barren and she promised the Lord that if He would give her a child she would dedicate him to the Lord. ** God wants people fully dedicated to Him and to serve Him wholeheartedly. Good point here to those who are parents; that you need to dedicate yourselves and your children to the Lord; that your children would be raised up in the knowledge and the fear of God. * All of us we want a good future for our children. We want them to be prosperous and successful in their lives, therefore we need to raise them up in God’s presence and the Lord Himself shall bless them and prosper them. Truly if we will do that, then they will grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men. * The word of God admonishes us with the following: “6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will*

not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6 KJV) The future of our children is in our hands so we need to be faithful to what God had entrusted to us.

Who would think that the child Samuel one day he will be the leader, the judge and the deliverer that God will use to save Israel. *The same for you today, God is calling you to do something for Him, and He wants you to be ready and respond to His call.*

God continually calls and chooses people to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear Words from His mouth. He calls them to be His witness to all men of what they have seen and heard. God calls people because somebody has to do the work faithfully and efficiently for His name to be glorified and lifted up. God had called Samuel when things in Israel went wrong and in the direction that God did not want it to be. At that time God was looking for somebody to be the mouth piece and the trumpet of God to declare His will in full to the people.

At that time God found Samuel and so He called him. He was a small boy, but it does not matter the age of the individual. But his respond to God’s call and his willingness to be transformed, acquire good characters and accept responsibilities that shall bring the difference. *God calls people in whatever age they are. He calls the young and this what the Word of God admonish us, “12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12 KJV)* God called Samuel here while He was a child. It does not matter the age of the person, but if he is willing to obey and follow, then God’s choice for him will be fruitful. God had called David, Jeremiah, Daniel and Timothy while they were young in age and they responded to God’s call.

God as well as may call people who are old in age. For example God called Moses while he was old in age. Moses was eighty years old when God called him and He entrusted him with a big task to deliver His people and lead them out of the land of slavery. God called Abraham at the age of seventy five years old for a long journey of faith, and He called Noah at the age of 500 years old to build a big ark for God.

When God called Samuel as we read in *1 Samuel 3*, He called him with his name. What we understand here when God is calling somebody He is not calling him haphazardly but He is calling him by his name. When God is calling us He is calling us specifically and by our names: *“6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;” (Isaiah 42:6 KJV)* Also we can read the following when God called Jacob that He called him by his names; Israel and Jacob: *“8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. 9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. 10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:8-10 KJV)* The same we can also read in *Isaiah 43:1*, that God was calling Jacob by his name, *“But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.”* Listen, God’s call is specific for you and by your name.

Samuel was not aware when the Lord was calling Him. For the first three instances when God was calling him he was rushing toward Eli the priest thinking that the priest Eli was the one who called him. The priest Eli realized that God was calling Samuel so he instructed him of what he needed to do. **“8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. 9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.” (1 Samuel 3:8-9 KJV)** Sometimes you think that people are calling you and you think that your service is directed toward people but that is not correct. God came to Samuel calling him four times, and every time He was calling him twice by his name as we read here, **“10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.” (1 Samuel 3:1-10 KJV)** So in total eight times God was calling Samuel by his name. Listen, the voice of God and the calling of God is behind your ministry and all what you are doing. Your calling is in the mid of spiritual and religious failures, and God wants to do through you certain radical and critical changes. You are called to fulfill God’s purpose in your generation. Don’t be reluctant, don’t be afraid, and do not doubt, instead tell God, **“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.”**

There might be a spiritual blindness around you, and that is why you are not aware of your calling and what God wants you to be and to do. But you must be aware of that now, and be able to hear and recognize His voice in the mid of the disorder and confusion that is going on around you. You might be even being suppressed with the surrounding religious and the non-religious worldly system that you are part of. But now you must be vigilant having the full faith and the trust in God that He who called you is faithful and will be able to support you, equip you and protect you. **“19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. 20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. 21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.” (1 Samuel 3:19-21 KJV)** As the Lord was with Samuel and enabled him and protected him, He will also be with you and He will uphold you with His grace to fulfill what He had asked you to do and to be. And finally the people will recognize that God is calling you and you will be attested for the ministry that He entrusted to you to do. God will continue to reveal to you Himself and the steps that He wants you to take, through His Word that you read in the Bible. So you will be guided by the Holy Spirit and instructed by His Word, going forward to fulfill the call of God in your life.

My dear and beloved: Don’t be afraid from the wrong things that are going on around you, the Lord will neither leave you nor forsake you. God has a good plan for you to prosper you. God had sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ Who died on the cross for our sins to save us and to give us eternal life. Trust Him fully and accept His call to you in your life, for this is your blessing from Him. Therefore tell him **Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.** Let us now stand in His presence, tell God **“Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth”,** _____, Listen to God now

and what He wants to tell you and the ministry and the works that He wants you to do for Him, Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit my life and my ways in your hand, make me the person that you wants me to be. Lord Jesus as you died on the cross for my sins here am I today, I dedicate myself and respond to you with full trust, faith and surrender my life and my will in your hand. **Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.** Lord take me and mold me in the way that you wants me to be and help me to stand firm and do the call that you entrusted to me to do, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Now repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your doubts, fears and stubbornness. Repent of your corruption, worldliness and the love of money. Repent of your lust and immoralities. Repent of your greed and love of money. Repent of your non willingness to stand firm and to serve God and suffer for Him. Repent of your lack of fear of God, and living and doing your own ways, will and plans. Repent of your worldliness and your yoke with non believers and many friends. Repent of wasting your time and spoiling your mind with the Media. Repent of your lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible and studying the Scripture, and your lack of prayer. Lord I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to respond to your call in their lives. Lord anoint them with the Holy Spirit, give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their ministry and your Word to declare to whom you are sending. Lord protect them and provide for them all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as your church to continue to spread your Word and to declare your will to the people around us and under our care. Lord help us to stand firm against all corruption and compromises that are widely spread, and lead us to bring the differences that you want to see in the life of your church. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord bless and increase all our ministries, and prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

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