

God's Calling Requirements Part 3

***"1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."* (Luke 5:1-11 KJV)**

Jesus Christ in His calling to Simon, the astonishing thing that had happened is the miraculous catch of big amount of fish. It happened when Jesus asked Simon to ***"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."* (Luke 5:4 KJV)** and it was fulfilled and come true when Simon and his men obeyed what Jesus instructed.

Obedience was a key for Simon to be well provided on that day, as well as his immediate obedience to the voice of Jesus led him to receive further blessings in addition to the Material things and as the following:

1. Repentance: Simon after he obeyed the word of Jesus and got the big catch of fish he was able to see his sins as he said to the Lord, ***"8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."* (Luke 5:8 KJV)** Simon Peter sin was lack of faith in God's Word but as he obeyed he saw clearly how powerful and truthful is the Word of Jesus. *In the same way when you start to obey God's voice and Word to you, then you will be able to see clearly your sins and how when you obey, God's blessings will flow in your life.*

2. Spiritual gifts to serve God: Jesus gave to Peter the gift of evangelist to catch people and bring them to Christ as He told him, ***"Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."* (Luke 5:10 KJV)** *When you start to obey God, the Lord shall give you the spiritual gifts to go and serve Him with the gift that He gave to you.*

3. Full time ministry: ***"11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."* (Luke 5:11 KJV)** The Lord enabled Simon Peter to leave everything and served God. *Full obedience will help you to see the whole plan that God has for you. Full obedience is the key in your hand so that your desire to live for Christ and serve Him will be fulfilled.*

When the Lord asked Peter, ***"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."* (Luke 5:4 KJV)** Is this an easy request or a difficult one? It can be an easy request because it is the work and the field of Simon and his men and they were doing that daily for a considerable period of time. In addition they know the place and they were accustomed on the weather of the place. But it is also can be a difficult thing because Simon and his men were tired and sleepy because whole night they were working and for them to obey Jesus would mean several more hours to work. Beside that, they were even discouraged and daunted. So when Simon was faced with the instruction of Jesus, it was in his hand to obey, as well as it was in his hand to disobey by putting aside the commands of God. Jesus knew very well the situation of Simon, that he was tired, sleepy, discouraged and without fish. And Jesus put it in the hands of Simon either to obey and be blessed bountifully as we mentioned, or to put aside the commands of God and to go home empty handed.

Always when God call you, He will ask you to do something that is not easy for you to do and that which contradict the flesh that you are carrying and have in your body. When God called Simon his flesh might contradict Jesus' instruction, because of laziness, wanting to sleep, or even excusing himself with this statement, *'Why only me, let Jesus call other person!'* *If you behave and live in such a way, then you will find yourself without progress and no growth in your life because you delight to entertain the lies of devil. Satan might use your emotions and wrong thoughts and works on them to hinder you from responding to God's call.*

For this reason you need to embrace God's instruction and apply them in your life wholeheartedly even if they contradict your thoughts and understanding. When that is your standard then you can overcome and progress forward.

Put this thought in your mind: *When God is calling you He will ask you to do something that most of the time you are not comfortable to do, but it is something possible, and He knows that ultimately you can do it if you want!*

When God called Saul to be King over Israel, the Lord used Samuel to anoint him. Samuel prophesied to Saul that the following signs would happen to him soon after he is leaving him: ***"2 When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son? 3 Then shalt thou go on forward from thence, and thou shalt come to the plain of Tabor, and there shall meet thee three men going up to God to Bethel, one carrying three kids, and another carrying three loaves of bread, and another carrying a bottle of wine: 4 And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands. 5 After that thou shalt come to the hill of God, where is the garrison of the Philistines: and it shall come to pass, when thou art come thither to the city, that thou shalt meet a company of prophets coming down from the high place with a psaltery, and a tabret, and a pipe, and a harp, before them; and they shall prophesy: 6 And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. 7 And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee."* (1 Samuel 10:2-7 KJV)** All what Samuel told Saul God fulfilled to him, ***"9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. 11 And it came to pass, when all that knew him***

beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" (1 Samuel 10:9-11 KJV) So when all these had been fulfilled Saul was assured that God is with him.

Samuel previously had told Saul to keep and observe the following: **"8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do."** (1 Samuel 10:8 KJV) The command of God to Saul through the prophet Samuel it looks easy and simple to do. If someone would ask you to go to some place that you know and will wait for him seven days until he come to you to tell you what to do, that is a simple thing to do.

Truly Saul went there and stayed at Gilgal for seven days, and the following events happened: **"5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven. 6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. 7 And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him."** (1 Samuel 13:5-8 KJV) Now when Samuel said to Saul to go to Gilgal and to wait for him seven days till he comes, all the above events was not in the mind of Saul to happen, and that is why it might be easy to comply with God's commands that he received through Samuel, but now the following had happened unexpectedly around Saul:

A. "And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven." (1 Samuel 13:5 KJV): The enemy in large troops gathered against him, and that made him afraid. When you commit yourself to the Lord the enemy may gather around you to make you afraid and to hinder you from obeying God. Therefore persevere and resist him in faith.

B. "6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits." (1 Samuel 13:6 KJV): Everyone was afraid and run for his life and left Saul in the middle alone. Imagine how he feels! In the time of troubles you will see that people will scatter from you, but also remember that the Lord is there beside you to uphold you and support you. He will neither leave you nor forsake you.

C. "7 And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling." (1 Samuel 13:7 KJV): Other people moved away to a more comfortable zone while Saul needs to remain at Gilgal where the danger is so near and around. Remember also that the people will always think about their flesh and how to escape the responsibilities laid on them to do. Therefore, do not follow such a bad example, but continue in your commitment and what you need to do for God and fulfill your assignments toward Him.

D. "8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him." (1 Samuel 13:8 KJV): Samuel was late, and now even Saul's immediate men and close soldiers started to scatter. Remember that Jesus was alone on the cross, all His disciples scattered and left him, but He won the battle for us to save us from sin and death. In the same way, even if you are alone or threatened to be alone, do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, God is beside you and He is backing you up to win the battle.

God had changed the heart of Saul, but Saul witnessed all the above events, and ultimately he did the following: **"9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering."** (1 Samuel 13:9 KJV) Saul failed to do exactly what Samuel instructed him to do. He waited seven days at Gilgal, but he did not wait enough to Samuel to come and tell him what he needed to do. Samuel had told him **"8 And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do."** (1 Samuel 10:8 KJV) But with all the events that had happened around him Saul ultimately and out of fear he decided not to keep the commands of God. Because of what had happened Saul might doubted the Word of God that he received and finally he did the following: **"10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him."** (1 Samuel 13:10) Samuel kept the Word of God and came at the time that God wanted him to reach Saul. Samuel was able to reach the battle field to meet Saul. He was not afraid from the Philistines. The people and the soldiers scattered away from the battle field but Samuel kept his commitment and went to meet Saul. The rest of the Israelites left their cities and went to safer places but Samuel kept the Word of God and reached Saul on time. Therefore, Samuel was astonished with what Saul did, and the following discussion happened between them, **"11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; 12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering. 13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever."** (1 Samuel 13:11-13 KJV) Saul was rebuked for his shortcomings.

And someone may say that Saul waited but Samuel did not come and what he did is good, at least he sought the favour of God. That is not correct. Saul was rebuked because he saw all things in a negative way; he saw the philistines assembled against him, he saw Samuel late to come, he saw the Israelites moving away from the enemy and his men scattered, but he failed to see God with him, and he failed to understand it is safer and far better to obey God's Word and instruction. Saul when he failed to see God with him, his wrong thoughts led him to disobey God and went ahead to do his own.

Saul was tested with that simple instruction of God through Samuel, as Simon instructed with the Word of Jesus to **"Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."** (Luke 5:4 KJV) Saul might not be comfortable with what he was instructed, but it was possible for him to obey and pass successfully the tests that God ordained for him to pass through.

My Dear and Beloved: Do not see things in a negative way like Saul who saw the philistines assembled against him, he saw the Israelites moving away from the enemy and his men scattered, but he failed to understand that it is safer and far better to obey God's Word and instruction. Remember when you fail to see God with you, your wrong thoughts will lead you to disobey God and will go forward to do your own.

But rather remember the followings:

When you commit yourself to the Lord the enemy may gather around you to make you afraid and to hinder you from obeying God. Therefore persevere and resist him in faith.

In the time of troubles you will see that people will scatter from you, but also remember that the Lord is there beside you to uphold you and support you. He will neither leave you nor forsake you.

Remember also that the people will always think about their flesh and how to escape the responsibilities laid on them to do. Therefore, do not follow such a bad example, but continue in your commitment and what you need to do for God and fulfill your assignments toward Him.

Remember that Jesus was alone on the cross, all His disciples scattered and left him, but He won the battle for us. In the same way, even if you are alone, do not be afraid and do not be discouraged, God is beside you and He is backing you up to win the battle.

The command of God is simple but do not be hindered by many wrong considerations and negative thoughts, instead go forward and obey and be blessed.

Paul said to the Ephesians elders, **"32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."** (Acts 20:32 KJV) *This very same Word of God is the calling of God in your life. He will give you His Word and instruction that will contradict your flesh, but as you decide to obey then you can overcome. Sure you will overcome and for a simple reason, for God is with you.*

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.*

Let us repent from our sins. Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Let us repent of the sins of the lack of faith in God's Word, disobedience, delay obedience, stubbornness, and let us repent from wrong and negative thoughts.

Lord I commit my life and cause unto your hand, I will stop contradict your will and your commands. Lord I will obey your Word and your instructions immediately. Lord Give me perseverance and uphold me with your grace and mercy to continue to abide with the call that you had ordained for me.

Lord bless my Brothers and my Sisters who listened to your Word and who are willing to abide with your instructions to them. Lord I pray as they will obey grant them repentance, material blessings, spiritual gifts to serve you and a ministry to bring new people into your Kingdom. Lord use them to reach new people and new areas for Christ.

Lord bless our church, protect us and provide all our needs. Lord, fill us with the Holy Spirit and enable us to harvest new souls, reaching new areas with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord enable us to plant new Bible studies, and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that 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.

God's Calling Requirements Part 3. Luke 5:1-11. 1 Samuel 10:2-11. 1 Samuel 13:5-13. Acts 20:32

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be
free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email:
thebread1@gmail.com.