

God's Calling Requirements Part 5

I thank God for ... Part 1

To understand the requirements of God's calling in our life I was reminded of one of the saying of Paul, 'I thank God for' That he repeated in different epistles and in different circumstances. Paul thanked God for certain workers, ministries and churches due to certain good things they had done to the Lord. Paul did not give thanks to God to people who were a source of trouble, naughty or uncommitted. Instead purposely and precisely, Paul thanked God, for people who were truly living their life to serve God, and Paul thank God for churches and ministries that were in line of God's will, God's Word and God's call.

Here we go and search the Scriptures to learn from them the requirements of God's Calling:

1. Paul thanked God for Timothy: "3 I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4 Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also." (2 Timothy 1:3-5 NIV) "3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; 4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; 5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (2 Timothy 1:3-5 KJV) Paul thanked God for the life of Timothy as he was continually remembering Timothy in his prayers and he gave thanks to God for his life.

But why Paul was remembering Timothy? Paul said, ***"Recalling your tears,"*** it means that Timothy was a man who was crying. What kind of tears that Paul admired and touched his heart and called his attention? Tears of prayer it might be. Timothy might be a prayer intercessor like Jeremiah, ***"Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people." (Jeremiah 9:1)*** Surely Timothy was praying and crying to God for many people, and certainly he was helping Paul and carrying his burden in praying for many people who were of many needs and of various spiritual statuses.

The tears of Timothy could be as well the tears of repentance and tears of commitment to love God and to serve Him; like the tears of the woman who anointed Jesus, ***"38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them." (Luke 7:38)*** *Are you a man of tears who shed tears of repentance or who cry to intercede for the lost souls, or for those who sins and need to come back to the Lord?*

Paul thanked God for the life of Timothy because Timothy also was characterized by his sincere and alive faith. Paul said, ***"I am reminded of your sincere faith,"*** Paul as he was looking back to the history with his relationship with Timothy, how it started, and how Timothy responded to the call of God and showed faithfulness to Paul who trained him, and what Timothy achieved in serving the Lord with Paul, and Timothy care and pasturing to the Church at Ephesus; with all that Paul concluded that Timothy had a sincere faith who enabled him to achieve all that; and

for that sincere and alive faith Paul gave thanks to God for Timothy and His ministry. *Are you a man or woman with sincere faith who is faithful toward those who taught you and trained you and toward the church and the ministry that was entrusted to you?*

Timothy was a fruit bearing worker for God and for Paul who loved him, cared for him and trained Him. Timothy was pasturing a church and he was doing and following exactly what Paul was instructing him to do. *God expecting from you to do the same and be in the same expectation of Paul in Timothy. You are called to be a thanksgiving and fruit bearing person to the people who cared for you spiritually. The Word of God that you are listening would help you to see exactly how you can improve yourself and be a better person in responding to God's call.*

2. Paul thanked God for Philemon: "4 I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, 5 because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. 6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." (Philemon 1:4-6 NIV) "4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers, 5 Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints; 6 That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus." (Philemon 1:4-6 KJV) Paul was always thanking God for the life of Philemon as he was remembering him in his prayers. Paul also outlined the real reasons behind that thanksgiving:

A. "Because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus:" Surely Philemon had outstanding faith that was accompanied by much changes in life and attitude that other noticed and spread the news about it. In addition to that, a faith with many noble actions and deeds and with much fruit. *Did your faith had brought dramatic changes in your life and had made you a new fruitful person that Christ commends: "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:8 NIV) "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:8 KJV)*

B. "And your love for all the saints:" Christ love manifested by sacrificial and unconditional giving love to others around you and with much fruit, ***"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." (John 15:9 NIV) "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." (John 15:9 KJV)*** *Do you have a sacrificial and unconditional love toward others? Are you willing to spend your time, your effort, your money and resources in order to reach others and to care for them?*

C. "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith:" Paul as he was giving thank to God for the life of Philemon he saw another potential for Philemon, that his ability to evangelize and to share the Word of God with others. *Are you a person who is always active in sharing your faith and who is using all the opportunities to reach others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with His Word?*

Faith with love will lead you to evangelize and share the love of Christ with others. That will makes you a person who will bring other souls to Christ and in this way you are fulfilling the requirements of God's calling in your life. How much you will be a blessing when you abound in love and faith and that will be ended up with many souls harvested for the Kingdom of God.

3. Paul thanked God for Titus: “16 I Thank God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. 17 For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative.” (2 Corinthians 8:16-17 NIV) “16 But thanks be to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you. 17 For indeed he accepted the exhortation; but being more forward, of his own accord he went unto you.” (2 Corinthians 8:16-17 KJV) Paul had a hard time to deal and handle the church at Corinth. Paul here was struggling with them to take an active part in the matter of giving. The Corinthians they were rich people but they were having pride, and Paul wanted them to learn to give with the attitude of humility. Therefore he was burden how to teach them to do that. He was praying and appealing that this desire will come true. Titus responded to that appeal and got the same concern and burden that was in the heart and mind of Paul. Indeed, Titus went forward and on his own initiative to go and visit the church in Corinth to teach them such and to achieve that purpose. Are you willing to carry the burden of the church and ministry and volunteer spontaneously to do the required work? Such sacrificial attitude will relief those who are concerned and lead others to give thanks to God for your life.

God had called you and had chosen you to bless you and to be a blessing to others. Paul said to the Corinthians that their respond to the call of God and in particular in the matter of giving will result in the following: “13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.” (2 Corinthians 9:13-14 NIV) “13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; 14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.” (2 Corinthians 9:13-14 KJV)

- Take head of the message, follow these principles and be faithful to God and to the instructions that you received.
- Your willingness to give to support the ministry will give glory and praises to God. Others will come to know God through what you give and through what you share of God's Word and of being good example to them. Your sincere faith and your love toward God and toward His work and your love for all the saints, will be good example to others to see and to follow and come to God through your life style and how you live and walk with God.

4. Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians: From Paul letters to the Thessalonians you can outline further requirements and clues to fulfill God's calling in your life.

A. “1 Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 NIV) “1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus

Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.” (1 Thessalonians 1:1-3 KJV) Paul mentioned to the Thessalonians that he with Silas and Timothy are always thanking God for their lives and they were always remembering them in their prayers. There was a reason behind that; for they remembered the kind of work and labour and the perseverance the Thessalonians were doing and living for the Lord. Paul said, “We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:3 NIV) “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.” (1 Thessalonians 1:3 KJV) So the Thessalonians were responding and achieving God's call requirements in the way that they were serving the Lord. Check now your life and your way of living. Are you working with faith, love and hope in the Lord or you are serving but with anger, grumbling and only when you are forced? The Thessalonians were accepting the new life in Christ, and the suffering for Him with willingness to conform to His will. God wants you to fulfill God's calling in your life with same attitude and noble characters like the Thessalonians. God wants you to be willing to suffer for Him and to persevere in standing firm even to the end as you are walking in the narrow way.

B. “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV) “For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.” (1 Thessalonians 2:13 KJV) Paul told the Thessalonians that he thanked God for their lives because when Paul gave to them the Word of God they did not accepted them as human word but as actual Word of God. And Paul's measure for that to the Thessalonians is in the following: “For you, brothers became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews.” (1 Thessalonians 2:14 NIV) “For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews” (1 Thessalonians 2:14 KJV) The Thessalonians they showed that they accepted the message of Paul as actual word that came from God when they were willing to be persecuted and abandoned even from their own people. Are you willing to be really persecuted for the sake of Christ and be willing to stand firm and abide with God's Word? Many people when they receive and accept the Word of God they are not willing to accept pressure and persecution due to God's word. Rejections from the world and even from those who are very near are expected and your willingness to accept that and endure it is required from you to fulfill God's calling in your life. Your friends, your family members, your parents, your children, your spouse and even your relative may persecute you because of God's Word, but you need to be willing to pass through all that. You do not be discouraged or give up because of persecution. For the sake of Christ you need to endure that and to the end to receive the crown of life.

C. “1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; 2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: 3 That no man

should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. 4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. 6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: 7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: 8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. 9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;” (1 Thessalonians 3:1-9 KJV) Paul thanked God for the life of the Thessalonians after he heard the report of Timothy, that he sent to find out about them and how things were going with them. It was a long period of time that Paul was separated from the Thessalonians and he was longing to hear from them and to know about their news, and since he was not able to go to them, and since he was afraid that the Devil might tempt them, he finally sent Timothy who brought good report about them that motivate Paul to thank the Lord for their lives. The Thessalonians responded to God’s calling described by this statement of Paul from the report of Timothy: **“But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us.” (1 Thessalonians 3:6 KJV)** The Thessalonians their faith was accompanied with good deeds in response to the Word of God and the teaching that they received from Paul. They were willing to do the good work that the Lord had prepared in advance for them to do, and that how they expressed their gratefulness to God and to Paul who was the one who introduced Christ to them.

The Thessalonians they were fulfilling God’s calling in their lives as they were having a continuous good memory for Paul and their desire to see him and be with him again. That it confirmed that they were in line with God’s calling in their lives and that motivated Paul to give thanks to God for their lives. When you express the same toward those who watch over your life and care and cater for your spiritual needs, you are expressing faith, faithfulness and obedience to God, and that will reward you. In addition such attitude will give joy and relief to those who are caring for you, making them realize that their labor was not in vain, and that will encourage them to continue to go on and reach new people for Christ and care for them.

D. “13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV) “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:” (2 Thessalonians 2:13 KJV) There are many who want to receive Christ to receive salvation but they deny and refuse the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Paul gave thanks for the life of the Thessalonians as they were submitting themselves to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Their salvation was manifested and shown through the sanctifying work of The Holy Spirit, and that how they responded to God’s calling in their lives and that how Paul was motivated to give thanks to God for their lives. Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit work on your life to sanctify you and cleanse you from your sins and wrong attitude and make you the person that God wants you to be?

Humble yourself and accept today that God’s hand shall mold you to be fruitful person that thanks will be given to God in behalf of your life.

The above qualities that characterized Timothy, Philemon, Titus, and the Thessalonians church and how each and every one of them responded to God’s call are good motivation for you to learn from them and to apply them in your life to fulfill God’s calling in your life to be fruitful and productive in your life for the Lord.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus. Lord thank you for your clear Word to me and the good example that I learn from Timothy, Philemon, Titus, and the Thessalonians church on how I fulfill your call to me.

Lord I commit myself to change my life and attitude and to conform to the pattern of the Scriptures that we studied in this message.

Lord I repent from the following sins _____.

Let us confess and renounce our sins to God _____.

Lord I commit myself to be a blessing to others. Lord, give me more love and faith and sincerity in serving you, and fill me with the Holy Spirit and give me the spiritual gifts that I need for my service and ministry unto you.

Lord, I commit myself to the principle of laboring and serving you in faith and love and in doing what you prepare for me to do; remembering and applying the good example of your servants who taught me the Word of God, and showing gratefulness to you for their service unto me, and submitting myself to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Lord gives me perseverance and protects me as I determined to stand firm in keeping and applying the very Word of God.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to the Word of God, Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Holy Spirit gifts that they need so they can serve you and do your work in the way that you wanted to be done. Lord help them to be a blessing to others, and lead them to live a life of being good example to others to bring them into your Kingdom.

Lord help us as a church to evangelize and to spread your Word and reach others with the Gospel of Jesus and disciple them. Lord helps us to plant more Bible studies and new congregations for your church. 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.

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:

NBADAEEACPU

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.