

Impartation – The Call of God

I began to speak last week about creating a '*Growth Environment*' – a place with a Ministry mentality, a place of Affirmation and a place that resources the Dream.

Another feature of a Growth Environment is that it seeks to heighten an awareness of the voice and the call of God in the life of the believer.

So I want to talk a bit about this today and to do so I want to use the story of Samuel. This has great personal significance for me. It is one of the stories and messages that literally changed the direction of my life.

1 Samuel 3:1 – 10 ... what do we learn from this text?

1. **God calls to us.**

What do we mean when we say God Calls? Well there are a few notable things in this text.

Samuel was serving the Lord, firstly as a helper to Eli (1 Sam 2:11) and then as a young apprentice priest wearing the priestly ephod. (1 Sam 2:18)

Yet in 1 Sam 3:7 it says that Samuel '*did not know the Lord*', '*nor had the word of the Lord been revealed to Him.*'

It is possible to be in the house of the Lord, to even be busy with the things of the God and be living as one who has no sense of calling or commission.

The call of God has a sense of Divine invasion about it. It is a moment of deeply personal revelation when God 'calls us up', 'drafts' and 'commissions' us into His purpose for our lives.

2. **We are all Called!**

The bottom line is '*we are all called*' at some level and most of us already have responded to a 'call moment' in our lives. We have already been called to leave the 'family house' and live as the Lord's. This happens when we get saved.

We are already all called to be those who share our faith with others through our Witness & Evangelism. Sometime we need a God moment before this really begins to happen in our lives.

Then a Call can happen in such a way that it absolutely changes the shape and determines the way we plan our future lives. This happens when we are called to serve Him in some Ministry or Mission. (Full time or Part time)

How do I know God is calling me to ministry – it could be a radically supernatural moment like this one for Samuel or it could be a growing desire to give your life to the work of God.

Either way it relates to your future and the way you will live the rest of your life. You may be full-time; you may train as a teacher or a doctor, but fundamentally your heart-beat will that of a called person on a mission for God.

3. *Your calling has a time to it.*

There is a moment, a task for which you were born and purposed in God. God said to Jeremiah - *'in the womb I appointed you ...'* (Jer 1:5); to Esther Mordecai said *'you have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this'* (Ester 4:14)

Samuel was born with a destiny – his name means *'asked for from the Lord'*. Not only did Hannah ask him for, but it was a time in the nation of Israel when many were calling upon God for a deliverer and a prophet ... the Word of the Lord was rare. (1 Sam 3:1)

Somebody has been praying for you; somebody needs you; for some man, women or child you are the answer to their prayers.

There is coming a moment when you will become conscious of God calling you. It may not be to become a missionary, or a minister; it may just something that appears small and insignificant. But it can be the beginning of the rest of your life!

4. *The right way to respond to your calling*

Any call of God requires a response. God will often confront you again and again until you make a clear response.

Sometimes we can do a Jonah and we can run away from our calling. The result is that we live outside of the grace and provision of God.

Samuel was told by Eli to say *'speak Lord for your servant is listening'* ... God wants two things from us - say *'Yes'* and then *'Listen'*.

Would you be willing to just say 'yes' to God right now!