ANSWERING THE CALL OF GOD

2 Samuel 5:1-7

*ILL How many of you answer a call when you don’t know who is calling? How many of you don’t answer a call because you do know who it is? How many of you have special ring tones for special people? I have one for my wife because I want to answer her call every time. I don’t ever want to miss a call from her.

There is a call that you and I should always answer. It is the call of God.

In the Bible, David received a call from God at a very early age and he answered it. That calling defined him, sustained him, and empowered him to fulfill the mission of God and it will do the same for you and me.

Let me give you a little background on the passage of Scripture we are about to read. David was called by God to be king of Israel around the age of 15. He was just a young shepherd boy tending his father’s sheep out in the fields when he was called in and anointed by Samuel, the prophet, in front of his family.

Saul was king of Israel at that time and everyone thought that one of his son’s would be the next king. So David being anointed king eventually created problems. But at first David was enlisted to play his harp for Saul when he was tormented by an evil spirit. The Holy Spirit had left Saul because of his sin.

David proved himself as a brave warrior and an effective military leader. He killed the giant Goliath and led the armies of Israel in many great victories over the Philistines while serving under Saul. But Saul became jealous of David and began to try to kill David.

Eventually David had to run for his life and he spent about seven years hiding from Saul in the desert. David continued to serve God by fighting the enemies of God’s people. That all continued until Saul was killed on the battlefield by the Philistines not David.

At that point, David became king over just one of the tribes of Israel, the tribe of Judea. That began a civil war between the House of Saul and the House of David. That war ended with the death of Saul’s last son. That brings us to...

*2 Samuel 5:1 All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, 'You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.'" *3 When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. *5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years. NIV

*1. The call of God defines you.
God’s calling of David was for him to be the king of the nation of Israel. It defined his whole life. From the time Samuel anointed David at the age of 15 to the end of his life, his calling defined him. Even before David was born, God had called him and that set the course of his life.

David was created by God for a divine purpose and so were you! You were created by God for a divine purpose.

But many people today live lives without meaning or purpose. They wonder through life without a defined course or direction. The truth is that no one finds true meaning, purpose, and direction until they answer the calling of God.

It’s true people fill their lives up with many different pursuits. They may spend their life acquiring wealth, or pursuing pleasure, power, or prestige, but they never fine meaning and fulfillment in any of these things. You can even spend your life seeking spiritual enlightenment and serving humanity but you will never find fulfillment or fulfill the mission for which you were created until you answer the call of almighty God.

You are not an accident of evolution; you are a creation of God, created for a divine purpose.

I hope by now you are curious to know your calling from God.

*You have been:

1. Called by the grace of God to belong to Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:6, Romans 1:5

So many think that is the end of their calling. But so much more!

2. Called to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

3. Called to live a holy and pure life. 1 Corinthians 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:7
4. Called into friendship and fellowship with God. John 15:15, 1 Corinthians 1:9
5. Called to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be a witness for Christ. Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38
(It is recorded 20 times in the New Testament that Jesus issued the call “follow me”. Anything recorded that many times in the New Testament must be important!)
7. Called to be a fisher of men. Matthew 4:19, Mark 1:17
8. Called to be ambassadors of Christ fulfilling the ministry of reconciling people to God. 2 Corinthians 5:17
9. Called to be a royal priest declaring the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9
10. Called to hope in the glorious inheritance of the saints and the incomparably great power of God. Ephesians 1:18
11. Called to share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 2:14
12. Called to reign with Christ for all eternity. 2 Timothy 2:11

That is your calling from God. Isn’t it amazing to think that is your calling and my calling from God?
Your calling from God defines who you are and until you answer your calling from God, your life will be meaningless.

*2. The call of God sustains you.*

David’s calling sustained him in the desert when Saul was trying to kill him. It sustained him through all those difficult years before he became king. David’s calling sustained him even after he became king and even to the end of his life.

God first used the prophet Samuel to affirm David’s calling when he anointed him to be king at his home with his family. (1 Samuel 16:13) I am sure that as long as Samuel lived he reminded David of his calling from God.

God use Jonathan to affirm David’s calling on at least two different occasions. 1Samuel 20:13-17;

*Jonathan said in 1Samuel 23:17, "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." NIV*

*God used Abigail to affirm David’s calling in 1 Samuel 25:28 “...the Lord will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the Lord's battles.” NIV*

*God even used Saul to affirm David’s calling in 1 Samuel 24:20, “I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands.” NIV*

God knows that we need to understand our calling and He knows that we to have our calling affirmed regularly.

So how does God affirm your calling? He does it through the Bible. He has stated our call over and over throughout Scripture. So as you read Scripture, meditate on it, and study it, God reaffirms your calling through the Holy Spirit.

He also uses pastors and teachers to reaffirm your calling. That is one of the reasons it is so important for you and I to be in Bible study and worship.

If you know the call of God and you answer it, it will sustain you in the most difficult times of your life and it will keep you on course when you are tempted to drift.

Listen to how the calling of God sustained the Apostle Paul.

*Acts 20:23 ...in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. NIV*

Paul’s calling sustained him and kept him on mission for Christ.
The task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace was not only Paul's calling, it is your calling and mine. You see my life is not important, what is important is fulfilling my calling and complete my mission.

*ILL. As a young boy Jim Elliot heard about people in other countries died without knowing about Jesus. It made him sad to know that so many people died without Christ. He and his wife answered the call of God to go and tell them about Jesus. When Jim, along with four other Christians were killed by the Aucas (Ow-cuz) Indian tribe in Ecuador as they attempted to tell them about Jesus, it was the calling of God that sustained his wife, Elisabeth. She could have become depressed or angry with God, she could have retreated to the safety of family and friends in the U.S., but the call of God sustained her, guided her, and launched her back into that jungle where her husband had been killed.

Less than two years after Jim’s death, Elisabeth Elliot, her daughter Valerie, and Rachel Saint (sister to one of the other men) were able to move to the Aucas village. Many Aucas became Christians and they stopped killing people.

The call of God sustains you.

*3. The call of God empowers you.

David’s calling from God gave him great power. As a boy, he was able to defeat the giant Goliath. Over and over again, he was able to defeat the enemies of God’s people by the power of God. He heard the call of God and he answered it. As long as David was true to his calling, the power of God was manifested in his life and he was invincible.

*2 Samuel 5:6 The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, "You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off." They thought, "David cannot get in here."

The Jebusites had maintained control of the city of Jerusalem since Joshua had led the Israelites to invade and conquer the Promised Land. Because the city was so well fortified, none of the leaders of Israel had been able to take it. The Jebusites thought it was so well fortified that even the blind and the lame could ward off an attack. David knew that Jerusalem was a strategic city and had to be taken for Israel to possess the land. Because David was fulfilling his calling from God, the power of God was manifested and he was able to take the city.

*7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David. NIV

Our God does not call with impotent words, but with the unfathomable power of the Spirit. If you answer the His call, you will see the power of God manifested in your life just as David did.

ILL. I imagine that most people thought when Elisabeth Elliot went back to the Aucas village, that she would be killed like her husband. But the power of God is manifested when we answer the call of God. Many Aucas became Christians and the killing stopped. That is the power of God.
When we answer the call of God, we are doing God’s will, and we will have the presence of God and the power of God. As more and more of the people of our church answers the call, we will see more and more of the power of God.

Challenge:
Before you were born, you were called! Before the first sunrise, you were called! Before the earth was formed out of nothing, you were called!
Before the universe was created and all the stars hung in their place, you were called!

*God is calling you today. God’s call on your life is as real today as it has ever been.

Have you answered the call of God? Have you been distracted from your calling? You may think it is too late or you’ve sinned too much or you are too old, but none of that is true because the call of God is irrevocable. (Romans 11:29)

*Answer the call of God and your life will be transformed!

Let’s pray.