

The Call Of God; He Wrote Your Life Story

'It is God Who saved us and called us with a holy calling. Not according to our works, but to further His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began' (2 Timothy 1:9).

What is the call of God? It is obeying God when He tells us to do something, whether we want to or not. Not all tasks given to us by God are cosy, comfortable and easy; some could cost us our lives. There have been missionaries who have been killed in the countries where God has sent them to preach, for example. We do not plan our lives. It is the Lord Who has all the plans and all we have to do is follow His lead. The call of God is something we can't command; we don't dictate to God; the initiative is all His. We sow the seeds; God reaps the harvest and we all share the blessing once we reach eternity.

As committed Christians, God has a task for every one of us to do. Salvation is a free gift, but after salvation, comes responsibilities and hard work (Ephesians 2:8 to 10). He calls each of us to do something specific for Him. All of us can 'multi-task'; that is to do a few different ministries at once, but usually God will have one special job for us to do that fits our character, personality and circumstances; a job that fits perfectly into His overall plan for our lives and the lives of those we minister to. Our destiny is ordered by God, and He never makes copies of people. We are all unique individuals. If we are saved, we are also called. Being called is not an extra that is tagged onto salvation, it is part of salvation. Every born-again Christian has been called with a holy calling. We need to comprehend that our calling is not insignificant; the Lord said our service to Him is holy.

If we look at how Jesus called His disciples in Matthew 4:18 to 22, we will be able to see the sovereignty of God. The Lord does what He wants, when He wants, the way He wants and does not ask anybody's permission. God does whatever He pleases (Psalm 115:3), and He chooses whom He will (Romans 9:16). Many people do not comprehend the absolute sovereignty of God and modern Christians need to recognise that. Until we can appreciate and honour the sovereignty of God, we will have difficulty relating to God as our Supreme and Absolute Sovereign; our King, Who must be obeyed with reverence. When Jesus saw the brothers Simon Peter and Andrew, He simply said "Follow Me". He didn't make a big issue out of it but He had enough authority for these two fishermen to leave their employment and go. Then He called James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and they joined Him. Jesus gave these four men only two options – to follow or not to follow. Their lives were never the same after they responded to His call. They left their livelihoods, their families, homes, personal belongings; Peter even left His wife to follow Jesus.

The first four men Jesus called were fishermen. There was wisdom in that call. Dedicated fishermen do not care what the weather is like, they are patient and know how to wait for the right time to do things. If the fish don't bite immediately, the fishermen don't care, they just sit there and wait. They don't become discouraged, they just wait for the fish. The first four apostles Jesus called were busy; two were casting their nets and two were mending their nets. Jesus never called for volunteers which is opposite to modern teaching and Romans 9:16 backs that up. In fact when people did volunteer to follow Jesus, He sent him away (Luke 9:57 & 58 then 61 & 62). Every apostle was Jesus' precise choice. Jesus actually called others too, but they gave excuses and didn't follow Him (Luke 9:59 & 60). Later, Jesus appointed seventy others (Luke 10:1). Notice that Jesus chose them, they didn't chose Him (John 15:16). He just said, "Follow Me" or in other words, "Just do it."

A holy calling sets us apart from other people. It sets limits around our lives and diminishes the things we can indulge ourselves in. For example, we can't write Christians songs while sitting in a movie theatre watching a violent movie, or worse still, a sex scene. We can't pray effectively with the television on. We can't lead a former alcoholic to the Lord if we are given to drunkenness. We can't teach our children to be pure and wait until marriage if we watch pornographic material on the internet. We can't encourage others to listen to Christian music if we listen to heavy rock. To do any of these things while expecting others not to, is hypocritical. We are to do good works with integrity, seriousness and incorruptibility (Titus 2:7 & 8).

What else do the scriptures say about these things? 'I will behave myself wisely and give heed to the blameless way – O when will You come to me? I will walk within my house with integrity and with a blameless heart. I will set no wicked thing before my eyes. I hate the work of them who turn aside; it shall not grasp hold of me. My eyes will look upon the faithful of the land ... he shall minister to me' (Psalm 101:2, 3 & 6). Every Christian should behave themselves wisely and not watch anything provocative; that is to set no wicked thing before our eyes. We need to have the attitude of an athlete and we need to discipline our lives like Paul did (1 Corinthians 9:24 to 27). An athlete practices his craft, and so should we practice our 'craft'. We all have a particular area of excellence that sets us apart. We are called by God to use our talents or gifts and He gets very upset if we refuse to use the gifts He has given to us (Matthew 25:14 to 28). Serving God must be the first priority in our lives. We need not worry about what we are going to do for God because He will show us in due time, when His timing is right.

If we are raising young children, then those precious little gifts must be our first priority while they are young. Being a mother is a very special calling. It is hard work physically, emotionally and time-wise. It is difficult to raise a child up in the Lord, with all the outside worldly pressures. If you are a mother, then you already know what ministry God has for you. To be a successful parent is a tremendous achievement. Never underestimate the value of the ministry of parenthood. If parents don't see parenthood as a holy calling, they may become frustrated. Once the children are grown up, God will have something else for you to do. Everything looks different, when you see parenting as God's calling. If God did not want you to be a parent, He could so easily have stopped it, either by having you remain single, or by causing you to be barren. If God gives you children, it is because He wants you to have them, and that in itself increases the Kingdom of God. If you are a parent and are raising your children up in the Lord, then that is your calling, and don't try to do anything else unless God makes it clear He wants you to. Too many Christian children are being emotionally neglected because their parents think they have to do more than just raise their children, and are not spending the time their children need; and too many Christian children are very badly behaved and are walking away from God because they feel 'pushed aside' when their parents are always ministering to others. When their children reject the Christian life-style as a result, the parents almost always blame the devil for the 'attack' instead of looking at their parenting methods.

We can use the example of a parent. If we want our child to dry up the dishes, then we would make our desire known by asking them and show them how to do the task we have set for them. God does the same. If He wants us to do a task, He will tell us what He wants and will take the time to show us how and if necessary, He will train us. The Lord will usually use the normal training education facilities we have here on earth, before He trains us spiritually. For example, if He calls us to minister to people suffering depression or a mental illness, He would have us go through a normal university and training in that area before we begin our ministry. If He calls us to be a worship leader, He would have us learn

music before we begin to minister. If He calls us to be an author, He would have us learn to read and write before we minister with our writing. However, we must wait for His timing and not try to jump into our ministry prematurely. If our child dried the dishes prematurely, that is before the dishes were washed, the dishes and the tea towel would end up a little bit messy. If we try to begin our ministry before God's time, that too could end up 'messy'.

Once our ministry is underway, it needs to take priority and become our way of life. For example, a professional dancer can't afford to take up competitive swimming, because the wrong muscles would develop. So too, we need to focus on our calling. If we are called to serve the Lord with writing, we can't afford to take the time to study medicine. If we are called to study medicine, we can't afford to take the time to write books. If we are called to shepherd a church, we can't then become a missionary in another country. Our calling is our way of life and we have to give total dedication to our calling, in the same way a dancer makes their dancing their absolute priority. Our appointed calling needs to be a way of life, not just a hobby, and we need to 'walk in' our calling. 'For we are God's workmanship, recreated anew in Christ, that we may do those good works which God planned beforehand for us, that we should walk in them' (Ephesians 2:10). If you have not realised that God planned our ministry beforehand, then you are probably not serving the Lord with your whole heart, in your one specific holy calling. You are possibly spending your time on things that have little or no eternal value. Remember the scripture in 2 Timothy 1:9. Our calling is to further God's purposes, and not according to our works. What are His purposes? To bring as many people into the Kingdom of God as possible, and we are called to do that by using the talents He has given to us. Read 1 Corinthians 12:28 to 31 and Ephesians 4:8 to 16. Those scriptures make it clear that everyone has their own special gift, bestowed upon us by Jesus at His ascension. The gifts are varied but all are to equip the saints [God's people] to do the work of ministering toward building up the body of Christ.

Our holy calling does not depend on our own works, desires, abilities, social status, and sometimes, not even our level of education. If we were to look for employment in the world, those areas of expertise would be considered, but in the Kingdom of God's employment, our Divine Employer looks at the heart, our attitude and the talents He has given to us to use. We don't need a degree to learn how to pray effectively, so people who have never been to school are quite able to lay hands on the sick and pray for them. In that sense, education is irrelevant. If we measure our success as a Christian in terms of education or social status, then we are only looking at man's way and not God's way, because He looks at the heart, not at how many tertiary diplomas we hold.

Our calling is to further God's purpose and grace. God has a purpose for every Christian and every believer should respond to the call of God. In fact He has a purpose for every person on earth, but because of their unbelief and refusal to accept Jesus as their Saviour, many people never fulfil God's purpose for their lives. If we look at dedicated Christians though, we can see God working out His special, distinctive purpose and His grace in their lives. Grace cannot be earned. It is the freely given, unmerited favour of God. Something we don't deserve, but our loving Father bestows it upon us. 'Now to him who works; his reward of wages is not counted as grace but debt'. 'But if it is by grace it is no longer conditioned on works or anything men have done. Otherwise, grace would no longer be grace' (Romans 4:4 then 11:6).

Look at the last few words in 2 Timothy 1:9 again. The Lord called us before the world began. God knew us and chose us before we were born. 'In Your book all the days of my life were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there was none of them' (Psalm

139:16). 'Even so, in order to carry out God's purpose of selection, which depends not on works but on Him Who calls them' (Romans 9:11). 'It is true that He (Jesus) was chosen before the foundation of the world' (1 Peter 1:20). 'You did not choose Me, but I chose you, that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should be lasting ...' (John 15:16). 'He Who had chosen me and set me apart even before I was born, had called me by His grace, to reveal His Son within me so that I might proclaim Him among the Gentiles as the Gospel' (Galatians 1:15 & 16). 'I have chosen you ...' (Isaiah 41:9). 'I have called you for a righteous purpose and in righteousness, I will take you by the hand and will keep you' (Isaiah 42:6). 'I have called you by name; you are Mine' (Isaiah 43:1). 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I separated you and I appointed you' (Jeremiah 1:5). Our calling is a result of God's foreknowledge and choice. We are not accidents of birth, but were born as the will of God, not even the will of our parents (John 1:13). It was God Who ordained our birth in the first place and it is God Who drew us from our mother's womb (Psalm 22:9; 71:6). It took the Lord just six days to create the whole universe, the earth and everything on it, but it took God nine months to form us in our mother's womb. That is how valuable we are to God; how can we then think we are not able or worthy to serve God when He calls? He made us exactly as we are, with the talents we have, so we can serve Him within the calling He has chosen for us. It is almost as though the Lord had a job worked out for His purpose, then brought us to birth to do that job. That is how exact our calling fits in with our abilities.

We are part of God's eternal plan that He thought out before He had created anything on earth. He saved us so we can fit into His plan and He wants every person on earth saved. He doesn't want to let anyone perish, but desires everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9) but many choose to reject God. Those who reject God won't fit into His eternal plan. Our flesh and blood life on this earth is very temporary compared to eternity; it is our spiritual lives that are eternal. We are part of that huge, enormous, vast, universal, eternal, everlasting, never ceasing, heavenly plan that God had in His mind and thought out carefully, before He had even started to speak this earth into existence. That is why it is so important to lead as many people into God's Kingdom as we can – so they too can enjoy being part of the plan for this creation, that we know as mankind. God has other creations that are part of His plan, and they are fulfilling their divine role. Now we humans have to fulfil our divine role. Every person has his own 'place' both on earth and in heaven. Daniel was told to go to his allotted 'place' and rest (Daniel 12:13). Jesus said He was going to prepare a 'place' for us in heaven (John 14:2).

Just as we would not ask our child to do more than they are capable of achieving without giving them some help, so also God will not ask us to do a task that is impossible for us to do. Certainly, nothing is impossible with God, but as mere humans, our abilities are limited unless God Himself gives us supernatural ability. God's faithfulness to us is related to His calling, and to our response to that calling. Many people don't realise how faithful to us God really is. When we come into our calling, then we can fully experience God's faithfulness. 'God is faithful. By Him you were called into fellowship, companionship and participation with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord' (1 Corinthians 1:9). 'May the God of peace Himself, sanctify you and make you holy; and may your spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He Who is calling you, and utterly trustworthy, and He will also do it' (1 Thessalonians 5:23 & 24).

When the Lord reveals His plan for us, and we work with Him to fulfil our calling, it will usually – although not always – be a job that we love doing. We do it because we know we are walking in His will and that gives us peace; and we do it because we are using the very talent He has given to us. If a musician loves to sing and play his guitar, and he then uses

that talent for God, he will love doing it. 'We know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose. For those whom God foreknew He also destined from the beginning to be moulded into the image of His Son ... and those whom He thus fore-ordained, He also called, and those whom He called, He also justified, and those He justified, He glorified' (Romans 8:28 to 30).

Many people feel they are unable to get close to God; as though there is a barrier. They seek God and genuinely want to know what He has called them to, but they can't quite hear Him. One barrier that will hinder your calling, is embracing the world. That is called sin. You can't reap the spiritual by sowing to the flesh (Galatians 6:8). For example, one thing most of us can do is swap the time we spend watching television for the time we spend reading the Bible. One secular survey revealed that Christians on average, spend up to three hours watching television each day and as little as a few minutes spending time with God. We can't be ready to take up our calling until we focus wholly on God. Our calling is far more important than anything we do for the flesh. Our flesh is to be subdued to serve God; we are to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh (Romans 8:1). We are no more successful in our calling than we are dedicated to the Lord.

Some people will excuse the call of God and put up a barrier that can frustrate their own spiritual fulfilment. God may call us for a specific time in our lives, but just for a short time, fulfilling a purpose. God may call us to support a missionary from one night of preaching to many years, or we could be called to be missionaries. The whole call of God is a very broad subject. Whether God calls us to do a job for one day, or whether we are called to a lifetime of service, some people will make excuses and disobey. If we look at the parable of the two sons Jesus spoke about; one son initially refused to go, then changed his mind and went; the second son said he would go, but did not. Jesus said the first son was the obedient one (Matthew 21:28 to 31). If we first refuse the call of God, there is time to change our minds and go, because if we don't obey, the Lord may force us to change our minds. Jonah did not want to obey the call of God and was going away from God's presence, or trying to run from God's calling. Jonah did end up preaching to Nineveh and brought the city to repentance, just like God told him to, but Jonah became angry at God because the city repented, 'Angry enough to die' (Jonah 4:9). Strange as it may seem, when Jonah was in the belly of the fish, he cried out to God to save his life; when he had obeyed and had completed his job, he prayed for God to let him die.

One excuse we can give to excuse God's call, is false perceptions of the world around us, false perceptions of the Lord or false or negative perceptions of ourselves. Initially, Gideon did not seem keen to do God's will. 'Oh Lord, how can I deliver Israel?' (Judges 6:11). Then Gideon put out a fleece of sheepskin twice, to check that the Lord really would do what He said He would do (Judges 6:36 to 40). Gideon had a false perception of the Lord (Judges 6:13b) and he had a false perception of himself (Judges 6:15). Peter had a false perception of the world when he looked at his surroundings and took his eyes off Jesus, then sank into the water (Matthew 14:28 to 31). We need to see the world as God sees it, not as we see it. Some people use what happened to them in the past as an excuse not to serve God in the future. Some people use their current situation as an excuse not to respond to God's call. Gideon thought the Lord had forsaken the people (Judges 6:13b). He seemed to wonder where their miracle-working God was. Sometimes when God calls us, we can perceive the call is just our own imagination or wishful thinking. We need to be 'in tune' with God so when He calls, we will instinctively know it is Him. Imagine what Noah thought when God told him to build the ark hundreds of kilometres from the sea! Noah was definitely not looking at his surroundings, but to the Lord. We need to know that when God

calls us to do a specific task for Him; he will be faithful and help us achieve the desired outcome; He can always be relied upon; He will always light our path.

Gideon had a false perception of himself (Judges 6:15). He underestimated his own ability just like Moses did several times. Moses even asked God to send somebody else; he really did not want the job of saving Israel, any more than Gideon did (Exodus 3:11; 4:1, 10, 13; 6:12). That is self-depreciation; not feeling able or worthy enough to respond to the call of God. People can use that as an excuse not to listen to God's call, but when He has a job for us – just like He did with Moses and Gideon – God rarely takes 'No' for an answer. When we feel we can't do the job, then that is just the right time to do it, because we are not doing these things for ourselves in our own strength – we are working for God and He will give us the strength and ability; He will open doors for us and all we need to do is trust Him. Another person who had little self-confidence to serve God was Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:6). Our inability is not an excuse to disobey God. God will use anybody and anything; He even used a donkey to rebuke Balaam who was silly enough to argue with the animal (Numbers 22:28). We need to realise that with God's help, we can do every task set before us because it is not according to our works.

Like Moses and Gideon before him, Saul too downgraded himself. When Samuel began to praise Saul, who was to be king, Saul questioned Samuel with words of self-depreciation (1 Samuel 9:21). Saul was exaggerating downwards his tribe's actual size. The Benjamites were not the smallest tribe as Saul said they were, Manasseh was (Numbers 1:35 & 37) and his father Kish, was a mighty warrior and very wealthy, quite opposite to Saul's words (1 Samuel 9:1). The fact that Saul's servant was able to instantly produce a ¼ shekel of silver, showed Kish and Saul's servants were on a good wage (1 Samuel 9:8). We can have a negative perception of ourselves that will hinder our obedience to God's call.

Some Christians are 'short-sighted' when it comes to responding to the call of God. Short-sightedness causes us to depreciate that which is eternal, just like Esau did (Genesis 25:29 to 34). The call of God for Esau was to claim his birthright which brought with it worldly wealth, but also an eternal covenant with God. "I Am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." If Esau had not been so carnal, that would read, "I Am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Esau" because Esau was the eldest twin. That is how much Esau threw away when he scorned his birthright through spiritual short-sightedness. That is what many people do when they prefer the things of earth instead of the eternal rewards. In the parable of the sower, the cares of the world choked out the things of God (Matthew 13:22).

Fear and unbelief can stop us responding to the call of God. We may feel we cannot do the job without a human companion, like Barak. 'If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go' (Judges 4:8). The job we do is not for us, but for the Lord (Judges 4:9). We need to stand up and respond to the Lord ourselves, and not rely on anyone, not even a spouse. Peter was married, but followed the Lord for 3½ years, then he went out to the mission field. There is no mention that his wife was ever involved in his ministry. Nobody else can do the job God has set for us, because we have been born in the time and place God decreed; He has given us unique talents and has set our spiritual growth up especially for the specific task He has in mind for us as individuals. Nobody else can be us; nobody else can know exactly the same people we know, or respond to those people the way we do. Barak did finally obey God's call and defeat the enemy, but his part was greatly diminished because he was so weak. He wanted a woman (Deborah) to go to battle with him! If Barak had realised how important God's call was on his life, he would have gone whether Deborah went with him or not. If we want spiritual fulfilment and to respond to God's call, we need to participate in everything God has for us,

and we need to have faith to overcome our fear and unbelief so we can respond. We need to be like Joshua and take up the task. We need to accept that God will be with us and help us (Joshua 1:2 to 9). Our response must be like Joshua's was, 'As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord' (Joshua 24:15). We must obey God regardless of what other people think – even if we are asked to do something out of the ordinary. We need to remember, we are not obeying the church, the pastor or any other person – we must obey God, even if it means we stand alone – alone only with God, His Word, His Son and the Holy Spirit – so we are not really alone, but it can feel that way sometimes.

Distractions can hinder us from obeying the call of God. Some people ask to be excused from serving God because they are 'too busy' and consider the invitation unimportant (Luke 14:18 & 19), or they put a spouse or family first (Luke 14:20) but we are warned, people who do that will be rejected from the Lamb's supper (Luke 14:24). This parable was Jesus speaking about the marriage supper of the Lamb. The parable does not say these people would lose their salvation, but it does show that not all believers will be invited to the culmination of this age – which is the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9). If we refuse to hear and obey the call of God, we miss out. The 'busy-ness' could be good Godly things, but if we don't respond then we miss out. These distractions do not necessarily have to be bad things, but if these things distract us from responding to God's call, that is when they are wrong. These excuses will not be accepted by God. If we love anything or anyone more than the Lord, Jesus said we are not worthy of Him and can't be His disciple (Matthew 10:37 & 38; Luke 14:26).

Apathy is one barrier that can stop us from answering the call of God, which frighteningly, can keep us out of heaven. If we read in Matthew chapter 25, the parables of the ten virgins, the three men with their talents then later the Lord telling us about what some did not do to serve Him, we see a list of some very apathetic people. They didn't just miss out on the marriage supper, they were rejected from the Kingdom of heaven itself, because of apathy, fear, laziness and disobedience. It does not matter if God asks us to do a little thing or a big thing; what is important is our response. God sees all obedience as being important and will reward us once we get to heaven. The man with the one talent in verses 24 & 25, was too fearful to use his God-given gift and as a result, was called wicked and lazy and was eventually tossed into hell.

Selfishness or self-indulgence can stop us from obeying the call of God. The servant of Elisha, a man named Gehazi, deceived Naaman into giving him two talents of silver (2 Kings 5:20:27), which in today's currency would have been hundreds of thousands of dollars, then Gehazi lied to Elisha about it. It was Gehazi's greed that brought an immediate end to his ministry. Elisha started as Elijah's servant. If Gehazi had not sinned, it may have been possible, that he could have continued the line of prophets. The scriptures don't say that, but it fits with Elisha the servant, taking the mantle of Elijah, and becoming the major prophet in the land. Gehazi threw all that away, because of self-indulgence and greed. Judas was another man who could have had an amazing ministry with the twelve apostles, but threw it all away when he betrayed Jesus for money. If Judas had repented, he could have been restored. We know that because Peter was restored to fellowship with Jesus after denying Him three times. But Judas ended his life without repenting and ended up being called 'a devil' and the 'Son of Perdition' where Jesus said it would have been better if he had never been born because of the terrible penalty he will receive on Judgement Day (Matthew 26:24; John 17:12 & 6:70). Judas initially responded to God's call, but never really repented. He was always a thief (John 12:6). What impact could Gehazi and Judas have had on history if they had remained faithful and not been so selfish and greedy? Samson was another man who gave in to self-indulgence, but with

him, money was not the object of desire, but women. The first recorded words spoken by Samson to his father, were for his father to get a woman for him (Judges 14:2). Samson's lust prevented him from fulfilling God's call on his very special life. His story is one of the saddest in the Bible, because of his lost potential. David came very close to destroying his call from God because of his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, but happily, David repented and was restored, but his family and his life were cursed as a result of his sin (2 Samuel 12:8 to 14). We can put aside God's eternal call on our lives for something that will satisfy our carnal need, but that will diminish a close walk with the Lord. We need to continue to respond to the call of God for the whole of our lives and not make excuses. These excuses can creep up on us and we need to be aware of them so we can avoid falling into the trap.

How can we discover our calling? We are to make a decisive dedication of our bodies to God as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to Him. We are not to be conformed to this world but we are to renew our minds so that we can prove to ourselves, what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God for us (Romans 12:1 & 2). We can not renew our minds, if our minds are on the things of this world. We are to use the gifts that God has given to us (Romans 12:6) and we are to pray constantly (verse 12). See in verse 1 where we are to be a living sacrifice. That means we are not to walk in the flesh, but we are to walk in the Spirit and be holy. God does not usually talk to the unrenewed mind because we have to be 'in tune' with Him to hear from Him. God cannot get through to our spirit when we are absorbed in a television program, but He can get through to us when we are reading the Bible and are in an attitude of prayer. The carnal mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7; James 4:4) and He can't get through to share His secrets with a carnal mind. Once our body is presented to God and our mind is renewed, God can reveal what His will is for our life and we then discover our calling.

Once we know what God wants us to do, we need to cultivate our calling, or practice our 'craft'. We need to allow our calling to become our life-style, and stay within our calling. If God has called you to be a song-leader, don't try to be something else. If we succeed in our calling, that is no indication we will succeed in another work. Michelangelo was a great artist. Mozart was a great musician. Imagine if they tried to swap places! We are to stay within our God-given task and then we will be praised by God (2 Corinthians 10:13 to 18).

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have been a testimony to the Truth. We are to put off everything that would hinder our calling, and that includes sin. Then we are to work steadily in the course appointed for us, looking away from anything that would distract or hinder us from our calling, and look to Jesus, Who is the Source of our faith. After all, He went before us and is now at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1 & 2). We will be praised by God (2 Corinthians 10:18), just as Jesus was glorified (John 17:1). But we must not become weary and give up (Galatians 6:9). If we try to do several things at once, we may become weary, or 'burned out', but if we focus on our own holy calling, then it will be a joy in our lives. That Folks, is the life story God wrote for us before we were born, using our names which He recorded in His Book of Life spoken of in Revelation 3:5, and from where we receive our eternal rewards (Revelation 22:12).

Amen and God bless you.

<http://www.bibleabookoftruth.com/>