

## God's Calling Requirements Part 3

*"1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him." (Luke 5:1-11)*

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 ***"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch,"*** and it was fulfilled and come true when Simon obeyed and did and his men what Jesus instructed him.

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 this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"*** 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, ***"Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."*** When you start to obey God, the Lord shall give you the spiritual gift to go and serve Him with the gift that He gave to you.

**3- Full time ministry:** ***"So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."*** The Lord enabled Simon Peter to leave everything and served God. Obedience is the key in your hand so that your desire to live only for Christ and serve Him will be fulfilled.

When the Lord asked Peter, ***"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch,"*** 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 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 are 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 put 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 in a multiple way, 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 with 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 you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb, at Zelzah on the border of Benjamin. They will say to you, 'The donkeys you set out to look for have been found. And now your father has stopped thinking about them and is worried about you. He is asking, "What shall I do about my son?" ' 3 "Then you will go on from there until you reach the great tree of Tabor. Three men going up to worship God at Bethel will meet you there. One will be carrying three young goats, another three loaves of bread, and another a skin of wine. 4 They will greet you and offer you two loaves of bread, which you will accept from them. 5 "After that you will go to Gibeah of God, where there is a Philistine outpost. As you approach the town, you will meet a procession of prophets coming down from the high place with lyres, timbrels, pipes and harps being played before them, and they will be prophesying. 6 The Spirit of the LORD will come powerfully upon you, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person. 7 Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you." (1Samuel 10:2-7)*** All what Samuel told Saul God fulfilled to him, ***"9 As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. 10 When he and his servant arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he joined in their prophesying. 11 When all those who had formerly known him saw him prophesying with the prophets, they asked each other, "What is this that has happened to the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?" (1Samuel 10:9-11)*** So when all these had been fulfilled Saul was assure that God is with him.

Samuel further had told Saul to keep and observe the following: ***"8 Go down ahead of me to Gilgal. I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings,***

*but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.” (1Samuel 10:8)* 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 and till 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 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven. 6 When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. 7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. 8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter.” (1Samuel 13:5-8)* 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- *5 The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikdash, east of Beth Aven:* The enemy in large troops gathered against him.
- B- *6 When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns:* Everyone afraid and run for his life and left Saul in the middle alone. Imagine how he feels!
- C- *7 Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear:* Other people moved away to a more comfortable zone while Saul needs to remain at Gilgal where the danger is so near and around.
- D- *8 He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul’s men began to scatter:* Samuel was late, and now even his immediate men and close soldiers started to scatter.

God had changed the heart of Saul, but Saul witnessed all the above events, and ultimately he did the following: *“9 So he said, “Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.” And Saul offered up the burnt offering.” (1Samuel 13:9)* 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 needs to do. Samuel told him *I will surely come down to you to sacrifice burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, but you must wait seven days until I come to you and tell you what you are to do.* 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. *“Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.” (1Samuel 13:10)* Samuel kept the word of God and came at the time that God wanted him to reach Saul. And he was astonished with what Saul did, and the following discussion had happened between them, *“11 “What have you done?” asked Samuel. Saul replied, “When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Mikdash, 12 I thought, ‘Now the Philistines will come down against me at*

*Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD’s favor.’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.” 13 “You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.” (1Samuel 13:11-13)* Saul was rebuked for this shortcoming. 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 his men scattered, but he failed to see God with him, and he failed to understand that 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 won.

Saul was tested with that simple instruction of God through Samuel, as Simon instructed with the word of Jesus to *“Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”* 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:*** Paul said to the Ephesians elders, *“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (Acts 20:32)* 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, as you agree to 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. Lord I repent from the following sins \_\_\_\_\_ . Lord I commit my life and cause unto your hand, I will stop contradict your will and your commands. Give me perseverance and uphold me with your grace to continue to abide with the call that you had ordained for me. This is my prayer in Jesus name. Amen.*

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