

God's Calling Requirements

Part 5

(I thank God for ...)

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 for churches and ministries that were in line of God's will and 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." (2Timothy 1:3-5) 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 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)

Paul thanked God for the life of Timothy because Timothy 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 he achieved in serving the Lord with Paul, and his 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.

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 point and fruit bearing person to the people who cared for you spiritually. The word of God that you read 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) 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)

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)

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 is to evangelize and to share His love with others.

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." (2Corinthians 8:16-17) Paul had a hard time to deal and handle the church at Corinth. He was baffled with them now about to take their parts in the matter of giving. 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 will come true. Titus responded to the 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 achieve that purpose. When you are willing to carry the burden of the church and ministry and volunteer spontaneously to do the required work, this will relief those who are concerned and lead others to give thanks to God for your life.

My Dear and Beloved: Take head of the message, follow the above principles and be faithful to God and to the instructions that you received. 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 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." (2Corinthians 9:13-14) Do the same as you agree to pray. **My Prayer:** Father God thank you for your clear message to me. I come before you in the name of Jesus. I commit myself to change my life and attitude and to conform to the pattern of the Scriptures. Lord I repent from the following sins _____. Lord I commit myself to be a blessing to others. 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. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.

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