

God's Calling Requirements
Part 10
From the Life of Apostle Paul

“13 We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. 14 When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. 15 The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. 16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. 17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. 18 When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. 21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. 22 “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that 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; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. 25 “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. 32 “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. 33 I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” 36 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. 37 They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. 38 What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.” (Acts 20:13-38)

What we had is part of Paul missionary journey where he moved and mobilized himself to meet the elders of the church of Ephesus. As we meditate on the passage our eyes shall be open for the new thing of God that He wants us to learn so we can apply in our life and ministry.

1- Make Arrangement: We can read, *“He had made this arrangement.” (Acts 20:13 KJV)* Paul made arrangement to meet with his companions that he was traveling with, in his missionary journey. You need to be well organized person so you can be able to serve God and to fulfill God’s calling requirements. Disorganized attitude and personality would hinder you from serving God in proper way. Paul made his arrangements with reliable people, he made his arrangement with the disciples to do the work of God. Check also with whom you put your hand

with. If you keep friendships and relationships with worldly people then nothing fruitful will be achieved but frustration and disappointments. Working and making arrangements with faithful disciples will bring forth the real work of God and ministry. The arrangement that Paul made with the disciples made further steps and details of the journey clearer, *“14 When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. 15 The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. 16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. 17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.” (Acts 20:14-17 KJV)* Paul knew what he needed to do before hand. He was a good planner. You too be a good planner of what you need to do before you embark into the ministry.

2- Use even your feet to reach places: *“He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot.” (Acts 20:13)* Paul was moving on foot. Not clear why he did not go with them on the ship from Troas to Assos. But the point that I need to emphasis to you that Paul used his feet to walk and travel. Your feet can be of a big help to you to go and visit, to go and have bible study, to evangelize, to attend prayer meeting, to attend the church meetings, and to go and invite others to come and attend with you.

3- Avoid wasting time and make the most of each opportunity: *“16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.” (Acts 20:16)* Paul had decided to reach Jerusalem on Pentecost, but he needed to meet the elders of the church at Ephesus, therefore he sail past Ephesus. In doing the ministry of God there are certain time you are in time constrain and you need to do multiple task but are limited with certain time limit. That will teach you how much you allocate to each task and the way you achieve the task to avoid wasting time.

4- Your life should be a title and a good example to be followed: *“18 When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.” (Acts 20:18)* The people around you should see and learn and get impacted with the good example of your life.

5- Serve with humility and be willing to be persecuted: *“19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.” (Acts 20:19)* You need humility so you can impart the message further and in a clearer way. Humility means no revenge, no retaliation and willingness to forgive and forget so you can focus further on what you need to do. Great humility means keep focusing on your target even you are severely hurt. Severe testing and facing plot will come across your way in responding to God’s call, and you do not need to be discouraged, instead go forward and walk on these plots underfoot, and that will be the way to face persecution and threats.

6- Do not be hesitated to teach and admonish: *“20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” (Acts 20:20)* Respond to God’s calling by continuous visitation to the homes of friends, families and contacts and combat sin with Scriptures and explanation suited to the situation that the people you are reaching passing through. Keep open your mouth, preach and teach, admonish, exhort, rebuke and correct. Combat sin with the message of repentance, *“21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in*

our Lord Jesus.” (Acts 20:21) Tell the people, ‘If you don’t repent then there is no salvation for you.’

7- Respond and move by the conviction of The Holy Spirit: “22 And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.” (Acts 20:22) In KJV it says, **“I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem,”** This is how you yield yourself to the Holy Spirit and submit your will to Him. Receive warning and act and do not react. Paul was warned by the Holy Spirit that he is going to face trouble but he accepted the task and did not run away. He was repeatedly reminded about persecution but he was the more willing to finish the task and the ministry entrusted to Him: **“23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.” (Acts 20:23)**

8- Be determine to accomplish and finish the task God is asking you to do: “24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:24) In KJV we can read it as the following: **“24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)** Paul was not affected or hindered or moved away by trials, and even his own life was not dear to him; his focus was on finishing the task, **to testify the gospel of the grace of God.** Do not focus on trials, do not focus on threats, but focus on how you finish and complete the task God had entrusted to you.

9- Do not be emotional person: Paul knew that he will not meet the elders of the Ephesians church, **“25 Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.” (Acts 20:25)** And that was not a burden or a problem to Him. His mind and conscious was clear for what he already achieved and had done his part to them by declaring to them the whole will of God.

10- Declare the whole will of God to the people: “26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.” (Acts 20:26-27) Apply the example of Paul into your life. Have you done your part well and have you declared the whole will of God to the people that you are in contact with? If ‘No,’ then you need to be more focusing on how to declare to them the whole will of God because their blood will be on your head. If ‘Yes,’ then don’t let emotions and feelings bother you; **“36 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. 37 They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. 38 What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.” (Acts 20:36-38)**

11- Be watchful on yourself and on the people under your care: “28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28) Devil may attack you or attack the people under your care, therefore be watchful and alert to act and protect.

12- Expect and do not be amazed if there will be wolves trying to persecute and do harm: “29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29-30) Do not react, do not be panic or discouraged if you find

people, after all your hard work and labour for them, will start to do evil against you and against God’s church. That is expected. It happened to Jesus, it happened to the Apostles and the disciples and it will be happening even to us today. Be alert and watchful to rescue the sheep from their mouths. **“31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.” (Acts 20:31)**

12- Commit the people to the Word of God: “32 “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) Commit the people to God’s word; the righteous person will be rewarded according to God’s word and the wicked person will be under judgment with what the word of God ordained for his/her wickedness. Remind always the people that their obedience to God’s word will bring the reward to them and the assurance for their salvation.

13- Do not covet: “33 I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing.” (Acts 20:33) You may serve people who has things better than you, do not covet what they have, but remember that you have God and His word that will give you inheritance in heaven.

14- Manage your life and ministry well: “34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.” (Acts 20:34) Stewardship and honest management for life and ministry is an important aspect and should not be overlooked. That will help you to reach out people without waiting or depending on what they will give you. Your management to your finances is very important to make your life and ministry to go in a smooth way.

15- Work hard to help the weak: “35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35) Help the weak in their weakness and aid them to follow Christ and walk and live according to His word.

16- Be a man and a woman of kneeling down and prayer: ““36 When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.” (Acts 20:36) Train yourself to end and conclude each meeting you have with the people with prayers. Practice kneeling down and trust God to help you in answer to your prayers. Kneeling down it means you are willing to submit to God’s will, it means you are willing to humble yourself before God and willing to serve God’s purpose in your life.

My Dear and Beloved: God’s word always comes on time to us to help us and mold us in the way that God wants us to serve Him so that the mission of God will go further forward and in fruitful and effective way. Make your commitment with God to comply and apply this word of God in your life and ministry to fulfill God’s calling in your life.

Let us review again the 16 points that we discuss and commit ourselves to the principles that we learned from God’s Word.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. I commit myself to apply the principle that I learn from this message in my life and ministry as I commit myself to continue to serve you and do your whole will.*

Lord forgive me the following shortcomings that I have done against you and the against the ministry

Lord give me more fruit of the Holy Spirit, give me more love, joy, peace, patience, perseverance, gentleness, kindness, long suffering and self-control. Lord sustain me, mold me and provide for me to achieve all that. Lord helps each and every member and worker of the church to persevere in the task that you entrusted to him or to her. Lord help each and every family to work and function for the glory of your name. Lord protects your church and protects each and every member and family from the work of devil, and from persecution and from the people that devil will use to attack your church. Lord leads us to evangelize and disciple new people. Lord helps us to plant more bible studies and lord use our feet and send us to people who are thirsty to your word. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and keep us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

*For more spiritual enrichment please visit our website at:
www.churchofgoduae.com*

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

Vol. 16

Issue 48

Share the message with a friend.