International Baptist Church Honolulu Dr. Rick Griffith

Wednesday, 8 Oct 2008 Single Message

NIV 30 Minutes

The Call

***How to Know God is Calling You to Missions***

*Topical Message: Great Commission & Other Texts*

**Topic:** Missions

**Theme:** How can you **know for sure** that God is calling you to missions?

**Thrust:** Each of us is *already* called, empowered, gifted, and assigned a ministry, so now we only need to reorder our priorities around those three things that last.

**Purpose:** The listeners will realize that they each are *already* called to missions—now they need only trust God for the specific *place* of ministry and commit themselves to use the rest of their lives for the maximum impact of the gospel.

# Introduction

### Interest: What a thrill this week to hear about what God has been doing around the world—and we have four more days to go! Each of the missionaries here has this sense of God’s call on their lives.

Black

### Need: How many of you *would like to* ***know for sure*** *whether God is calling you to missions*? Raise your hand if you want to know this!

### Subject: *How can you* ***know for sure*** *whether God is calling you to missions?* This is the topic I have been given for tonight.

For sure

### Background: Of course, the call to missions is not new:

#### God called *Abraham* to leave Ur to be a great nation in Canaan (Gen. 12).

#### God called *Moses* to lead Israel out of Egypt (Exod. 3-4).

#### Christ called *disciples* to witness for Him.

### Text: But how does the concept relate specifically to *you?*

### Preview: Tonight I will give five biblical answers to the question, “*How can you know for sure whether God is calling you to missions?”*

• 5 answers

### Transition: So what’s the first way to know for sure if you have a mission call? It starts with reading your Bible where it clearly and repeatedly says that…

# I. God gave *you* a mission *call*.

MP

# [Every Christian has a missionary call.]

## All five Great Commission passages relate to *you*:

GC

### God called *all* of us to “go and make disciples of *all the nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19-20).

• Mt 28

### God called *all* believers to “preach the gospel *to every person*” (Mark 16:15).

• Mk 16

### “It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name *to all the nations*, beginning in Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

• Lk 24

### As God sent Jesus, so Jesus sent the disciples: “Again he said, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so *I am sending you’*” (John 20:21).

• Jn 20

### “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere -- in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and *to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8).

• Acts 1:8

## Somehow we got the idea that the mission call came only to a select few believers.

Black

### I don’t know where the concept of a special call for a special group of believers came from, but this idea didn’t come from the Bible.

### Even the concept of a corporate call is not new to the NT as Israel as a nation in the OT was deemed to be a “kingdom of priests” (Exod. 19:6). The *whole nation* was called to be mediators between the sinful peoples and the Holy God.

# II. God gave you His indwelling Spirit.

MP

# [Every Christian has the same power for witness.]

## Wouldn’t it be unfair of God to *call* us but not *empower* us for mission? I do!

## However, we have the *same Spirit* that was given on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit in Genesis 1:2 is the same Spirit indwelling the tabernacle and the same Spirit empowering kings for service and indwelling the temple and seen by Ezekiel and empowering the disciples in Acts 2. You have that same Spirit to be a witness!

8 slides

## In my sophomore year of high school in California I first grasped that everyone else that God used were just regular people like me—soon 15 guys were in my study!

Gift!

Where?

Disciples

# III. God gave you a spiritual gift.

MP

# [Every Christian has a special ability to serve God.]

Body

Me? Gifted?

# [Know your gift: It will show how you should contribute to missions.]

Category

Lists

## You are part of the body of Christ and the NT has six lists of abilities he has given us. These break into speaking and serving areas as noted in 1 Peter 4:10-11.

1 Pet 4:11

1 Pet 4:10

## Every Christian has at least one of nine gifts that indicate what he likes to do and does well. What’s yours?

Chart

## So get the best training to maximize the use of your gift (ILL: DTS until “educated beyond my intelligence”).

# IV. God gave you a unique place of service that only you fulfill.

MP

## 1 Cor 12:4-6 says the Spirit gives gifts, the Father empowers their use, and the Son appoints where to use them.

1 Cor 12   
• 4 slides

## Use your gift where it will maximize its potential (SBC for me since 1991).

Puzzle

## I am not talking about your *profession* here.

### A wise writer earlier this century named A. W. Tozer hit it right on the head. He said: “Ask not *what* a man does to determine whether his work is sacred or secular. Ask *why* he does it. The motive is everything. Let a man sanctify the Lord God in his heart and he can thereafter do no secular act.”

Tozer

### We have often told our sons that this is not an issue of occupation—whether Christians or non-Christians pay your salary. The real issue is your motivation.

Family

# V. God gave you only three priorities to outlast this life: God, His Word, and people.

MP

## God is Eternal: Getting to know him will help you see that His heart is big enough to encompass the whole world.

God

3

2 Cor 4:18

## His Word is Eternal: This means that we should do all we can to see the Bible translated into and obeyed in every known language.

Book

## People are Eternal: So don’t do a selfish act! Use your time, talents, money and energy to invest in the souls of people. Do as few things as possible every day just for you—and as many as you can for others.

People

# Conclusion

### We began with this question: *How can you* ***know for sure*** *that God is calling you to missions*? Do you know the answer now?

For sure

### You are *already* called, empowered, gifted, and assigned a ministry, so reorder your priorities around the three things that last (MI)!

MI  
• 3 clicks

### Main Points/Exhortation/Application

APP  
• 5 clicks

• Are you convinced that you are *called* to missions?

• Do you have any doubt that God’s *Spirit* indwells you?

• What is your spiritual *gift*?

*• Where* can you best use that gift for the cause of Christ?

• What *hindrances* do you need to eliminate so you can invest yourself more in knowing God, growing in His Word, and making disciples of people?

Black

### Juan Carlos Ortiz: “Sign the blank paper”—“Don’t’ you trust me?” Prayer

# Discussion Questions:

1. What has resulted from the notion that only *certain* Christians are called to missions?
2. What does the calling of all believers tell us about God?

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Theme/Thrust Statements (Step 5)

Text

# Possible Illustrations (Step 6)

##### A wise writer earlier this century named A. W. Tozer hit it right on the head. He said: “Ask not *what* a man does to determine whether his work is sacred or secular. Ask *why* he does it. The motive is everything. Let a man sanctify the Lord God in his heart and he can thereafter do no secular act.”

Tozer

# Possible Applications (Step 6)

### Text

**Outlines (Steps 2-5)**

***How to Know God is Calling You to Missions***

*Topical Message*

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# Exegetical Idea (CPT):

# I. God gave *you* a mission *call*.

# II. God gave *you* the indwelling Holy *Spirit*.

# III. God gave *you* a spiritual *gift*.

# IV. God gave *you* a unique place of *service* that only you fulfill.

# V. God gave you only three priorities that will outlast this life: God, His Word, and people.

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will realize that they each are *already* called to missions—now they need only trust God for the specific *place* of ministry.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: Missionaries have a sense of God’s call on their lives.

### Need: How many of you *would like to* ***know for sure*** *whether God is calling you to missions*?

### Subject: *How can you* ***know for sure*** *that God is calling you to missions?* This is the topic I have been given for tonight.

### Background: Of course, the concept is not new (Abraham, Moses, priests, Israel)

### Text: But how does the concept relate specifically to *you?*

### Preview: Tonight I want to briefly relate five biblical principles that answer the question, “*How can you know for sure that God is calling you to missions?”*

### Transition: So what’s the first way to know for sure whether you have a mission call? It starts with reading your Bible where it clearly and repeatedly says that…

# I. God gave *you* a mission *call*.

## All five Great Commission passages relate to *you*:

## Somewhere along the line we got the idea that the missionary call came only to a select few believers.

# II. God gave you the indwelling Holy Spirit.

## Don’t you think it would be unfair of God to *call* us but not *empower* us for mission? I do!

## However, we have the *same Spirit* that was given on the Day of Pentecost.

## I first grasped this in my sophomore year of high school…

# III. God gave you a spiritual gift.

## Every Christian has at least one of nine gifts that indicate what he likes to do and does well. What’s yours?

## Get the best training to maximize the use of your gift (ILL: DTS until “educated beyond my intelligence”).

# IV. God gave you a unique place of service that only you fulfill.

## Use your gift in the ministry location that will maximize its potential.

## The past 18 years this has been at SBC for me…

# V. God gave you only three priorities that will outlast this life: God, His Word, and people.

## God is eternal: Getting to know him will help you see that…

## His Word is Eternal: Getting to know it will show that…

## People are Eternal: So don’t do a selfish act!

# Conclusion

### We began with this question: *How can you* ***know for sure*** *that God is calling you to missions*? Do you know the answer now?

### Each of us is *already* called, empowered, gifted, and assigned a ministry, so now we only need to reorder our priorities around those three things that last (MI)!

### Main Points/Exhortation/Application

### Prayer

# Discussion Questions:

1. What has resulted from the notion that only *certain* Christians are called to missions?
2. What does the calling of all believers tell us about God?