

## Four Ways of Entering One's Calling

### Introduction – The Invitation

#### 2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup>Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;

- *There are a number of things that we can learn from this verse about our calling.*
- *“to make your call and election sure” – Everyone one of us has a specific calling and purpose from God.*
- *“ be more diligent to make your call and election sure” – Just because we have a calling does not mean we will enter into it or fulfill it.*
- *“ be more diligent to make your call and election sure” – It requires consistent effort to see the calling of God that is upon our lives fulfilled.*

*“for if you do these things you will never stumble” – If we respond to God's calling and are consistently learning to obey Him, He is faithful to fulfill His will through us and we will not fail.*

*There are many different levels of callings for our lives and as we respond to one it opens the door for the next one until we enter into the ultimate calling God has for our lives.*

#### Mark 2:17 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup>When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

- *The very first call that we all receive is the call to salvation.*
- *Depending upon how we respond to this call will determine the direction for our lives in this life and in eternity.*

#### 1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

<sup>4</sup>who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- *God calls each person to salvation and to put his or her faith in Christ.*

*The parable in Matthew 22 deals with the first calling, the call to salvation.*

#### Matthew 22:1–14 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

<sup>2</sup>The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

<sup>3</sup>and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.

- *The king called and invited people to a wedding feast for his son.*
- *God's call to salvation is not a heavy burden but an invitation to be freed from the burdens and sins of this life so we can feast with the King for all eternity.*
- *"they were not willing to come" – many times people harden their hearts to God's gracious call to salvation.*

<sup>4</sup>Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."'

<sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.

<sup>6</sup>And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.

- *The king reached out to those that rejected the invitation and again pleaded with them to come to the wedding.*
- *The people disregarded the invitation but instead they went about their own business as if they had never received a personal invitation from the king.*
- *Some of those invited not only totally disregarded the invitation but took the king's messengers and treated them badly and even killed some of them.*

*This is a picture of how God is constantly pleading with people to come to Christ and be saved and enjoy fellowship with Him for all eternity, even though they may constantly be resisting.*

<sup>7</sup>But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

- *The king's response to the wicked actions of the people was to bring judgment and destruction to those that were initially invited.*

Proverbs 29:1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

- *The Lord is constantly sending forth His messengers to this world so that they can be saved but the day will come that God will no longer send forth an invitation of mercy but one of divine judgment and eternal damnation.*

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup>And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

- *The Lord continues to reach out to people and invited them to salvation.*
- *Some disregard this invitation to salvation mistaking God's gracious entreaties as a sign that everything will be fine for them no matter how they respond but the day will come that they will stand before God not as their Saviour but as their Judge.*

<sup>8</sup>Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.

- *Why were those initially invited not worthy?*
- *The quality that made them unworthy was simply that they rejected the invitation.*
- *There unworthiness had nothing to do with their own poverty or failures but simply their rejection of the king's generous invitation to come to the wedding feast.*

<sup>9</sup>Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.'

<sup>10</sup>So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

- *The king invited all to his wedding no matter if they were bad or good.*
- *The call to salvation is sent to each person no matter what they have done in their lives.*

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.

<sup>12</sup>So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.

<sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- *Some will stand before God thinking that they have responded to His invitation to salvation not realizing that they have not but instead have done things in their own ways.*
- *Instead of being clothed in the garments of salvation and in the robes of righteousness that Christ has provided for us they are dressed in the unholy robes of religion, self-righteousness, and their own good works.*

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>14</sup>"For many are called, but few are chosen."

- *The parable ends with this remarkable statement.*
- *God calls many to salvation but only those that respond with faith and humility will be chosen for salvation.*
- *"Many are called, but few are chosen." – This speaks about the response to the calling of God and that response results in us making appropriate preparation so we can qualify for the calling which will result in God choosing us.*
- *Our response to the call to salvation so that we can be chosen for salvation is to repent and put our faith in Christ.*

Revelation 17:14 (NKJV)

<sup>14</sup>These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

- *There are three steps to see God's calling on our lives come to fulfillment – called, chosen, and faithful.*
- *Called – We need to listen to the calling of God and then respond to His calling.*
- *Chosen – As we respond to God He then chooses us to the calling that He has placed upon our lives.*
- *Faithful – As we consistently yield to God in obedience and faith we will see and experience the fulfillment of God's calling upon our lives.*

### Ephesians 4:1–3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

<sup>2</sup>with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,

<sup>3</sup>endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- *For those who have come to Christ and are born again, it is important to understand a number of things for us to enter and fulfilling our calling.*
- *“beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” - Each believer must realize that he or she has a calling upon their lives from God.*
- *“beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” – We must not neglect the calling of God that is upon each of us but live lives that are worthy of the calling.*

### Ephesians 4:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

- *The calling that God has for each believer is unique and specific to each one.*
- *Christians are not equal in God’s sight – We are all unique in the way that God has created us and called us and we not interchangeable and no one can perfectly replace us and if we fail to respond to God’s calling their will be a lack in the Body of Christ.*
- *Christians are equivalent in God’s sight – We are all of the same value and importance to God in terms of both His love for us and the calling He has for us in His kingdom.*

### Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup>being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

- *We must understand that it is God Who will fulfill the calling upon our lives as long as we are willing to believe and obey Him.*

### Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup>And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

<sup>12</sup>for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

- *The gifts and calling upon our lives are not for our benefit but so that Christ can ministry through us so that people can be saved and the Body of Christ edified.*
- *We need to have a heart for the lost and the suffering.*
- *We need to have a love for the Body of Christ.*
- *Our love for God and our love for our neighbour will help us to seek to enter our calling.*

Hebrews 3:7–8 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice,

<sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

- *Today if you are hearing the Holy Spirit calling you do not resist Him!*

Romans 11:29 (NKJV)

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

- *God’s calling on our lives remains but our response to it will determine if we will see the fulfillment.*
- *Don’t live in regret for the years that you have failed to respond or even resisted His calling but today is the day to yes to the calling of God and begin to move forward.*
- *There are some here who have never received Christ as their Saviour but today is the day of Salvation.*
  
- *There are some here who are believers but have failed to respond to God’s calling upon their lives. Today we can thank Him for His patience and we can repent and begin to yield to Him in faith.*
- *There are some here who are walking with the Lord are see His calling on their lives developing. Today we can give thanks for what He has done and seek Him to strength our resolve and commitment.*