

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

Topic: The Call into Ministry

**Wednesday, July 24, 2024
Facilitator: Pastor Paul Akoh**

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 4:11-12

What is a Call?

This is a metaphor for God's initiative to bring people to Christ and to participate in His redemptive work in the world. There are different types of callings mentioned in the Bible. The two major ones are:

- **The call to salvation** - Matthew 11:28; 1 Peter 2:9. This is God calling people to Himself as followers of Christ.
- **The call into full time ministry** - Mark 3:13-14; Ephesians 4:10-12, *"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ"* NKJV.

What is Ministry? Greek, "*diakoneo*" meaning "to serve".

Ministry is what every believer does in this life to advance God's kingdom. It means serving as a priest by offering, "...spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God". 1 Peter 2:5, *"you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ"* NIV. A priest is a divine representative who serves a mediator or middleman between God and mankind. We serve under Jesus Christ our High Priest (Heb.4:14-16).

On a general level every believer is called into the ministry - 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Members of the church are gifted for various functions and services –Rom 12:3-8.

Full time Ministry

There exists a corp of believers that are called to dutifully work under Christ's authority as loyal servants. Preaching and teaching God's word, guarding and guiding believers is their lifetime occupation. The term usually refers to the ministry offices mentioned in Eph.4:11.

The church ought to pay them: *"Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."* 1 Corinth.9:13-14 NIV.

How do I know if I am called?

Those called into full time ministry had been ordained by God before they were born - Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:16; Galatians 1:15-16; Eph.1:4. Every believer must seek to discover whether they are called to the ministry or not - Jeremiah 29:11-13, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I*

will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” NKJV

Ultimately, you know you are called by revelation.

Question: *What are the different ways that God communicates with believers?*

Telltale Signs of a Call to Ministry:

1. Visions e.g. Acts 9:3-4; 10:11-14
2. Inner Witness - Romans 8:16; 14. An inner understanding, conviction or perception.
3. Christian service e.g. Philipp. Acts 6:6; 8:5-8. Those who are already busy in kingdom service easily discover their ministry calling.
4. Prophetic confirmation e.g. Timothy. 2 Timothy 1:6-7.
5. Manifestation of grace and spiritual gifts visible to others
6. Mature Christian ministers can tell by the Holy Spirit
7. Every believer should find out from the Holy Spirit whether they are called into full time ministry - Acts 9:6, *“So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” NKJV.*

Question: *What other signs reveal believers called into full time ministry?*

Conclusion

Can you tell if you are called to the ministry? The call to ministry for believers existed before we were born. Before our personal ambitions, careers and comfort. Jesus said the labourers are few - we certainly need more ministers who do nothing else except preach/teach the gospel and serve as servant-leaders among God’s people. It is a little bit more dangerous than the greatest danger on earth to be called to the ministry and not discover it or prepare for it. Study Luke 12:42-48 NKJV.

