

CALLED AND ACCOUNTABLE

Unit 5: When Am I Called?



Memory Verse for the Week

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth,
has come, He will guide you into all truth;
for He will not speak on His own authority,
but whatever He hears He will speak;
and He will tell you things to come.
He will glorify Me, for He will take
of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

[John 16:13-14](#)

Essential Truth for the Week

- God is God! When He speaks, He also ensures that you will hear and will know His call. Your heart will be revealed in your response to Him.
- *No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- [John 6:44](#)
- *He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.*
- [John 14:21](#)
- *If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*
- [John 14:23](#)

Day 1: Knowing the Call

- The Bible reveals, as we study carefully the lives of those God used significantly, that it is when we are in the middle of God's activity in our world that we most clearly know the call of God for our lives. A most significant verse to help us understand this is found in the life and witness of Jesus. He said:
- [John 5:17](#), [19-20](#)
- **What did Jesus say He was doing when the Father revealed His plan?**
- **Waiting anxiously**
- **Pouting and disillusioned**
- **Already working**

- **Why does the Father show the Son what He is doing?**
- **To confuse Him**
- **So that the Son can join Him in His work** **To show Him a better way**
- **When the Father reveals what He is doing, how does Jesus respond?**
- **He does nothing**
- **He acknowledges Him, but continues "business as usual"**
- **He immediately obeys and joins the Father in His work**
- **First, Jesus said that it was the Father who was at work in the world. Jesus was His chosen servant. Jesus said the Son (servant) does not take the initiative, but rather watches to see where the Father (Master) is working and joins Him.**

- Jesus said the Father loves the Son, and therefore shows Him everything that He Himself is doing.
- The Son joins in with the Father, working together with Him.
- It is then that the Father is able to complete all He has purposed to do through the Son.
- This is how God purposed to bring a lost world back to Himself. He does it through His Son, who loves, trusts, and obeys the Father.
- This same pattern is true for how the Father involves us in His work today.

- Because of the relationship of love between the Father and Christians, He will show us where He is working.
- When He shows us His work, we must be quick to join Him and, in turn, become workers together with Christ.
- The example of the life of Christ reveals that it may be costly to join God as He reveals His work. Yet, the end results always glorify God and His purposes.
- Listen to what the Scriptures say concerning the enormous price God and His Son paid for this great salvation.
- [Hebrews 5:7-9](#)

- **What was the end result of Jesus joining God when the Father revealed His activity?**

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- It cost Jesus His life on the cross!
 - Every person through whom God is able to work mightily has lived out this kind of relationship with God. Amos, the prophet, was a layman (a shepherd and a caretaker of sycamore-fig trees). He said,
 - [Amos 7:14-15](#)
 - God had an urgent message that His people, Israel, needed to hear immediately! Time was running out on them. Judgment was very near them. God wanted them to hear from Him and His love one more time. Amos was the man God chose to take His message to His people.

- It surprised Amos, but he responded obediently, and God accomplished His purposes through him. Though they did not heed His message, they did know God had spoken to them through Amos.
- Have you ever felt like Amos when He said "I was no prophet, nor was I a son of a prophet"? Often we quote the first part of Amos's words but do not follow through with the obedience of Amos.
- If God has called you, obey immediately! The safest place you and your family can be is in the center of God's will.

- God also called and used Jeremiah in a similar way. Though the pattern is very similar, the messenger is different. Listen to what happened:
- [Jeremiah 1:4-12](#)
- Have you ever felt like Jeremiah and stated "I am only a youth" and cannot speak or stand before the people? God is not looking for all of your qualifications or abilities; He is looking for your obedience.
- He will give you the words, the opportunities, and the ability, but He wants you to give Him your trust, faith, and willingness to serve.
- God would speak clearly and forcefully to His people, Judah and Jerusalem, and He chose Jeremiah. But the heart of God knew long before Jeremiah was even born that He had "set him apart" for this important time in history.

- This time was critical for His people. God wanted both a long and a passionate pleading from His heart to come to His people. Jeremiah was then shaped by God to be the one through whom He would speak. So tender was the message to Judah that Jeremiah was called "the weeping prophet"!
- [Exodus 3:15](#)
- God has found messengers through whom He could speak and work in every generation in history. Some of the most significant include Moses, the judges, David, all the prophets, the disciples, the apostle Paul, and many more of God's people throughout history.

- This God-chosen process continues to this very day and is the way God will call and work through your life, too.
- God has worked and moved throughout history to accomplish His eternal purpose.
- Always, eternity is in the balance.
- Those He chooses, calls, shapes, and uses are painfully and deeply aware of "this assignment."
- They are the clay and God is the potter.
- God always has a design in mind when He chooses a person.

- **Has God called you to an assignment where you have felt inadequate to serve? What excuses have you been using to stop you from obeying?**

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- Hopefully by now you are coming to understand that God only wants your heart and availability to Him. He can and will shape you for the assignment, but He needs you to step out and allow Him access to fashion your life for use in His eternal plan.

- Read [Jeremiah 18:1-6](#) to see how God desires to shape a life for His service. List some of your discoveries here.

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• **Based on this Scripture, can you see how God has been shaping your life? Explain how God has been shaping your life recently.**

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

• Those God chooses and calls know it is God, know what He is saying, and know how they are to release their lives to Him for His purposes in their day!

• **What assignment are you deeply aware of that God has given you in the last month and how have you released your life to be used for His purposes?**

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Day 2: A Daily Walk, Thoroughly Rearranged

- When God sees a growing, loving, and responsive relationship of trust in Him by one of His children, He continues His call on that person's life.
- He usually does this in the midst of a person's daily routine.
- Through this daily routine, God calls a person to a special and deeper relationship with Him.
- It is also remarkable that the daily response of each person brings the enabling presence and power of the Spirit of God closer to being accomplished through a person's assignment with God.

- For example, God placed His Spirit on the responsive Moses, and later on the seventy elders who were to work with him. ([Numbers 11:16-25](#)).
- The daily walk of Moses with God, guiding His people, was exceedingly demanding for Moses.
- It would require the full presence and enabling that only the Spirit of God could bring.
- But God also provided seventy other key leaders who would share his load of leadership.

- They would require the same Spirit of God. God provided thoroughly, and certainly adequately, for them all.
- This enabling provided what was needed for the leaders to guide God's people according to His commands and purposes.
- **Has God placed able people around your life to walk along side of you as a source of help and encouragement?**
- **If so, write down their names and how God is using them to strengthen your life.**
- **If not, make this a matter of prayer until God brings some of His people around you to walk with you.**

- Later, God commanded Moses to build a tabernacle for His presence among His people. It would require the utmost care and obedience to all God would direct.
- God told Moses He had already chosen and placed His Spirit on some men who would do all that He commanded (read [Exodus 35:30](#) to [36:21](#)).
- They were ordinary workmen, chosen by God and equipped by God's Spirit to do His will in all things.

• **Read [Exodus 35:30](#) to [36:21](#). What kind of work did God equip the people to do in these verses?**

- Do you find it surprising that the Spirit equipped them to do building, wood carving, artistic works, tapestry making, and weaving?
- Often we assume that the Spirit only equips people to preach or teach the gospel.
- However, God equips His people in a wide range of talents to be used to bring honor to His name.
- For example, many retired laypeople are being called of God to use their trade skills to travel throughout the year to build churches, repair buildings after disasters, and renovate church camps.

- To watch these people work and hear their heart for God is to know that they have been anointed by God for His service. Many times the wives of these workmen bring along sewing machines and make clothes for children in need.
- When you see their work, it becomes clear that [Exodus 35:35](#)— "He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work"—is actively demonstrated throughout their life and ministry.

- **Has God equipped you with skills that He desires you to use for His service? If so, write them down below and write a prayer of commitment that the skills He has given to you are now available for His service.**

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- This pattern of God working through ordinary people, called, assigned, and enabled by God, continued through each of the judges of Israel.
- Each was called at a crucial moment in the life of God's people when they needed deliverance from their enemies.
- David's life follows this same pattern (read [1 Samuel 16:13](#)); the disciples and the Apostle Paul were also shaped and used by God in their day.
- *God has huge purposes to accomplish through His people in our day. Our world is changing, and God is orchestrating His people to accomplish His purposes.*

- Now it is our turn. This is especially true because God has huge purposes to accomplish through His people in our generation.
- Our world is changing, and God is orchestrating His people for His purposes.
- But oftentimes they are not in a spiritual condition to respond to Him! So once again, God is looking for someone who will "stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it" ([Ezekiel 22:30](#)).
- So much is in the balance, especially in light of eternity. The heart of God has not changed. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).
- So in this our day, and in your life and mine, it is still incredibly true:

- [2 Chronicles 16:9](#)
- So the process continues. But now it involves you, and it involves me! And God is watching to see how we will respond to Him.
- **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**
- The key to being used by God is the condition of our heart and our willingness to respond in obedience to His call on our life. Our use to God does not rest in our abilities or talents or in the lack of them, but in our availability.

- ***It's not about your abilities or inabilities...it's about your availability.***

- **Why is the condition of a person's heart and not ones abilities the basis on which God chooses to use a person?**

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Day 3: Completely Enabled

- As already mentioned, the one God calls, He also thoroughly and completely equips to enable them to respond in every matter toward God.
- God is on mission and the servant of the Lord must "be where the Master is." And Jesus added significantly, "If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor" ([John 12:26](#)).
- Whole books could be written just on this intimate relationship between the Lord and His servants.
- But the enabling provision of God for His servants is clearly declared and seen throughout Scripture and history. Some of the "provisions of God" are clear.

- **Read the following Scriptures and write down what they state about God's provision for His people.**

- **2 Corinthians 1:20**

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- **Philippians 4:19**

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- [2 Peter 1:3-4](#)

- The greatest of God's provisions is His Holy Spirit. Jesus assured His disciples, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" ([Acts 1:8](#)).
- He had earlier assured them, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth" ([John 14:16-17](#)).

- The Holy Spirit is God Himself, present and active, enabling every believer to do whatever God commands.
- He would always let them know the Father's will for each of them ([John 16:13](#); [1 Corinthians 2:9-16](#)).
- He would guide them into all truth, teach them all things, and bring to their remembrance everything Christ had commanded them ([John 14:26](#); [John 16:13-15](#)).
- He would also help them when they prayed ([Romans 8:26](#)), something that would be so much a part of their relationship to God and His will in their lives.

- And the Holy Spirit would work the Scriptures into their lives as a "sword" ([Ephesians 6:17](#)).
- Those God used in the Old Testament had the Spirit come upon them to totally enable them.
- In the New Testament, every believer would have the Spirit of God at conversion.
- But more significantly, the Holy Spirit would "fill" those whom God called to be available to Him as He took His great salvation message to the whole world.

- *All that was available to people in Scripture is available today to every believer called of God.*
- Now it is our turn. All that was available to people in Scripture is available today to every believer called of God.
- No matter what it is that God commands the believer to do with Him, His provision is already present and available, and the Holy Spirit is actively working to implement all of it into that believer's life.
- No matter how "difficult or impossible" an assignment God places on the life of one of His children, God's provision will completely enable them to do it.

- God's provision for every believer on mission with God is the fullness of His presence.
- In His presence we are "complete" ([Colossians 2:9-10](#)). Every believer is enabled to experience God finishing His work through them ([Philippians 1:6](#)). The Holy Spirit does this in many ways.
- **Read [Colossians 2:9-10](#) and [Philippians 1:6](#). How do these Scriptures shape your understanding of God's equipping for your ministry?**

- One way of enabling comes as the believer spends time in God's Word. In the midst of the study, the Holy Spirit gives a confirming "Yes" to what He knows to be the will of God.
- It comes as a quiet assurance, giving peace and joy. He also gives affirmation when the believer takes time to pray and seek assurance from God of His will.
- To the carefully observant person who prays, there comes a quiet direction to the prayer, putting the person into the center of the will of God (read [Romans 8:26-28](#)).
- When John was praying on the island of Patmos, the Holy Spirit gave him clear direction concerning the will of God (read [Revelation 1](#)).

- **What affirmations and enabling has God brought to your life from prayer and Bible study this past month?**

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- Throughout history, the witness of those used of God indicates that some of the great affirmations of God have come to them in prayer.
- Further affirmations of God come by what He is doing around the believer, and in the midst of His people, the local church.

- *If you sense you know God's will, and yet do not see God doing what He promised, God may be seeking to tell you that either you are not in His will or that His timing is not always immediate.*
- It is important to keep in mind that God can and does affirm His will for His servants.
- If God does not express Himself toward you, He may be trying to let you know something else.
- When God promises something, He does it.

- If you sense you know God's will, and yet do not see God doing what He promised, God may be seeking to tell you that either you are not in His will (read [Isaiah 46:11b](#); [Isaiah 14:24, 27](#); [1 Kings 8:56](#)) or that His timing is not always immediate.
- God may be taking the time necessary to develop character in your life before He can give you all He has planned for you.
- Ask God and He will guide you to know the truth of your situation.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

- God has promised incredible affirmation of His will and His call in our lives.
- It is important that each believer be constantly alert to God's word of confirmation, however He chooses to express it.
- But never go long without some affirmation from the Lord that you are in the center of His will.
- **Describe how God has confirmed that you are currently in the middle of His will and are faithfully fulfilling His call upon your life.**

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Day 4: Necessity of Functioning in the Body

- Christians will also more completely know when they are being called by God as they function in the life of His church (the body of Christ).
- The most complete pictures of the body working together are found in [1 Corinthians 12](#), [Ephesians 4](#), and [Romans 12](#).
- Each member in the body functions where God places him or her in the body, and each assists the other parts of the body to grow up into the Head, which is Christ. This is not merely a figure of speech; it is a living reality.

- The loving Christ is truly present in the church body, and each member really does assist the others to know and do the will of God. Paul constantly affirmed his need of other believers to help him know and carry out the call of God in his life.
- [Romans 1:11-12](#)
- [Ephesians 6:19-20](#)
- **Describe how your life is currently encouraging others in their faith in the church you attend.**

- **Are you letting others in your church encourage your life? How are you doing this?**

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- In the church where God places you He has provided other believers whom He has equipped to assist you in knowing God's call and activity in your life, and whom God has chosen to assist you in carrying out His will.
- *Your life in the body of Christ is crucial if God is to carry out His eternal purpose for your life today.*

- Your life in the body of Christ is crucial if God is to carry out His eternal purpose for your life today. The eye can assist the ear to know what it is hearing, the hand as to what it is feeling, and the feet where to step next.
- The life of the body is affected by each member relating in love to one another ([Ephesians 4:16](#)).
- This will involve you not only in your church family but also with the other churches in your local area (as happened in the New Testament), across the nation, and around the world. God's call is to take the gospel to every person and into every nation.

- God's plan for accomplishing this is to call you to Himself, and then place your life alongside all the others He has called, so that together as one people He can work dramatically across an entire world through you and through His people!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

- God's call in your life always includes your intimate involvement with His people in and through your local church.

- Read [Ephesians 4:1-16](#) and prayerfully consider the following questions.
- How does God want to use you in the church where He has placed you?

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- Are you allowing Him to use you in this manner?

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Day 5: Complete Affirmation

- In a personal relationship with God, God in love affirms His presence and His call in your life daily!
- The heart that seeks Him, finds Him; the life that asks Him, receives; to the one who knocks, God opens a door ([Matthew 7:7-11](#)).
- God responds to His children, and they know that it is God who is affirming their relationship with Him.

- The heart (life) that is earnestly seeking Him will daily spend time in God's Word. When we do, the Holy Spirit uses the Word of God like a sword ([Ephesians 6:17](#)) to convict us of sin, to lead us into "all truth," to teach us "all things," to bring to our remembrance all that Christ has been saying to us, and to help us thoroughly understand and apply His will and call to our lives ([John 14:26](#); [16:7-15](#)).
- As a believer opens the Scripture, the Holy Spirit is present and actively seeking to bring the earnest seeker into the will of God.
- Words suddenly have new meanings and seem to apply directly to our life—and they really do. This is the affirmation of God in our life through the working of the Holy Spirit. The same is true of all Scripture, in particular the life and teachings of Jesus.

- "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)).
- Throughout the entire process, the Holy Spirit "bears witness with our spirit," not only that we are children of God, but that we are in the center of the will of God ([Romans 8:16, 27](#)).
- The person with a heart seeking after God will also spend much time in prayer.
- God has given the Holy Spirit the responsibility to guide each of us into the will of God as we pray ([Romans 8:26-27](#)).

- Too often, our prayer begins quite self-centered and self-focused!
- As we continue to pray, soon our prayer turns to God-centeredness.
- This is the Holy Spirit at work, according to the will of God. Follow the Spirit's directives immediately and completely.
- You may be praying with anger, even resentment, against someone or some situation.
- Soon God's love fills your heart, and your prayer changes to expressions of love and blessing. This is God.

- He has affirmed not only His presence but also His will toward your life. Thank Him and alter everything into His directives, for He is ready to bless you greatly!
- *Sometimes God uses friends or family or persons in your church to give you affirmation for your call.*
- Sometimes God uses friends or family or persons in your church to give you affirmation for your call. Someone shares a Scripture with you that is the very same Scripture God gave you that morning.

- This is God's affirmation! A timely phone call or letter comes—again, God's affirmation to your life and call.
- A caution, or even a word of correction becomes God's affirmation not to proceed.
- Remember, there are no coincidences in the life wholly yielded to God!
- God is completely involved in the life of the one He calls to go with Him.
- But there is an additional word to share at this point.

- If you see NO affirming presence of God in your life or ministry, you need to stop and see if indeed you may be out of God's will, and He is speaking to you by not giving affirmation to your sin and rebellion or disobedience.
- It is also important to remember that "success" as the world defines it may not at all be the affirming presence of God.
- *There are no coincidences in the life wholly yielded to God! God is completely involved in the life of the one He calls to go with Him.*

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

- God never leaves His children to guess whether they are walking in the center of His will. He provides plenty of daily assurances!
- As you have been going through this study, you have been looking at God's call upon your life and His desire to use you in the middle of His activity to redeem the lost of this world. You have been looking at how you are serving in your community, church, and beyond.
- **What affirmations from God have you received during these past five weeks that you are truly seeking and honoring Him? What Scriptures has He used to assure you of your walk with Him?**

- Look back over this week's lesson. Pray and ask God to reveal one (or more) statements or Scriptures that He wants you to understand, learn, or practice. **Write it on the lines below.**

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- **Reword the statement or Scripture into a prayer of response to God.**

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- **What does God want you to do in response to this week's study?**
