

Introduction: One must believe that God really does speak to us in this matter of His call. From Genesis to Revelation, no truth stands out any clearer than the truth that God *“speaks”* to His people. They always know what He saying, and they know how they are to respond. In other words, this is not just an academic exercise or merely a “theological truth.” It is a real relationship with God, and He really does call each of us to Himself for His eternal purposes. This truth is foundational to our understanding of being called and accountable.

I. A Call to Relationship

A. St John 17:3

When Jesus had spoken these things, He raised His eyes to heaven [in prayer] and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, so that Your Son may glorify You. ²Just as You have given Him power *and* authority over all mankind, [now glorify Him] so that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him [to be His—permanently and forever]. ³Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true [supreme and sovereign] God, and [in the same manner know] Jesus [as the] Christ whom You have sent. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

B. Philippians 3:10

¹⁰And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being *continually* conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did];

II. The Nature of this Relationship

A. I Corinthians 15:9-10

⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

Monday Night Bible Study on the Phone

Session 6: What Is A Call?

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B. Galatians 2:19-20

¹⁹For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

²⁰I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

C. Philippians 1:21

²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

D. Philippians 4:11-13

¹¹Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

¹²I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

¹³I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

III. Life in Him

A. St John 15:1-11

¹I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Check Yourself: Ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I enjoy spending time simply talking with God?
2. Do I consider Him and His ways with all of the decisions I make?
3. Am I regularly resting in His peace?
4. Do I find yourself relying on His power and strength to carry me through each day?
5. Are His words increasingly becoming the standard for my words, actions, and thoughts?