



Jesus Christ

Calling....



Decline



Accept

Part 1

Christ's Universal Call to Personal Relationship

1 Samuel 3:1

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

1 Samuel 3:2

One night Eli, who was almost blind
by now, had gone to bed.

1 Samuel 3:3

The lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was sleeping in the
Tabernacle near the Ark of God.

1 Samuel 3:4

Suddenly the Lord called out,
“Samuel!”

“Yes?” Samuel replied.

“What is it?”

1 Samuel 3:5

He got up and ran to Eli.

“Here I am. Did you call me?”

“I didn’t call you,” Eli replied.

“Go back to bed.” So he did.

1 Samuel 3:6

Then the Lord called out again,
“Samuel!” Again Samuel got up
and went to Eli. “Here I am.
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“I didn’t call you, my son,” Eli said.
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1 Samuel 3:7

Samuel did not yet know the Lord
because he had never had a message
from the Lord before.

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So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy.

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So he said to Samuel, “Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, ‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.’”

So Samuel went back to bed.

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“I am about to do a shocking thing
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Principle #1

God has called you; He has been calling you, and He will continue to call you in the future.

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Jeff
long



answering the question
every believer asks



God's Call *Defined*

A specific message from God directly to you that is clearly distinguishable from your own inner voice or the voice of others. It is not a common event and can come in many ways, shapes, and forms.

Abram's Calls

- The Lord had said to – Gen 12:1
- The Lord appeared to – 12:7
- The Lord said to Abram – 13:14
- The Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him – 15:1
- The Lord appeared to – 17:1

God's Call *Defined*

God's call is most often heard Spirit to spirit so it can be hard to quantify at times. God's call is an unmistakable, profound expression, and an inner experience that you know is real.

God's Call *Defined*

- It brings with it new information and new responsibility.
- When God calls, it means it is your turn to get involved.
- God's call establishes boundaries for your life.

God's Call *Defined*

- It means you will say yes to certain things and no to others.
- It means anything incompatible with obeying the call must be rejected in pursuit of the call.

God's Call *Defined*

- It establishes specific barriers, parameters, parenthesis, and guidelines for your life.
- Those who accept the call are able to find contentment within God's imposed limitations.

God's Call *Defined*

- God always calls His people to someone, something, or somewhere but not before He calls us to Himself first.
- The greatest place to be, is in the center of God's call.

God's Call *Defined*

God's call will always go from universal to specific, from previous to current, builds on the past, fulfills the present, and completes the whole.

4 Primary Ways He Calls

- **A sudden experience**
- **A reasoned decision**
- **The prompting of others**
- **Blended successive experiences of the previous 3.**

God's Universal Calls

{Call to Personal Relationship}

[Call to Obey and Follow]

(Call to Serve God)

<Call to Christian Service>

{ [(< Your Life >)] }

Is God Calling Me? by Dr. Jeff Iorg

Principle #1

God has called you; He has been calling you, and He will continue to call you in the future.

Principle #2

God has called everyone who has genuinely placed their faith in Him to communicate with Him directly and to hear His voice.

Why Can't I Hear?

- **Do you believe correctly? Are you misinformed theologically?**
- **Do you believe that God still speaks today?**
- **Has anyone ever taught you how to hear God?**

Why Can't I Hear?

- **Do you believe that God wants to personally and specifically communicate with you?**
- **Do you understand that you are expected to have a personal relationship with God?**

Why Can't I Hear?

- **Do you realize it takes time, effort, and focus to invest in relationship? Are you too busy?**
- **Do you fail to implement and practice quietness, stillness and listening in your spiritual life?**

Why Can't I Hear?

- **Have you allowed life to deafen your ears to the Master's voice?**
- **Are the voices of your desires louder than His voice?**
- **Do you actively read and understand the Bible?**

Why Can't I Hear?

- **Are you living in outright sin or disobedience towards the Lord and His ways?**
- **Have you purposefully deafened your ears to His voice because you don't want to hear Him?**

Principle #2

God has called everyone who has genuinely placed their faith in Him to communicate with Him directly and to hear His voice.

Principle #3

Learning to hear the voice of God personally and being able to discern His calling usually requires help from a spiritual mentor.

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So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. “Here I am. Did you call me?”

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Learning to hear the voice of God personally and being able to discern His calling usually requires help from a spiritual mentor.

Principle #4

It is entirely possible to know about God, to constantly be very near Him, to do good works in His name, and yet, never know Him, much less, be known by Him.

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because he had never had a message
from the Lord before.

Background

- **The time frame is during the end of the time of Judges, where “all the people did what was right in their own eyes.”**
- **Eli’s sons were extremely wicked and corrupt priests.**

Background

- **God had already spoken to and warned Eli about his sons multiple times in 1 Samuel 2:12-36. God had already declared the horrible punishments that they would suffer.**

Background

- **Samuel is Hannah's son. Hannah prayed and begged God for a son, and He answered her prayer. In turn, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord and to the priesthood from birth.**

Principle #4

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Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.

Matthew 7:22

**On judgment day many will say to me,
'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your
name and cast out demons in your
name and performed many miracles
in your name.'**

Matthew 7:23

But I will reply, 'I never knew you.
Get away from me, you who break
God's laws.'

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Principle #5

Christian parentage, spiritual lineage, church attendance, and biblical instruction are all extremely poor substitutes for a personal relationship with God Almighty.

Principle #6

When God personally speaks to you, you won't always love the message, but it will always match

His written word; it will be received by wise, godly people; and it will always come to fruition.

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And the Lord came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!”

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Then the Lord said to Samuel, “I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel.

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I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them.

1 Samuel 3:14

So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings.”

1 Samuel 3:15

Samuel stayed in bed until morning,
then got up and opened the doors
of the Tabernacle as usual.

He was afraid to tell Eli
what the Lord had said to him.

1 Samuel 3:16

But Eli called out to him, “Samuel, my son.” “Here I am,” Samuel replied.

1 Samuel 3:17

**“What did the Lord say to you?
Tell me everything. And may God
strike you and even kill you
if you hide anything from me!”**

1 Samuel 3:18

So Samuel told Eli everything; he didn't hold anything back. "It is the Lord's will," Eli replied. "Let him do what he thinks best."

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When God personally speaks to you, you won't always love the message, but it will always match

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Principle #7

The more you hear, listen to, and obey what God speaks to you personally, the more He will continue to share with you.

1 Samuel 3:19

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable.

1 Samuel 3:20

And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord.

1 Samuel 3:21

The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.

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