

# MESSAGE

Occasion : Lighthouse BBC Coming Together  
Theme : Standing fast, Serving God as Free in 2023  
Focus : Standing in the True Grace of God (1 Pet 5:12)  
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon  
Date : July 2, 2023

**TITLE : THE CALLING AND THE GRACE OF GOD  
(OUR CALLING AND THE GRACE OF GOD IN US)**

Text/s :

2 Tim 1:8-9

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,  
KJV

2 Peter 1:10-12

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.  
KJV

Rom 8:29-30

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.  
KJV

Bible Reading :

Rom 8:28-39

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

KJV

Song/s :

- Love Lifted Me
- He Lifted Me
- He Keeps Me Singing

What Good are Love Songs (Janet Paschal)

What good are love songs if they don't make us lovers  
Why be an eagle that won't spread its wings  
Why write our hearts out we're not moved by the passion  
And if love songs don't change us then why do we sing

Once there were prophets but we would not hear them  
Once there were wonders we would not believe  
Fire and manna rained down from heaven  
Great mighty wind once parted the seas

When we were blindest God sent his vision  
When we were deaf He spoke and we heard  
Light of the World walked through our darkness  
Jehovah Himself the incarnate Word.

Other references :

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## INTRODUCTION

The calling of God is one of the most misunderstood subjects in all circles of believers, churches even Baptists. Some even make use of this calling to go against others, or to propel themselves before and above others.

1 Cor 7:20-24

20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

21 Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

KJV

And some use even the verses without actually knowing the import of such verses:

Matt 20:16

16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

KJV

Matt 22:14

14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

KJV

Rom 11:29-36

29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

KJV

But what are we?

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

KJV

The calling of God is definitely one subject that will make us to stand fast and serve Him as free in 2023. It is the one important subject that if we give diligence to know, to make sure, the Apostle Peter says, "if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

2 Peter 1:10-12

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

KJV

**BODY**

**It is central to understanding what is past, what is present and future.**

Rom 8:29-30

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

KJV

One cannot have an understanding of the foreknowledge and predestination without first appreciating the calling of God.

There is so little revelation in the Bible on foreknowledge and predestination that it is hard to look into these except through the subject of calling.

1 Peter 1:2

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.  
KJV

Acts 2:22-23

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

KJV

Eph 1:4-6

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

KJV

Eph 1:10-12

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

KJV

Yes, we can find these terms in the Bible but to understand these subjects apply to us as His people, we find it hard to understand.

2 Peter 3:16-18

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

KJV

**The calling of God is, too, central into understanding the real import and significant of justification and glorification.**

Rom 8:33-34

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

KJV

Rom 3:25-26

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

KJV

Rom 5:9

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

KJV

Gal 3:8-9

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

KJV

Rom 5:16-18

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

KJV

Rom 5:2

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

KJV

## A) The calling of God

### 1) The calling of God is made in and through Christ, His Son.

Eph 1:17-23

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

KJV

Phil 3:14

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

KJV

### 2) The calling of God is a call to His glory.

2 Thess 1:11-12

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

### 3) The calling of God is made according to His purpose and grace.

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,  
KJV

Romans 8:28-30 (KJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Gal 1:15

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

KJV

The Bible is explicit in the calling of God.

**a) Called according to His purpose and grace.**

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

KJV

**b) Called to be saints.**

Rom 1:7

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

1 Cor 1:2

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

KJV

**c) Called to the fellowship of His dear Son.**

1 Cor 1:9

9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

KJV

**d) Called to liberty.**

Gal 5:13

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

KJV

**e) Called in one body.**

Col 3:15

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

KJV

**f) Called to His kingdom and glory.**

1 Thess 2:12

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

KJV

**g) Called to holiness.**

1 Thess 4:7

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

KJV

**h) Called by the Gospel**

2 Thess 2:14

14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

KJV

**i) Called to the good fight of faith**

1 Tim 6:12

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

KJV

**j) Called from darkness into His marvelous light.**

1 Peter 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

KJV

**k) Called to follow His example and steps.**

1 Peter 2:21-23

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

KJV

**l) Called to be a blessing.**

1 Peter 3:9

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.  
KJV

**m) Called to his eternal glory by Christ Jesus.**

1 Peter 5:10

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.  
KJV

**n) Called to glory and virtue.**

2 Peter 1:3

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:  
KJV

All these Biblical passages point to just one reason:

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,  
KJV

Rom 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.  
KJV

Eph 1:9

9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:  
KJV

Eph 1:11-12

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:  
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.  
KJV

**B) The Grace in the Calling**

2 Tim 1:8-9

8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;  
9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,  
KJV

Eph 1:3-12

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:  
4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:



5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,  
6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.  
7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;  
8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;  
9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:  
10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:  
11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:  
12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.  
KJV

**1) The call of God is effectual because he bestowed grace to everyone He called.**

Rom 11:29

29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

KJV

2 Timothy 1:9 (KJV) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (KJV) That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Galatians 1:15 (KJV) But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (KJV)

11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:28-30 (KJV)

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

**Observe:**

**Whom He called He justified.**

Rom 3:24

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

KJV

Titus 3:7

7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

KJV

**Whom He justified, He glorified**

Eph 1:7

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

KJV

Eph 1:12

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

KJV

## 2) The working of grace in those He called.

We all have fallen short of the glory of God.

Rom 3:23

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

KJV

But by His grace, we are not only saved but His glory is made to be in us.

Eph 1:6-7

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

KJV

Eph 1:12

12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

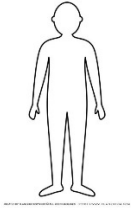
KJV

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

KJV

After we have been called, everything came as working of His grace. And grace came by Jesus Christ.



### C) We are then to be worthy of the calling

Eph 4:1

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,  
KJV

1 Thess 2:12

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.  
KJV

Col 1:10

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;  
KJV

Be worthy of Christ and all His grace in Him.

### CONCLUSION

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#### Calling

2 Peter 1:10-11 (KJV)

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

#### Called

1 Corinthians 7:17, 20, 22-24 (KJV)

17 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.

20 Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

24 Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

1 Peter 2:9, 21 (KJV)

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1 Peter 3:8-9 (KJV)

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

2 Peter 1:3-4 (KJV)

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

### Called and Grace

Galatians 1:15 (KJV) But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

### Calling and Called

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (KJV)

26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Ephesians 4:1-7 (KJV)

1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.