

CALLED TO SERVE - Matt. 22:14; Eph. 4:7-8, 11-16

Not all men are given positions in the body of Christ. God knows those who would be faithful in the area of stewardship and who would effectively carry out their responsibilities to edify the body and to serve the saints in their work within the Ministry **2 Timothy 2:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:27- 30**. God takes a person's attitude into account before He calls that person into ministry. John the Baptist was called into ministry while he was still in his mother's womb. The first two Evangelist we can identify in the Book of Acts, besides the Apostles themselves, were Philip and Stephen. Both of them began as handlers of money (**Acts 6:2-3:5 & 21:8**).

People are called because God sees their inward qualities (**1 Samuel 16:1-13**) and with their individual co-operation they were prepared for the job. Though, some may eventually disappoint God, nevertheless, such people pay heavily.

When man puts into position, people that are not called by God to carry out activities in the ministry, the church is not effectively served. The effectiveness of people who are chosen to serve the body in the ministry is continually based on their personal heart attitude and on going, determined relationship with God.

As they continue to be faithful stewards in the use of their gifts, God continues to increase their ministry and give additional gifts and blessing. But when they are not willing to pay the price of self-denial in different areas of their lives, then they end up loosing the effectiveness of their gifts **2 Timothy 2:20-21**.

“... **many are called; few are chosen**” (*Matt. 22:14*). Many are not willing to suffer as may be necessary in preparation or in carrying out their calling. Those who are willing to suffer persecution for righteousness sake and truly in reality pick up their cross-are the ones from which the Lord is able to choose and to them He releases His blessing. Spirit is God conscious; Soul is *self conscious*; Body is *world conscious* - **Matt. 16:24-25** – self = soul = life; denied - take up your cross – follow him – the soul/self says, I want / think / feel – no but only what God says is important i.e. to deny your soul & say no to your soul / loose your soul.

People will misjudge your intention, gossip about your actions, slander your character and falsely accuse you. Such could come not only from the unbeliever, even from the members of the church and your fellow workers. These are some of the things we should register into our mind. However, in whichever way one may be serving in the church, let us know that it is God that has chosen us.