

Answer the Call

As I lay in bed there was an awful buzzing in my ears that I could not ignore. I reached across in the morning daze and pressed the snooze button for 5 more minutes before I had to get up and start my day. As I laid and waited for the buzzing to start again the Holy Spirit spoke to my inner man and reminded me that all too often I tell God to wait “5 more minutes”, before I am ready to carry out His will. As I pondered these thoughts, the Holy Spirit continued and reminded me of Isaiah.

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah tells us, “And I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Isaiah answered the call and said, “Here *am* I; send me!” His answer is punctuated with an exclamation mark indicating strong feelings or high volume (in typesetting or printing the exclamation mark is called a **screamer** or a **bang**.) Isaiah was not just providing an expected answer; he was shouting out his enthusiasm to do the Lord’s will, without delay. God is waiting for a response from each of us that have been called according to *His* purpose.

Why do we delay in answering God’s call? Let’s look at a few potential reasons for delay.

1. Maybe we don’t know who is calling us.

Our technology today allows us to determine who is calling us on the telephone so we can be prepared to speak with the caller. If the Caller ID indicates an “Unknown Number”, we often don’t answer for fear that it is a Telemarketer, or some other person or business we want to avoid. Is your relationship with the Lord strong enough so that He does not appear as an “Unknown Number” on the call? Have you lost God’s number? Don’t worry, He still has yours and all you need to do is answer the call and He will lovingly give you His number again.

2. Maybe we DO know who is calling us.

How many times has the Caller ID indicated the number of a person to whom you are not ready to speak? Perhaps you were supposed to follow up on an item and you have not done it yet? Maybe it’s someone who saw you doing something you would not like seen on the 10 o’clock news and you know they are going to confront you about this instance. Maybe it is someone you promised you would speak with, but you have been too busy to contact him or her? Answer the call and God will accept your repentance and put that failure as far between you as the east is from the west; never to be brought up again.

3. Maybe we are too busy right now.

The trials and tribulations of modern day saints are many. There is family, work, social events, soccer, football, dance lessons, the list goes on. You tell God that you really do want to speak with Him, but you want to do it at a time when you can give Him your full, undivided attention and that will be later on today; or maybe tomorrow. He is an understanding God and He will surely wait.

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However, what if the need is immediate and God needs you to call someone or pray for someone that is in a dire spiritual, or perhaps even physical, situation. Can the person you are to help wait? Will their situation be put on hold because you are too busy? You may never have another chance to intervene in this specific situation. We have all heard of instances where someone answered God's call and they contacted someone just in time to cause them to reconsider actions that could have been final. If you need help, you surely don't want someone that God has called to be too busy to help you.

4. Maybe you are afraid that if you answer God, He will ask you to do something that you don't think you are qualified, or equipped, to do.

Let's look back at Isaiah. In the two verses prior to his answer to be sent, God equipped Isaiah for the task. He was a man of unclean lips and God had a Seraph take a live coal from the alter to touch Isaiah's lips so that his iniquity was taken away. When we repent and humble ourselves before the Lord, that same anointing comes upon us and we are ready vessels for God to use. We have no need to fear any task He gives. We walk by faith, not by sight. It is interesting that the Seraph could not touch the burning coal with his hands. He had to use tongs. You see this anointing is not available to other spiritual beings, it can only be received by God's greatest creation, mankind. Therefore, we have nothing to fear because no weapon formed against us can prosper as we walk in this anointing.

5. Maybe we are too self-focused.

I mean it is the 4th quarter and your college team is down by 3 points. You have to support them; they can't possibly make it without your help. You have a special mental connection with the coach and players and they will know if you leave the game. This is somewhat exaggerated, but the result is the same. You will answer the call after the game or after you have finished whatever it is that is so important to you right now. God's timing is perfect. When He calls, the time for you to answer is now. Remember, some other saint may be counting on you to pray them through a situation that won't wait for the game to finish.

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, a verse we all know by heart, God said, "if My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

God knows that we have a choice on whether to answer Him or not. As people who are called by His name, we need to always be open to His call and to answer the call now.