

A highly exalted call

A humble, gentle walk of patience and loving acceptance

QUESTION #1 (Ephesians 4:1): Have you fully surrendered to the call of God?

We have a highly exalted calling ...

- Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
- Redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace
- Chosen before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before God
- Predestined as sons and daughters of God
- Total and complete acceptance in the eyes of God

QUESTION #2 (Ephesians 4:2): Has the call of God humbled you?

Following our highly exalted will yield ...

- Humility
- Gentleness
- Patience
- Loving acceptance

QUESTION #3 (Ephesians 4:3-6): Has the call of God called you past your self?

Everyone wants peace and unity of some sort. (1 Thessalonians 5:3) For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

QUESTION #4 (Ephesians 4:7-10): Do you understand that God equips you to answer his call?

Were you standing behind the door when the gifts were given out? No!

QUESTION #5: Can you hear him now?

Can you hear Paul? Can your hear the Holy Spirit of God? If not, then who do you listen to? Who is your storyteller?

5 Questions ...

Can you hear Paul ... ? Christ ... ?

Are you listening to the Holy Spirit of God? If not, then who do you listen to? **Who is your storyteller?**

A good storyteller ...

- A good storyteller tells the story of God, not a story about God.
- A good storyteller has a true dependence on God, not just a head nod to the abstractions of the Bible. He or she will always intersect with the Author of the Book.
- A good storyteller will refuse to take the place of God in your life.
- A good storyteller will discourage your over-dependence on her or him. In other words a good storyteller doesn’t draw attention to himself, doesn’t try to capture you with her charm or personality, doesn’t try to dazzle the masses.
- A good storyteller gets his story right with God first; he is willing to take his thoughts captive and lay them before Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).
- A good storyteller will not force you to choose between her and the truth.
- A good storyteller will not try to intimidate or dominate you.
- A good storyteller may be a person in authority over you, but he will not present himself to be superior to you, neither implicitly nor explicitly.

John MacArthur ... on Ephesians 4:8-10 ...

4:8 When He ascended on high. Paul used an interpretive rendering of Ps 68:18 as a parenthetical analogy to show how Christ received the right to bestow the spiritual gifts (v. 7). Psalm 68 is a victory hymn composed by David to celebrate God’s conquest of the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and the triumphant ascent of God up to Mt. Zion (cf. 2 Samuel 6, 7; 1 Chronicles 13). After such a triumph, the king would bring home the spoils and the prisoners.

Here Paul depicts Christ returning from His battle on earth back into the glory of the heavenly city with the trophies of His great victory at Calvary. Through His crucifixion and resurrection, Christ conquered Satan and death, and in triumph returned to God those who were once sinners and prisoners of Satan. He gave gifts to men. He distributes the spoils throughout His kingdom. [MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2006). The MacArthur study Bible: New American Standard Bible. (Ephesians 4:8). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.]