

# All for the Call

*God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"  
And he said, "Here I am." (Exodus 3:4)*

The life of Moses and the world impact of his influence can only be "explained" by understanding his sense of calling. He was not *driven* by personal ambition. No. He was *called* by God. His example reminds us that our lives will ultimately find their significance not in the forces that drive us... but in the Voice that calls us. Oswald Chambers explains it like this.

*The call of God is like the call of the sea, or of the mountains; no one hears these calls but the one who has the nature of the sea or of the mountains; and no one hears the call of God who has not the nature of God in him.... (Not Knowing Whither).*

Scripture is full of examples of men and women who changed the world because they heard this call and stepped out in faith to follow wherever God led. Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, Peter, Paul, etc. gave all for the call. At first, the call was vague and indistinct. But as they followed in obedience, the purposes of God became gloriously clear!

*The call of God only becomes clear as we obey, never as we weigh the pros and cons and try to reason it out.... As long as we insist on having the call expounded to us, we will never obey; but when we obey it is expounded, and in looking back there comes a chuckle of confidence - "He doeth all things well." (Oswald Chambers).*

Though the call of God is a reality that is profoundly rich in its multiplicity of meanings, there are two basic realities that undergird everything else.

First, **it is a call to a journey more than it is to a destination.** "Follow me," Jesus said to his disciples. It astounds me that no one in that original band of brothers paused to ask, "Excuse me, Jesus, but *where* are we going?" Many have misunderstood their calling in life because they have somehow concluded that the destination was more important than the journey! Our calling is first of all to journey with Jesus. It is only out of *that* fundamental reality that we begin to understand where he wants us to go.

Secondly, **it is a call to a relationship more than it is to a task.** When God's call is understood in terms of what we *do* rather than in terms of who we *are*, we begin to go astray. Though God's call on our lives will inevitably lead us to involvement in various functions, roles and actions, the essence of our calling is not that. Rather, the call is an invitation to intimacy with God. "Follow me," is not just about a journey. It is about a relationship with the One who calls.

Dear friend, are you driven or called? Without a sense of calling we cease to live and merely exist. But when our lives are defined by the One who calls us, we begin to discover purpose, meaning and power. God's very nature is in you! The real question, therefore, is not "Are you called?" but rather "Are you listening?"