

Doctrine of Calling

1. The external call of the gospel is manifested when it is preached to all people indiscriminately. Anyone can hear the gospel but not all will respond to the spiritual truths communicated. Jesus anticipated this and spoke of it in the parable of the Marriage Supper.
 - *Matthew 22:1 And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5 But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7 But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.*
2. In the external call, the gospel is easily dismissed. The internal call is not.
3. The internal call of the gospel is the voice of the Holy Spirit effectively applying the gospel message to the hearts of individuals with sovereign power to repentance, faith, salvation, and service. We see this power in the life of James and John.
 - *Mark 1:20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.*

Therefore, take hope.

- *Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*
4. The internal call gives spiritual power for the dead soul to live in order to believe the gospel. It is an effectual call that cannot be denied.
 - *Romans 8:30 Moreover, whom he did predestine, them he also called: and whom he called them he also justified: and whom he justified them he also glorified.*

6. The reason why so many can turn away from the Lord and reject Christianity is that they have yet to hear the internal call of the gospel. So people continue in their lifestyle of sin.
7. In contrast once the internal call to the gospel is heard and responded to, there are ethical implications.

❖ A worthy walk is demanded.

- *Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.*

❖ The worthy life is to be characterized by holiness, patience, peace and much grace.

- *1 Thessalonians 4:7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*
- *1 Peter 1:15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.*