



Are you fulfilling your Call?

The only way God is going to give you power and grace in all that you do is for you to be in complete fulfillment of your call. Take a close look at your life. Are you fulfilling your call? If not, what is it that is preventing you from being in the center of God's will?

If God called you to be a social worker, you must be in complete fulfillment of your call to be a social worker. What is the point here? The point here is that you will not have the grace and the power for ministry, if you are not fulfilling your call. You become what others force you to become. God will not grant you grace and power simply because you are fulfilling someone's call and not your own.

The Apostle Paul struggled to fulfill his call throughout his ministry. His call came in Acts 9:15-16:

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

To be a chosen instrument is a great honor. However, if you follow Paul in his Missionary journeys, you will see a man struggling to fulfill his call. Paul is following the Apostle Peter, and he, too, struggled to come to the center of God's will. Acts 10:28-29b tells us how Peter humbling himself at Cornelius's house: "You are well aware that it is against our Law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him...May I ask why you sent for me?" This is just one example of how difficult it is to fulfill the heart of God in your call. Peter was finally convinced that his call was to preach to gentiles and they were not "unclean."

Apostle Paul's call had clear direction. However, Paul struggled with trying to persuade the Jews, and found resistance everywhere he went.

Notice that the call was first to Gentiles and Kings and then to the sons of Israel. Is that of any importance? Yes, a call is precise, in order, clear and objective.

From the moment the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Paul at the church in Antioch, Paul began to reach towards the Jews in Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and beyond. Paul's major attention was given towards convincing the Jews of the reality of Jesus Christ. *And yet, if you look closely, the priority of his call was first to gentiles, then to Kings, and finally to the sons of Israel.*

The Apostle Paul was constantly at the edge of his call, treading difficult waters. He suffered persecution. His life was threatened. He was stripped and beaten. Yet he fulfilled an arduous call. Are you in the same situation? Does ministry and just simply living take all the energy you can muster? At the end of the day do you wonder

how you are going to live another day?

Paul began coming to the center of his call in his vision in the second missionary trip at Troas. "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (Acts 16:9). It was in that journey that Paul began to respond to the voice of the Holy Spirit. He tried to enter Phrygia, but the Holy Spirit kept him from entering that area. He tried to enter again at the border of Masia, but the "Spirit of Jesus" would not allow him to enter. Verse 10 of the same chapter says that Paul "got ready at once to leave for Macedonia." The only convert in Macedonia was Lydia, the woman who was a dealer of purple cloth.

The deliverance of the slave girl in Acts 16:16-24 brought both Paul and Silas severe punishment at the hands of the Roman soldiers, and they were put in jail. God delivered them both from jail and from there they went to Thessalonica and Berea, Athens, and on to Corinth, with very few converts. Notice that the trip to Macedonia produced a few converts, mainly, the house of Lydia and the house of the jailer (Acts 16:34).

But in chapter 18 of Acts a radical change occurs in the ministry of the Apostle Paul. He decides once and for all to leave the ministry to the Jews and concentrate on the Gentiles. **For the first time, you might say, he was fulfilling the heart of his real call.** Read Acts 18:5-6:

⁵When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with preaching, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood is upon your heads! I am innocent. **From now on I will go to the Gentiles.**"

Jesus spoke to Paul in a vision (Acts 18:9b-11):

"Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; ¹⁰for I am with you, and no man shall attack you to harm you; for I have many people in this city." ¹¹And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."

In Ephesus, Paul enters a synagogue and also the lecture hall of Tyrannus (Acts 16:10), and ministry takes a different turn. No more a few converts, but thousands come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks." Notice that in the other places his visits produced only a few converts, but after arriving at the center of his call, all residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Remember that Paul tried to enter Asia and was prevented from doing so. But now, Paul is in full compliance of his call.

FROM THIS MOMENT ON IN THE LIFE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL, GRACE AND POWER WERE ABUNDANT. Read the

January 2005

- 1 Rick's Birthday
- 6-8 National Meeting of United Methodist Evangelists
- 14-15 Cecil Williamson at Lake Tiak Okhata, MS
- 19 John Harrison's Birthday (Grandson)
- 21-23 Earl Tyson Conference in Colonial Williamsburg, VA
- 25-31 Brazil Mission Trip

February 2005

- 1-9 Brazil Mission Trip
- 7 Mr. Melson's Birthday
- 13 Michelle's Birthday (Secretary)
- 12-16 Heritage Church in Van Buren, AK
- 19 Women's Prayer Union Meeting in Brunswick, GA
- 27 Assembleia de Deus in Atlanta, GA

March 2005

- 2 Mary Lucy's Birthday
- 2-13 PTCUMC Brazil Mission Trip (Closed)
- 18-20 Pell City First UMC in Pell City, AL
- 19 Sandy's Birthday (Daughter)
- 28-31 Pastors & Leaders Brazil Mission Trip

April 2005

- 1-6 Pastor's & Leader's Brazil Mission Trip
- 9-10 Igreja Presbiteriana in Deerfield, FL
- 12 Tom & Sandy's Anniversary (Son-in-law & Daughter)
- 15 Epworth by the Sea in St. Simons Island, GA
- 29 Rick's Birthday (Son)

May 2005

- 1 Tom's Birthday (Son-in-law)
- 6-8 Mountain View UMC in Gordonsville, VA
- 9 Rick & Mary Lucy's Anniversary
- 19 Sammy & Cindy's Anniversary (Son & Daughter-in-law)
- 30-31 Brazil Mission Trip

Prayer is **POWERFUL**



As I look over the past months, I ask myself: Did my love for my children and grandchildren grow? Did the time that I spent with them increase? Did my love for and relationship with my wife grow? Did the time I spent with her increase? Did the time we spent together in prayer increase?

The love that I show for Jesus Christ our Lord, did it really grow? Do I love Him more now than before? Did the intimate relationship that I have with our Lord grow? Do I spend more time with Him now than before? Has the time that I spent reading God's Word increased? Is prayer really essential to me? Have I shown that it is by being faithful to pray more often?

In the coming months, will we be able to say "yes" to all these questions? Let us plan now to commit our lives full to our Lord! Pray for the desire to be fully committed. (Galatians 2:20) "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Pray that we will strive to be more Christ like than ever before. "You were taught with regard to your former way of life, to put off

your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Yes the more time we spend communicating with God the closer we will be to Him and the more we will understand what He wants us to do for Him. A very important question is do I say, "yes" or "no" to God?

"But grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

Rick and Mary Lucy, thank you for your prayers and financial support. Please continue to pray for Rick, his family, and his ministry here and in Brazil. Please continue to send us your prayer requests. They will be prayed for. Intercessory prayer is a great part of this ministry.

• Art Melson

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accounts of chapter 19 and beyond and you will notice a new anointing, a new move of God with extra power to fulfill his call.

Let me ask you this: Are you fulfilling your call? When retirement comes and you are on your death bed looking back, what are you going to see? A pleaser of persons? Sadness? Regrets? What are you going to see?

My prayer is that you will see the *fulfillment of your call* before your eyes.

• Rick Bonfim

The Women's Prayer Union Meeting on February

19th will be from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at a local church in Brunswick, GA. For further details please call Mary Kicklighter at 912-264-3705 or Mary

Blanche Rice at 912-265-6888.

Experience Brazil

March 4-12, 2005 (closed)

March 28-April 6, 2005 (Pastors and Leaders)

May 30-June 13, 2005

May 30-June 30 (Internship)

September 29-October 13, 2005

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5,6)



Policy Change

Due to policy change at Delta Airlines, Rick Bonfim Ministries must now require a \$1,000 deposit with the application of any mission trip. This deposit will be used to purchase your airline ticket, which must be done within seven days of making the reservation.

In order to assist you with this change, Rick Bonfim Ministries now has the capability to accept VISA, Master Card, and American Express. If you chose to make your deposit using a credit card, a \$40.00 processing fee will be added to the total.

Christmas in Brazil 2004

This page confirms the vision that God gave me December 2000. He told me to get a group of only ladies together and celebrate the birth of Jesus and give to the lost a hope that only Jesus can give.

This past November we had a very exciting trip to Brazil to celebrate an early Christmas with the families involved in our feeding program. We cooked, cleaned, and decorated our church. Then we served three meals on three separate nights. At these meals the people were given Christmas gifts. Our team had praise and worship and Bible studies each day. We had four main areas of ministry: distributing clothing, giving Bibles to the mission's church, visiting a local church, and having a luncheon with the doctor's that work at the Emaus Clinic.

Thanks to each of the ladies and each leader for the separate groups. Thanks to all the people that supported the ladies trip and gave for the projects that we accomplished in Brazil.

God Bless You! If you want more information about the Ladies Trip, don't hesitate to call our office.

Thank you Jesus for all you did for us.

Mary Lucy



Ladies in Their Aprons



Ministry at the Doctor's Luncheon



Group Distributing Clothing in the Hills



Christmas Dinner at the Church



Anointing the New Stove for the Feeding Program



Christmas Dinner at the Church