

“Discerning the Call”
Ephesians 4:7-15
Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. Preachers are not made, they are born!
 - 1. “The gift,” “grace gift,” “spiritual gift” (v.7)
 - 2. “God gives men as gifts to the church” (v.11)
 - 3. I believe God calls certain men into the ministry of a pastor-teacher.
- B. The concept of the call is seen in the Bible.
 - 1. Illustration- Moses, Isaiah (Chapter 6), Jeremiah, Samuel
 - 2. Illustration- John the Baptist, Jesus, Paul
 - 3. How can we discern God’s call?
 - 4. What should I look for to know if I am called?

II. A Strong Inescapable Passion to Preach

- A. “Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4).
 - 1. “His Word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not” (Jeremiah 20:9).
 - 2. *“If a man be truly called of God to the ministry, I will defy him to withhold himself from it. A man who has really within him the inspiration of the Holy Ghost calling him to preach, cannot help it—he must preach. As fire within the bones, so will that influence be until it blazes forth. Friends may check him, foes criticize him, despisers sneer at him, the man is indomitable; he must breach if he has the call of heaven.”* – C.H. Spurgeon
 - 3. “Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task” (1 Timothy 3:1 NIV).

III. A Marked Gift and Ability

- A. “apt to teach” (1 Timothy 3:2 KJV).
 - 1. “Pastor-teacher” (Ephesians 4:11)
 - 2. The gift to teach will always be accompanied by a desire to study.

IV. A Strong Confirmation from Others

- A. Others will see God’s calling and gifting on your life.
 - 1. Not just from your mother, but from church leadership
 - 2. Illustration- John Knox- not self-appointed

V. An Evident Growth in Godliness through Your Study of God’s Word

- A. “A bishop then must be blameless” (1 Timothy 3:2)
 - 1. “not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall” (1 Timothy 3:6 KJV).

VI. Is Your Life and Teaching Having a Positive Influence on the Spiritual Lives of Others?

- A. Is there Spiritual fruit in the lives of others from your ministry?

VII. A Pressing Urgency in the Heart

VIII. An Open Door of Providence

- A. God opens up the door

IX. Conclusion

- A. You must be sure of your call (it keeps going)
 - 1. (Romans 12:1-2)