



“WOMEN OBEYING THE CALL OF GOD FOR THE GOSPEL’S SAKE”

I Corinthians 9:22-23

OVERVIEW:

As a father gives instruction to his children, you must also obey the voice of your Heavenly Father. The bible says, “My sheep know my voice and a stranger they will not follow.” He knows what’s best for you. And He sees what lies ahead. He alone knows exactly what he designed you to do even before you were formed in your mother’s womb. **Jeremiah 1:5** reminds you that, “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I **ordained** thee a prophet(ess) unto the nations.”

A loving and concerned parent is going to make sure that the child has rules and regulations to govern their lives, and that they know right from wrong. They will know that there are consequences to their actions. It just would not be acceptable to let a child run free and do anything and everything without knowing that there are consequences to be dealt with. **Jeremiah 7:23** says, “But this thing commanded I them, saying, obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.” When God calls, you must answer.

I am addressing the issue of women being called to preach. Every since the prophet Joel declared, “Your sons and your daughters will prophecy” the church has not quite known what to do with women ministers. But I want to let you know women of God that you are where God wants you to be for such a time as this. **Jeremiah 29:11** says, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” There is a rightful place for you in ministry and you must harken unto the voice of God because there are consequences to pay for your disobedience!

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

I Corinthians 9:22-23
Jeremiah 1:5
Jeremiah 7:23
Jeremiah 29:11
Matthew 4:18-20

Matthew 28:19-20
Isaiah 61:1
Romans 12:1
2 Timothy 4:3
Romans 8:16-18



—Teaching point one: YOU MUST OBEY THE CALL THAT COMES FROM GOD...

God has a specific purpose and a divine destiny for you. He created you with a free will to make decisions for yourself. You have the power to make life difficult or easy, based on the choices you make. So as God the Father speaks to you, you are required to move without hesitation and apprehension. Understand that God does not call the equipped, but he equips the called. In **Matthew 4:18-20** Jesus said to Peter and Andrew his brother, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The bible says they straightway [immediately, right away, instantly] left their nets and followed him. When God speaks, you need to move; just like that!

How must you obey the call of God?

Is it really necessary for you to feel that you are equipped before you willingly answer the call?

Why?

Why not?



—**Teaching point two: YOU MUST OBEY THE CALL TO SERVE...**

The great commission of Christ found in **Matthew 28:19-20** orders you to act. It commands you to go! [As you go] teach! And baptize! Service is action that should ultimately honor God in the end, not you! You serve God by serving others – in your home, your church and your community. Having a title (i.e., Reverend, Minister, Elder, Evangelist, or Missionary) does not make you superior, it only means that you no longer belong to yourself, but that you now totally and completely belong to God – from the top of your head to the sole of your feet. You are His handmaiden, His spokesperson. **Isaiah 61:1** says, “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to **bind up** the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”

According to Matthew 28:19-20 what does the call to serve look like?

Are you restricted on where and to whom you should serve?



—**Teaching point three: YOU MUST OBEY THE CALL TO SACRIFICE...**

When you have obeyed the called of God to preach the Good News, it is not only a call to Serve but it is also a call to sacrifice. There ought to be some things in your life that you are willing to give up for the furtherance of the Gospel. **Romans 12:1** says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” That means not only must your words be holy, but your walk must also align with that preached word! If you are preaching holiness and sanctification, then your life should represent that as well. Some habits you used to indulge in, you must give up and replace them with some spiritual disciplines! Some places you used to frequent, you must give up unless you are going to minister to the people there! Some people you used to hang with, you must give up if they are living outside the will of God! And some music you used to listen to, you must give up and replace it with songs of Worship & Praise. Some meals you are used to consume, you may now need to push back from the dinner table and diligently seek the face of the Lord! Anything and everything that will hinder the work of the ministry, you are called to sacrifice!

Once you obey the call, should your daily walk remain the same?

Yes

or

No

What are some of the things that you are called to give up?



—**Teaching point four: YOU MUST OBEY THE CALL TO SUFFER...**

You have been called out from among the believers to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Beware, **2 Timothy 4:3** says, “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having **itching ears**.” Those will be the ones who are on assignment for the Devil. They are out to kill, steal and destroy the men and women of God! Prepare to be ridiculed, rebuked and rejected for the cause of Christ. **Romans 8:16-18** says, “¹⁶The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. ¹⁸For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

As a woman of God why must you be prepared to suffer?

What are some of the challenges must you be prepared to endure?

What can you look forward to enjoying after you’ve suffered with Christ?



THINGS TO PONDER . . .

Most preachers that I know who have truly been called to preach did not want to answer the call. They did not want the responsibility of others on their hands. They did not want the task of having to study God’s word diligently and prayerfully. You do know, “To whom much is given, much is required.” It is a great task and burden to have the duty of proclaiming the living word to a dying world! It means not only talking the talk but also walking the walk! The lyrics to a popular R&B song recorded by the late Barry White say it all, “Practice what you Preach!” It is important that you are obedient and live out the true meaning of discipleship. You are not just learners of Christ, but you are to be followers of Christ in both word and in deed.



1. You must _____ the _____ that
_____ from _____.

2. You must _____ the _____ to.
_____.

3. You must _____ the _____ to.
_____.

4. You must _____ the _____ to.
_____.

OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE?