

God Wrote Your Scenario

4131

I. Salvation Includes Calling—2 Tim. 1:8–9

A. Introduction

1. If you are saved you are called
2. Called with a holy calling
 - a. Sets you apart
 - b. Sets boundaries to the things you can indulge in
 - c. Sets limits around your life

B. Not according to our works

1. Does not depend on our own ability, education or social status
2. God's call is not based upon these factors

C. According to God's purpose and grace

1. God has a special, distinctive purpose for everyone
2. Grace begins where our abilities end

D. Given to us in Christ Jesus before time began

1. God foreknew us in eternity
2. On the basis of His knowledge He chose us
3. Having chose us, He predestined us—settled in advance the destiny of our lives
4. In time He called us
5. The calling is the product of God's foreknowledge, predestination and choice

II. God's Faithfulness Is Related To His Calling

A. Faithful to work out what He has called

B. If you do not know His calling, you cannot know His faithfulness

C. Called into fellowship (1 Cor. 1:9)

1. There are means and ends
 - a. Ends—things that you do for their own sake
 - b. Means—things you do for the sake of getting to an end, e.g. preaching and going to church
2. Fellowship is an end
3. Must not be satisfied until we reach that end
4. Fellowship first with God, then one another—1 John 1:1–3
5. When fellowship becomes our objective, then we prove God's faithfulness

D. Called to holiness (1 Thess. 5:23–24)

1. God wants every part of us holy
2. His purpose is to make us holy
3. God's faithfulness is related to His purpose
4. God's faithfulness is in the fulfilling of His purpose

E. Called to good works (Eph. 2:10)

1. We are His masterpiece
2. Called to do good things for God
3. The scenario is already written
4. You will be a frustrated Christian until you find out the good works for which God has specifically created you

- F. God works everything together (Rom. 8:28)
 - 1. Only when we are walking in our calling and fulfilling our purpose does everything work together for good
 - 2. We have to adjust to God's purpose
- G. Personal testimony
 - 1. God's call upon his life
 - 2. Faithful is He who called you who also will do it
 - 3. You will be no more successful in your calling than you are dedicated to it

III. Discover Your Calling (Romans 12:1–2)

- A. Present your body as a living sacrifice
 - 1. In Old Testament the sacrifice was killed
 - 2. God wants a living sacrifice
 - 3. The altar makes the sacrifice (the body) holy (compare Matt. 23:19)
- B. Your mind is renewed when you present God your body
 - 1. The unrenewed mind is self-centered: What will I get out of this?
 - 2. The renewed mind says: What will God get out of this?
- C. Find the will of God
 - 1. It is good
 - 2. It is acceptable
 - 3. It is perfect

IV. Cultivate Your Calling (1 Cor. 9:24)

- A. Example of an athlete
- B. Personal testimony

V. Stay Within Your Calling (2 Cor. 10:13)

- A. You cannot succeed outside your calling (Prov. 27:8)
- B. Every man of God has a God-given sphere

VI. All Heaven is Watching (Heb. 12:1–2)

- A. Lay aside every sin
- B. Lay aside every weight
 - 1. Things that are not sinful
 - 2. Things that hinder you from running