**The Heavenly Calling!**

**HEBREWS 3**

“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our heart is **RESTLESS** until it **RESTS** in You.” —**Saint Augustine**

There are two types of callings from God:

1. The **external call** of the gospel that goes out to the entire world.
2. The **internal call** of God by the Holy Spirit and only those chosen before the creation of the world hear this call. It is an effectual calling because it is irresistible.

Paul explains it like this in **Romans 8:28-30**…

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been* ***called*** *according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also* ***called****; those he* ***called****, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified*.

ONE IMPORTANT QUESTION:

* How can you know that you share in this heavenly calling along with all the true believers here with us tonight?

Four necessary conditions all of which must be true of you:

1. **Y**ou must have been **set apart unto God**. Look at verse 1. “Therefore, **holy brothers**, you who share in a heavenly calling.”

* This word *holy* simply means to be ‘**set apart** unto God.’

**Hebrews 11:13-16** *All these people were still* ***living by faith*** *when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were* ***aliens*** *and* ***strangers*** *on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were* ***longing for a better country****—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.*

1. Your **thoughts are constantly on Jesus**. Look at verse 1 again; “Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, **consider Jesus**…”

* This word ‘consider,’ comes from the Greek word, katanoeṑ (κατανοέω), which means ‘to fix your mind on something or someone continuously.’
* We are to continuously consider, think about, meditate upon, both who Jesus is and what He has done for us.

1. You must have a personal testimony. Look once again at verse 1: “*Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of* ***our confession***…”

* What does it mean to have a personal confession or testimony? It means that you have had a **personal encounter with the living Christ** just like Saul on the road to Damascus.
* How does this happen you ask? When a man is truly born again, the Holy Spirit lifts the veil from his spiritual eyes and gives him sight and understanding.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4** “And even if our gospel is **veiled**, it is **veiled** to those who are perishing. The god of this age has **blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that **they cannot see** the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

* What is the solution? In **2 Corinthians 3:15-16**, Paul writes, “Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.”

1. To share in this heavenly calling, you must **belong** to God. Look at **verses 5 and 6**: **5**Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, **6**but Christ is **faithful over** **God's house** as a son. And **we are his house**, if indeed we **hold fast our confidence** and **our boasting in our hope**.

* If you belong to God, then that means that **Jesus lives in your heart**.
* Here’s a warning from **Romans 8:9**. “You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, **if** the Spirit of God lives in you. And **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ**, he does **NOT** belong to Christ.”

**John 1:12** says, “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name. he gave the right to become children of God.”

In **Matthew 11:28-29** Jesus says, “**Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you **rest**. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls**.”

How should you **NOT** respond when you hear God’s call in your inner being?

* Twice the Lord says to us, “Do not harden your hearts.”
* If you are hearing the call of God, do not turn away from it? Why? Because if you do, that is, if your hearts become hardened due to the deceitfulness of sin, then you will NEVER enter God’s rest.
* Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!! John 1:12