**DILLIGENCE WILL KEEP YOU FROM STUMBLING**

**SCRIPTURE READING…..**

[***2 Peter 1:10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Peter%201.10)***10Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:***

***Beloved, I don’t know about you, but, I am fully convinced that every child of God has a special call of God in their lives. The problem is that not many know what that calling is or what they are to do in the body of Christ! Today many in the body of Christ, have believed that a calling of God is upon them so they go on to assume a certain spot in the church or outside the church only to realized down the road that they were never called by God, usually an outer force whispers in the ear and tweak the mind and they start off real good but when the going gets rough it all begins to becomes a major disappointment to them because God never really called them to the specific call they assumed to be the call of God!!!***

1. **Beloved, one of the greatest thing about the Bible is that, The promises of God for those He has called are great and precious!**

**Here’s how our brother Peter penned the words of the Holy Spirit……**

[**2 PETER 1:4**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%201.4)***; 4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.***

***2 PETER*** [***3:13***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%203.13)***13Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.***

**2. One of The major responsibility upon all of us in the body of Christ is the duty to make our calling and election Sure, as was read earlier.**

 **a. The main trust here is that one's calling and election is conditional!**

 **b. So then those who have been called need to make their election**

 **sure!!!(In other words it has to be a definite decision!!) decisive,**

 **conclusive, and a sincere decision.**

 **C. Also, A child of God must be fully secure about the decision/s he or**

 **she Makes before they begin to operate in the body of Christ in any**

 **office!!**

**It’s my belief that it’s good if we all understood that…..God doesn’t call everyone to fulfill a certain responsibility knowing you are not capable to do so, although he can change anyone if that is what he calls you to!!!**

**Case in point …”MOSES”. God was saying to Moses…”you need to ManUP!!!!!!**

**I. YOUR INITIAL CALL AND ELECTION always comes from God, but how?**

 **A. Listen, GOD CALLS THROUGH THE GOSPEL...**

[***2Th 2:14***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Th%202.14)***14Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

 **2. The gospel of Christ concerning His death, burial and**

 **resurrection –**

[***1Co 15:1-4***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Co%2015.1-4)***15 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;2By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.3For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;4And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:***

 **3. This gospel contains commands that must be obeyed.**

[***1Pe 4:17***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1Pe%204.17)***17For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?***

***Here are just a few commands given to us….***

1. **The command to believe in Jesus –**

[***Jn 8:24***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%208.24)***24I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.***

1. **The command to repent of sins –**

[***Ac 17:30-31***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2017.30-31)***30And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:31Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.***

1. **The command to confess Jesus as Lord –**

[***Ro 10:9-10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2010.9-10)***9That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.***

1. **The command to be baptized –**

[**Mt 28:19**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2028.19)*;* ***19Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:***

1. ***The command to preach His word!***

[**Mk 16:15-16**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mk%2016.15-16)**; *15And he said unto them,*** ***Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.***

[***Ac 19:1-5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2019.1-5)***19 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,2He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.3And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.4Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.5When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.***

[***Ep 4:5***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ep%204.5) ***5One Lord, one faith, one baptism,***

 **c. A Biblical baptism (mode, purpose, subject) can remove all**

 **doubt**

 **-- Make your calling and election sure with a Biblical response to**

 **the gospel!**

**II. YOUR ULTIMATE CALL AND ELECTION**

**Ephesians**

**Let us all remember that MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN...**

1. **Jesus taught this truth in several parables**

 **a. The Tares (weeds)-** [**Mt 13:41-43**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2013.41-43)

 **Not doing those things that offend, or practice lawlessness**

 **(Tares)**

 **b. The Wedding Feast -** [**Mt 22:1-14**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2022.1-14)**..it calls for us to**

 **Adorning ourselves with garments of righteousness. (Wedding**

 **Feast) not adorning the outward appearance but the inner!!**

 **c. The Talents -** [**Mt 25:24-30**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2025.24-30)

 **Utilizing what talents (abilities, opportunities) Christ has**

 **given us (Talents) How are we spending our talents? The theme**

 **for the convention was “Occupy till I Come”… some bibles say**

 **“negotiate these talents till I come!”**

 **d. The Vine And The Branches -** [**Jn 15:1-2**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jn%2015.1-2)

 **Bearing fruit in our service to the Lord (Vine and Branches)**

**ATTENTION:**

**Beloved the reason why so many of God’s children start off in good standing with the Lord, some start off as Pastors others as Evangelists, Teachers etc. then throw in the towel down the road is because they were never called to those positions so they stumble and fall all because their election was not of God and they never put into practice these parables!!!**

1. **Note the calling and election of the nation of Israel**

 **a. Israel as a whole was called to be God's people but they caused God to be against them…–**

[***Deut 7:6***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Deut%207.6)***6For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.***

 **b. But their calling was conditional**

[***Exo 19:5-6***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Exo%2019.5-6)***5 (here’s the condition)Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:6And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

 **c. And many individuals failed to live up to their calling –**

[***Heb 3:7-11***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%203.7-11)***, 7Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,8Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:9When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.10Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.11So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)***

***Heb 3:***[***16-19***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%203.16-19) ***16For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.17But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?18And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?19So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.***

 **3. Similar is the calling and election of the church of God**

 **a. The church as a whole are called to be God's people –**

[***1 Pe 2:9-10***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Pe%202.9-10)***9But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;10Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.***

 **b. Yet our calling and election as individuals is conditional**

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[**Ro 11:22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%2011.22)**; *22Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.***

[**Re 2:4-5**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Re%202.4-5)***Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.5Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***

 **c. We can become hardened by sin and fall away –**

**Let’s look at the word of God and see what it says about the nation of Israel…**

***Hebrew 13:10-15***

***10Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.11So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)12Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.13But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.14For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;15While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.***

 **-- We have been called, but will we be chosen at the last day?**

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[***Mt 25:34***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mt%2025.34)***34Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:***

 **B. MAKING SURE YOUR ELECTION BY GOD...but how?**

 **1. By being fruitful in the knowledge of Christ -** [**2Pe 1:5-11**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%201.5-11)

 **a. Adding to our faith such things as virtue, knowledge,**

 **self-control…etc.**

 **b. Abounding in perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness,**

 **love**

1. **By growing in grace and knowledge**

[***2Pe 3:17-18***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%203.17-18)***17Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.18But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.***

 **a. Aware of the danger of apostasy**

 **b. Standing fast in the grace of Christ**

 **-- Will your entrance into the kingdom be abundantly supplied?**

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[***2Pe 1:11***](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Pe%201.11)***11For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.***

**In Closing….**

1. **It never hurts to ask yourself the following questions….**

1. **Have I truly responded to the calling of the gospel of Christ...?"**
2. **Am I growing in grace...?"**

 **a. Am I abounding in the knowledge of Christ?**

 **b. Am I utilizing what talents Christ has given me in a proper manner?**

 **c. Am I bearing fruit for Christ?**

**With such questions, one seeks only to "Make Your Calling And Election**

**Sure". Paul expressed it this way:**

 **"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test**

 **yourselves."**