

The Call of Jeremiah and You!

Jeremiah 1:1-9

"The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went to exile.

(1)The word of the Lord came to me, saying,

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

"Ah, Sovereign Lord", I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."

(2)But the Lord said to me, *"Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the Lord.*

(3)Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, *"Now, I have put my words in your mouth. **See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant**."*

Using the above scripture and my notes as reference, detail your ministry appointment experience.

A. Write down any significant background of your calling: _____

B. Complete these sentences:

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a _____ to the _____
(Ministry Appointment: Choose from Eph. 4:11) (Area of Ministry: Youth, Impoverished, Country, etc.)

Only note what you feel your inadequacies are so you can recognize God's grace in you.

"I do not know how to": _____

"I am only a": _____

Note the progression of your calling as it came (or comes) to you:

(1) "The word of the Lord came to me when": _____

(2) "But the Lord said to me" specifically: _____

(3) "Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me": _____

Know the landscape of your calling. For me, it was the year my grandmother, Minnie Bell, died. She always felt called to minister the Word of God, and had prayed that her calling would be passed down to one of her children.

1) The "word of the Lord" can come to you through hearing a message preached or taught. It may come from a service, radio or TV, etc. It is a message that may begin to open your mind to a specific area of ministry. You begin with a small interest in it. This "word" even causes you to entertain the notion of ministering in that area.

God has created you for specific works, or ministry. *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10

Nevermind what you think your weakness in age, position, education or appeal may be, God will equip you for every good work!

2) When the Lord says something to you, it will be in a moment where you feel that He has specifically spoken to you about that which was once a notion. He is now speaking clearly to you in such a way there is now a conviction that you must act on it. God can speak directly to you through an event, a friend, scripture, sermon or the like. He will make you feel as if you can do this; removes your protests

3) The Lord touches or equips us to fulfill His calling in our lives. For Jeremiah who had been called as a prophet (a speaking gift/ministry), God touched his lips, enabling him to complete his commission. God gave him the words. God will do the same for you, regardless the task; He will give you what you need.

God then appointed and explained how his ministry would impact the Jews. Jeremiah knew upfront that his ministry would have some difficult tasks (tear down/destroy), but also some exciting plans of hope (to build and plant)!

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." Ephesians 4:11

Apostles: Missionaries
Prophets: Visionary Leaders / Speakers
Evangelist: Outreach / Focuses on the unsaved
Pastors: Shepherds groups / Mentors or Pastors
Teachers: Bible Teachers

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity...Do not neglect your gift...Be diligent in these matters, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

I Timothy 4:12-16