

## TWO CALLINGS

The word “call” is one of the most common words in the Bible. It represents over 20 different words in the Greek and Hebrew texts. The Bible has much to say about being “called” of God. At the risk of over simplifying the subject let us focus on only two callings. Obviously, there may be many more. Please consider:

### The call to be a Christian

- God is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9).
- God speaks, and those who hear and obey his voice are said to be “called” into fellowship with Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 1:9)
- Jeremiah stated it succinctly: “Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people:” (Jer. 7:23).
- The Bible often refers to Christians as those who are “called”.
  - We are “called” to be saints (Rom. 1:7).
  - “Called” by His grace (Gal. 1:15).
  - “Called” into One Body (Col. 3:15).
  - “Called” into His Kingdom (1 Thess. 2:12).
  - He has “called” us out of darkness (1 Pet. 2:9).
  - He called us through the Gospel that we might share in His glory (2 Thess. 2:14).
  - Etc.

### The call to special service

- Paul was not just called to be a Christian, but also called to be an apostle (Rom. 1:1)
- Every believer also has a special “calling”. “But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk” (1 Cor. 7:17).
- Becoming a Christian is like becoming a part of Christ’s Body (1 Cor. 12:12)
- Every member of the Body is different, but each has a special function to perform (1 Cor. 12:14 - 27).
- It is God who designs the Body and calls each member to special service (1 Cor. 12:28)
- We are to walk worthy of the vocation in which we are called (Eph. 4:1).
- These special “callings” are also called “gifts” (Eph. 4:8)
- Every Christian has been given a special gift (Rom. 12:3 - 8).
- Every Christian is to “minister” his or her gift (1 Pet. 4:10).
- The Bible word for “gift” in Rom. 12:6 is “charisma”. This word comes from the root “chara” which means “joy”.
- Those who use the gift God has given them experience “joy”

### What about you?

- God is calling you to be a Christian!
- Have you obeyed His voice and accepted His call?
- If you are a Christian, God is also calling you to a special service!
- Have you obeyed His voice and accepted this call?
- When you obey His call to be a Christian, and obey His call to your own special service - 0 you will come to know the meaning of joy unspeakable and full of glory (1 Pet. 1:8).