

CALLED TO THE MINISTRY AS A SAINT

Stephen Smith LIA 19Feb

Usually a person should keep on with the work he was doing when God called him.

I Corinthians 7:20 (TLB)

We've all heard stories of men or women in the workplace that left their jobs for the "ministry." Certainly God does call people into vocational ministry. However, many times this move is more rooted in dissatisfaction with a career combined with a spiritual renewal or first time commitment to the Lord. The idea of a "higher call" can also appeal to our sense of a greater and nobler destiny.

We have incorrectly elevated the roll of the Christian worker that serves within "the church" or a traditional "ministry" role to be more holy and committed than the person who is serving in a secular environment. Yet the call to the secular workplace is as important as any other calling. God has to have His people in every sphere of life to meet the needs of His creation. Also, many would never come to know Him because they would be separated from society.

We are all in ministry. Some are called to preach. Some are called to the jungles of the workplace. Wherever you are called, serve the Lord in that place. Let Him demonstrate His power through your life so that others might experience Him through you today. View your vocation as means to worship Him. Paul said it right; ***in most cases we're going to remain in the place where He first called us.***

The Saints of God will begin demonstrating the supernatural works of Jesus on a scale that is unprecedented. Millions of born-again, Spirit-filled believers who have been trained and equipped will prophetically speak the words of Jesus and apostolically demonstrate His miraculous power as witnesses of the Kingdom of God.

The Saints of God are those who have been given the privileged opportunity to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. This means not only the conforming of our inward character, attitudes, and desires, but also becoming like Jesus in all our behaviour and interactions with those around us. It includes being empowered by the Holy Spirit to operate in power and miracles to bring God's Kingdom to this earth.

We are quickly coming to the point in history where average Saints will demonstrate the supernatural works of Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus spoke only what He heard His Father speaking and did only what He saw His Father doing, the Saints of God are being trained and equipped to manifest the words and deeds of Jesus as they go about their daily business (John 5:19, 30; 8:28; 14:12).

Saints Are Saved to God's Purpose

Why Human Beings Are Called to Be Saints – Son's of God:

- Men and women that bring liberation and freedom to humanity through the power of God
- People that will disarm the powers of wickedness, and bring humanity out of the clutches of corruption into the glory, light and freedom of God
- People whose conduct will be as God himself on the earth, because of their knowledge of their godly nature
- Sonship is the releasing of the life (zoë) of God in people

Why not take the future to God, but with the clear understanding that everything – all that we have been clinging to in how we "do church" – is on the altar for God to change.

A healthy church will abandon whatever Christ calls them to give up for the sake of the gospel.

We will:

- Build with God's help Yes / No
- Embrace a new work Yes / No

- Let the Spirit lead us into unknown territory Yes / No
- Live our lives on fire for God instead of coasting in comfort Yes / No

These implications centre on a dependent love relationship with Jesus Christ and the return to His sovereignty in the real and practical areas of our lives and the life of the Church – Soteria.

Blessings

Stephen Smith