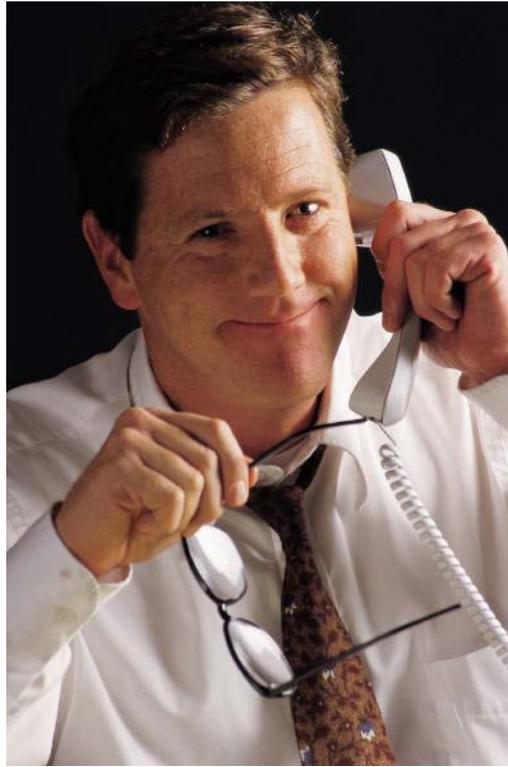


Cross-Cultural Perspectives



Called, Chosen, and Faithful

In the midst of all the mind-boggling stuff and images in the Book of Revelation I find several things easy to comprehend. I see a clearer picture of heaven, our final destination. There, our missions endeavors culminate as “all nations will come and worship before...” the Lamb (Revelation 15:4).

I like it when I read, “the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful” (Revelation 17:14).

Those that are with Him are identified as called, chosen, and faithful. This is the first—and only—time that these three words appear together. This *Cross-cultural Perspectives* is being written while General Conference 2010 is gearing up, plans are hurling around concerning the foreign missions service, and my thoughts are extended to a special group of men and women scattered around the globe. I’m talking about you, our missionaries: the called, chosen, and faithful. You are the ones that have sold all, and given all, to buy into the harvest field. You are treasures and treasured. Because of you, we have so many great things to report to our constituency. You are preparing today, for that day, when the gathered ones will sing, “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9, NIV).

Because of you there will be “a great multitude that no one can count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9, NIV). That is one of the only mental pictures that trumps the feeling I get when missionaries march into the conference auditorium with unfurled flags from around the world.

You are called: not only out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9), but called to take the truth to the ends of the earth. Dr. Thomas Addinton and Dr. Stephen Graves wrote an excellent little book entitled *A Case for Calling*. In it they define “calling” as: “God’s personal invitation for me to work on his agenda, using the talents I’ve been given in ways that are eternally significant.” Calling is what we do to fit into God’s purpose. It is a privilege to be part of His divine agenda.

You are “called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). God “hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose...” (2 Timothy 1:9). “I therefore, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called” (Ephesians 4:1).

We are part of the church, the called out ones. The Greek word utilized was originally used among the Greeks to identify a body of citizens that have gathered to discuss affairs. Together, we proceed full speed ahead with the King’s business; reaching the world.

You are chosen: I suppose there are many that receive a call into missions, but do not respond. I’ve known a few such people myself. A vast array of reasons can keep someone from answering the call. To be chosen, one must respond to the call. The Foreign Missions Board confirms the call resident and evident in the life of a missionary candidate.

What an honor to be chosen by God to be His disciples and to work with Him in the harvest. The chosen are “in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1) and have “put on the Lord Jesus” (Romans 13:14, NKJV). We choose to put God first in our lives, put God’s Word into daily practice, and refuse to become entangled in the affairs of this life. We have another world in view.

You are faithful: You are overcomers, more than conquerors, and triumphant. You stand faithfully in the Lord despite trials, tribulations, sufferings, adversities, afflictions, persecutions, and conflicts. You are trustworthy and continue in the faith. You are grounded and settled, refusing to move away from the hope of the gospel (Colossians 1:23).

You are the doers of God’s Word and are making your calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). You made—and make—a choice. It is not a one time thing. We commit to the choice daily and persevere to the end. As we remain loyal to God we truly become the called, chosen, and faithful.

David Fraser said, “To rule with Christ in his kingdom, we must *hear* God’s calling, *respond* to the calling with a changed life and be *faithful* to that calling until the end of life.”

Then we will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). Remember, you are called, chosen, and faithful.