
1. Introduction

Many people say they are an apostle or prophet because they are called to this ministry. However, this does not mean that they have yet been chosen to these ministries. We know when we are chosen by the fruitfulness of our ministry. It takes time to mature both the gift and the character and the wisdom to move effectively in the ministry.

2. There is a Difference between being Called and Being Chosen

MATTHEW 22:14

"FOR MANY ARE CALLED, BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN."

REVELATION 17:14

THESE WILL MAKE WAR WITH THE LAMB, AND THE LAMB WILL OVERCOME THEM, FOR HE IS LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS; AND THOSE WHO ARE WITH HIM ARE CALLED, CHOSEN, AND FAITHFUL."

3. Called to the Family of God

The context of the 'many are called but few are chosen' in Matthew 22:1-14 is in reference to the marriage feast at the end of the age. Those who are refused are those who try to enter in through the law. Those who do enter are those who believe in Jesus Christ.

4. Called to be a Disciple

They were called to be a disciple

MATTHEW 4:21-22

GOING ON FROM THERE, HE SAW TWO OTHER BROTHERS, JAMES THE SON OF ZEBEDEE, AND JOHN HIS BROTHER, IN THE BOAT WITH ZEBEDEE THEIR FATHER, MENDING THEIR NETS. HE CALLED THEM, AND IMMEDIATELY THEY LEFT THE BOAT AND THEIR FATHER, AND FOLLOWED HIM.

5. Called to Disciple Others

The disciples were called to disciple others

LUKE 9:1

THEN HE CALLED HIS TWELVE DISCIPLES TOGETHER AND GAVE THEM POWER AND AUTHORITY OVER ALL DEMONS, AND TO CURE DISEASES.

Once they had gone out with miraculous powers they were then called to be apostles.

LUKE 9:10

AND THE APOSTLES, WHEN THEY HAD RETURNED,

But just because they were called it does not mean they moved in the ministry gift of apostles straight away.

6. Called to the Ministry Gifts

Paul was called to be an apostle to the Gentiles at his conversion.

ACTS 22:21

THEN HE SAID TO ME, 'DEPART, FOR I WILL SEND YOU FAR FROM HERE TO THE GENTILES.'"

ROMANS 1:1

PAUL, A BONDSERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST, CALLED TO BE AN APOSTLE, SEPARATED TO THE GOSPEL OF GOD

7. Chosen to Leadership

ACTS 6:5

AND THE SAYING PLEASED THE WHOLE MULTITUDE. AND THEY CHOSE STEPHEN, A MAN FULL OF FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND...,

- A. It takes time for a person to develop the character, that is needed to lead. So although someone may be called to leadership, this does not automatically mean they are chosen as a leader.

1 TIMOTHY 5:22

DO NOT LAY HANDS ON ANYONE HASTILY, ...

- B. Paul appointed elders around two years after the churches were planted. So we also need to be careful.

ACTS 14:23

SO WHEN THEY HAD APPOINTED ELDERS IN EVERY CHURCH, AND PRAYED WITH FASTING, THEY COMMENDED THEM TO THE LORD IN WHOM THEY HAD BELIEVED.

8. Chosen to the Ministry Gifts

Paul was not chosen to apostleship until between 13 and 17 years later:

ACTS 13:2

AS THEY MINISTERED TO THE LORD AND FASTED, THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID, "NOW SEPARATE TO ME BARNABAS AND SAUL FOR THE WORK TO WHICH I HAVE CALLED THEM."

9. Jesus- 30 years from Calling to Choosing

A. Jesus' Call

LUKE 2:28-29

**HE TOOK HIM UP IN HIS ARMS AND BLESSED GOD AND SAID:
"LORD, NOW YOU ARE LETTING YOUR SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE,
ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD;...**

B. Jesus' Preparation

HEBREWS 5:8-9

**THOUGH HE WAS A SON, YET HE LEARNED OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS WHICH HE
SUFFERED. AND HAVING BEEN PERFECTED, HE BECAME THE AUTHOR OF
ETERNAL SALVATION TO ALL WHO OBEY HIM**

C. Jesus' Choosing

MATTHEW 3:17

**AND SUDDENLY A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN, SAYING, "THIS IS MY BELOVED
SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASSED**

10. King David - Calling and Choosing

A. Calling at between 13 and 17 years.

1 SAMUEL 16:13

**THEN SAMUEL TOOK THE HORN OF OIL AND ANOINTED HIM IN THE MIDST OF HIS
BROTHERS; AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD CAME UPON DAVID FROM THAT DAY
FORWARD. SO SAMUEL AROSE AND WENT TO RAMAH.**

B. Partial kingship when he was thirty years.

2 SAMUEL 2:4

**THEN THE MEN OF JUDAH CAME, AND THERE THEY ANOINTED DAVID KING OVER
THE HOUSE OF JUDAH. AND THEY TOLD DAVID, SAYING, "THE MEN OF JABESH
GILEAD WERE THE ONES WHO BURIED SAUL."**

C. Full kingship when he was 37 years.

2 SAMUEL 5:3

**THEREFORE ALL THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL CAME TO THE KING AT HEBRON, AND
KING DAVID MADE A COVENANT WITH THEM AT HEBRON BEFORE THE LORD. AND
THEY ANOINTED DAVID KING OVER ISRAEL.**

11. Apostle Peter - Called and Chosen within three and a half years

A. After Jesus' resurrection, but before His ascension Peter was chosen to start the church on the day of Pentecost.

JOHN 21:15

**SO WHEN THEY HAD EATEN BREAKFAST, JESUS SAID TO SIMON PETER, "SIMON,
SON OF JONAH, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?"**

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Called or Chosen



**HE SAID TO HIM, "YES, LORD; YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU."
HE SAID TO HIM, "FEED MY LAMBS."**

A. Fifty days later on the day of Pentecost:

**ACTS 2:14
BUT PETER, STANDING UP WITH THE ELEVEN, RAISED HIS VOICE AND SAID TO
THEM, "MEN OF JUDEA AND ALL WHO DWELL IN JERUSALEM, LET THIS BE
KNOWN TO YOU, AND HEED MY WORDS.**

12. Summary

- A. We are called and chosen into the family of God immediately.
- B. We may be called to the ministry, but that does not mean that we have been chosen for the ministry straight away.