

DIVINE EXHORTATIONS ON SERVING GOD

Jeremiah 1:4-8

We are saved to serve the Lord (Deut. 10:12; Heb. 9:14; John 12:26). The call to salvation and the call to service are inseparable. The Almighty God who lovingly saves us is also the One who graciously calls us to serve Him. When God calls us His people to serve Him, He equips us with invincible courage and sustaining grace in order to fulfill our ministry in the face of opposition and affliction. Gleaning from the life, calling and ministry of the prophet Jeremiah, here are three divine exhortations to serve the Lord faithfully and joyfully.

1. ***Believe God's*** _____.
In order to prepare Jeremiah for the difficult task he would fulfill as God's prophet, the Lord assured him of His sovereign works in His servant's life. The Lord specified His divine and personal work in Jeremiah's life with the words: "*I formed you, I knew you, I consecrated you, I appointed you*" (Jer. 1:4-5). These divine acts should remind us as believers in Christ that God has sovereignly ordained everything in our life and ministry. Our life is rooted in the unshakable, glorious and sovereign purpose of God who has created us, loved and saved us and consecrated us to live for His glory and serve Him wholeheartedly (Psalm 139:13-14; Eph. 1:4-5; Gal. 1:15-16).

2. ***Fulfill your*** _____.
Like many of God's servants in the Scriptures, Jeremiah initially resisted his divine call as a prophet. He had two objections regarding his call: his lack of oratorical skills and his lack of experience (Jer. 1:6). To address his claim of inadequacy, the Lord assured Jeremiah that He would enable and equip Him to fulfill his ministry (Jer. 1:7). We have the same divine assurance as we fulfill our ministry as ambassadors of Christ commissioned to proclaim the message of reconciliation to sinners who are in need of God's saving grace (2 Cor. 5:18-21; Col. 1:21-22; Eph. 2:12-14).

3. ***Trust the promise of*** _____.
Jeremiah was not promised immunity from afflictions, opposition and persecution. The people of Judah opposed his message and their leaders loathed him and despised him. In all the adversities and tribulations he endured, the Lord comforted him with the promise of His presence and protection (Jer. 1:8). In the same way, God has not promised us exemption from troubles, trials and opposition this year (1 Pet. 4:12-13; John 16:33). What the Lord promises is this: as we faithfully love, follow and serve Him, He will never fail us, nor forsake us; He will be with us to preserve us until our Master's work with us is accomplished and done (Heb. 13:5-6; Rom. 8:31).
