

## **RENEWING OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE THE LORD**

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

The call to salvation and the call to service are inseparable (Deut. 10:12; Heb. 9:14; John 12:26). The Almighty God who lovingly saves us is also the One who graciously calls us to serve Him. When God calls us 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, let's reflect on these three vital instructions as we renew our commitment to serve the Lord faithfully and wholeheartedly.

**1. Recognize \_\_\_\_\_ in your life.**

What motivated and sustained Jeremiah to serve the Lord all his life in spite of the difficulties and challenges was recognizing the truth that God has sovereignly ordained everything in his life and ministry. 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 own life. God highlighted His divine and personal work in Jeremiah's life with the words: "I formed you, I knew you, I consecrated you, I appointed you" (Jeremiah 1:4-5). These words confirm that all of God's people have a divine mandate to serve Him. God has formed and created us, knew and loved us, consecrated and appointed us to live our lives in faithful and wholehearted service to Him (Psalm 139:13-14; Eph. 1:4-5; Gal. 1:15-16).

**2. Resolve to 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 vocation: his lack of oratorical skills and his lack of experience (Jeremiah 1:6). To address his sense of inadequacy, the Lord issued a promise to Jeremiah which is God's perpetual oath to everyone who serves him: God promises to enable us, His servants, to look beyond our limitations as He transforms our deficiencies into a display of His wondrous grace so that we could fulfill our God-ordained ministry to bring the message of Christ's saving gospel to the world (Jer. 1:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20).

**3. Rely on the promise of \_\_\_\_\_.**

The impact of Jeremiah's life and service was rooted on his sacrifices for God. He patiently suffered people's opposition, personal deprivation and painful tears (Jer. 1:8-10,17-19; 12:6; 38; 43). All these sacrifices foreshadow what every Christian would endure if he truly strives to faithfully serve the cause of Christ (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).

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