

God's Call in Electing Grace

by Rolfe Barnard

God's call in electing grace is a call to salvation, service, and witness, and it requires spiritual acumen and a willingness to be responsible to God's will.

Duration: 37:25

Scripture: Matthew 7:21, Luke 6:46, John 10:27, Acts 22:14, Romans 10:17, Galatians 1:1, James 1:22

Topics: "Election And Predestination", "Church Membership"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of thinking and seeking God's light in our lives. He encourages the audience to actively listen to God's voice and study the scriptures. The preacher also highlights the need for believers to understand and embrace their role as members of the church, emphasizing that membership should involve a commitment to a wholehearted life of faith. He concludes by stating that the church needs to return to the teachings of the New Testament and empower its members to exercise their ministry as preachers.

Transcript

The results of hard faith in God's elected grace. Tonight, I want to speak a little bit on God's call in electing grace. And I take my text from the book of Galatians, chapter one, and then ask you to turn in your Bible while you're turning there, back to the left, keep your finger there on Galatians one, and then turn to Acts chapter twenty-two.

And I just read one verse from Galatians chapter one. I want to read these verses and announce what I'm going to try to bring before you tonight. Now I want you to help me, I want you to help me tonight.

I'm going to ask you to do a little thinking tonight. That's a little hard, isn't it? Put the damper on the meat, right? Right. Down our way, we had an old man, he used to sit on the steps of a country general's store and pickle and chew tobacco.

A fellow came up to him and said, What you doing? I see you out here every day, what do you do? Well, he said, Some of the time I sit here and think, and most of the time I just sit. And that's a whole lot easier than just to think. You're looking at a public preacher who believes that it's high time in the hour in which we are called to be the people of God to do some real thinking.

I believe our whole program's got to be revamped, I believe it with all of my heart. I may say some things tonight that you'll have to chew on a while, but as I say them, let me help you if I may. You cannot walk in light that I say I have.

You can only walk in what light you have. But you're responsible to walk in all the light from God you have and all you could have if you'd avail yourself of every opportunity. Isn't that right? There are several ways to test a person's spirituality.

One way is your reaction when you say something that crosses the grain of a tradition of yours or a custom or a conviction. Now, I had a dear preacher friend. He's gone to glory now, I believe.

I used to sit at his feet. He was older than myself, held many meetings for him. And I would rejoice just to sit and hear him talk to me out of the accumulated wisdom and knowledge that God had vouchsafed him through the years.

And he used to preach with great vehemence that God didn't save people to serve him, that he saved people to the praise of the glory of his grace. And I rejoiced in this brother's ministry, but he was dead wrong. One of the greatest injuries that's been done, the people of God in our day who at least are trying to understand a little bit of what God teaches so that they can put it in practice, has been the preaching of what they call the truth, that God elects us unto salvation, and then he elects us unto service, and they're two different things, but they are not two different things.

They are not two different things. Election is unto salvation, but a man isn't saved because salvation is a call to be engaged in the redemptive program of Jesus Christ. And now, if you wonder why organized churches have become the greatest enemy of souls between hell and heaven now, reflects upon the fact that we've made salvation to be coming to a peace instead of becoming a member of an army.

And there isn't an army or a home or a government on top side of the earth that could keep going if it is made up of men and women like our church people who constantly sit and listen and never are instructed as to how to pass on what they've experienced to somebody else. The only religious people this side of God's earth, on God's earth, that are paying much attention to the scripture are the communists, the fastest growing religion this side of hell. And they are not doing like we church people who have been taught to do all the days of our lives.

Just sit and come together and meet and rejoice in our salvation. We've got to revamp our program. And I'm going to talk to you pretty frankly tonight about the fact that in elect degrees God calls men and women to be members of an army and gives them a commission.

And I believe that the situation is desperate now that God is definitely shutting every door north, south, east and west. I know just a little bit of what I'm talking about. I've been giving my life to evangelism for 37 years since I left my last passion.

And the doors are about to close. There's not one church out of 50 of anybody's denomination now that would dare to have what's called a revival campaign. Fundamental Baptist preachers have long since given up the goals and they'll look you in the face and tell you that maybe God blessed them back yonder, but he's quit.

And they're telling the truth. Now, brother, you can get blue about that or you can face the fact that if God shuts one door he may be trying to get us to see another one he's opening. If we don't get some acumen,

spiritual acumen and begin to grow characters full of men and women who are engaged in propagating the gospel outside the church houses we're going to be out of business as sure as I'm speaking to you now.

Paul said in Galatians chapter 1 verse 6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that what? Called you into the grace of Christ. In God's elective program he calls men to mission. He calls men to mission.

I want us to turn to the book of Acts chapter 22 and look at the apostle Paul again. Here in this chapter he does the talking. Sunday night, last night or Sunday morning, whenever it was we talked from the ninth chapter of Acts where Luke is the man who does the writing.

But here Paul is making his defense. He tells about his experience. And I hope that you are acquainted with it.

We'll begin reading with verse 10 After Paul meets the risen Lord Paul is at his feet. In verse 10 he said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said, Unto me arise and go into Damascus and there shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. And when I could not see for the glory of that life being led by the hand of them that were with me I came into Damascus and one Ananias, a devout man according to the law having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there this man came to me and stood and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy servant.

And the same hour I looked upon him. And then Ananias used to God tells Paul what God called him to experience and to do in electing grace. Here it is.

This is not Baptist doctrine or what I thought of. This is God's call in election. And Ananias said to Saul, The God of our fathers hath done what? Chosen thee.

That's election. This is not what for. That thou shouldst three things.

First, do what? Huh? Know his will. Second, see that just one. Third, what? Hear the voice of his mouth.

What you want these things to take place for? Well, when I called you, blessed God, I called you and equipped you this faithful way because here is what it's all about. Thou shalt be whose witness? Unto how many people? All men of what thou hast what? Seen and heard. You can't separate salvation and service here, brother.

You can't preach a salvation that doesn't make men servants of the Most High God. Yeah, brother. You can't preach this damnable stuff about me.

God saves our souls and our lives can be lived for the devil. The Bible warns about that. Oh, what's all this about, brother Ananias? Well, I'll tell you why God set his hand on you, Saul.

I'll tell you why God in his Son met you on the road to Damascus and laid hold on you and apprehended you and brought you to his feet. So you'd know the will of God. So you'd experience the person.

So you'd see that just one. It means exactly what it says. For salvation is not by believing some facts, it's by seeing the person with eyes of faith and that you might listen when he speaks.

Hear the voice of his mouth. For only people whom death can beset can be his witness. God calls in elective grace men and women to be his witnesses.

Amen. You see right here on the street what I'm trying to talk about. I was in a church in North Carolina and one night the dear pastor got up and said, I said, tonight we're having this so-and-so with us.

He's a missionary. Said he's going to sing us a song and give us a word of testimony. And he got up and gave a nice little testimony and sang a nice little song.

And when it came my time, folks were all about to sleep and I thought I'd wake them up and I said, it's so good to have a Christian here tonight. But you can tell me what's the difference between being a Christian and being a missionary. I appreciate it.

There isn't any difference. We just invented the difference. We invented this foolish stuff about now won't you surrender your life to Jesus to be a missionary.

Well, that was settled when you got saved. Somebody says, well, I feel like God calling me to China. I know.

But He called you to be a missionary when He saved you. That's what salvation is. Now, if the commander in chief wants to transfer you, that's his business.

But all this foolishness about calling out the call, that's just our invention. Why, it's got to wear now if a fellow acts like he might be a half-way Christian. Some fool will say, I believe God called him the preacher.

Sure, He did the day He saved you. All this talk about, I'm saved! I feel like God called me a preacher. That's a bunch of sassy crap.

That's not a word. Not a word. I'm talking about the inventions we've invented to keep from paying attention to the word of God.

Now, it's just the way we actually don't expect anybody to act like they are saved, except what we call foreign missionaries. And how'd we get that way? Why, we got that way by using the tactics of an army recruiting sergeant who invites some young men to come down to Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, forget the street, the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, said, come down there. I think you may greatly interest it in.

They've got manpower and they've got everything else. And they get the fool to go down there and he thinks he's going to a banquet or a feast and they sign him up. And when he gets signed up to find out, he's going to run it.

And he didn't aim to do it. And we've filled our churches and church energy now. And Christians did two different things with men and women that think being a Christian is having a banquet instead of fighting a war.

And so our churches are hospitals instead of armies. And God bless your heart, the hospitals are going out of business, brother. There's going to be no place for this mild stuff that's a substitute for the real thing.

It's going to be all out for antichrist or all out for Christ and it'll be that way in your day and mine. God calls men and women, boys and girls, to mission, to mission. He'd say to me, you believe God calls women to preach? If he saves them, he does.

Now there's a difference between preaching and having a ministry and an apostle and evangelist and pastor and so forth. Well, if you ain't preaching, you don't know about salvation. That's what it means to be

a Christian.

A witness, a herald, a proclaimer of the gospel. And I'm trying to say to you that the days are closing in on us when we're going to have to face the fact that instead of churches being training grounds to go out and get into war, we're going to have to come to that. We've been training for church membership all the days of our lives.

That time I got the shotgun When God calls in elective grace, He calls men and women to three things. First, He calls men and women to hear His voice. I'll not take the time.

I've got a business meeting. I don't want to take too much time. But read the Old Testament again.

Hear the word of the Lord. Mercy! Come to the New Testament. My sheep, hear my voice.

Let the Apostle Paul say, knowing therefore, brethren, your election of God, how you know it Paul? For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but in great power and of the Spirit and in the church. Or turn over to the next chap and say, I thank God upon every member cease not to thank God upon every member should you give people over the empire praising it. He said, when you receive the word of God from us, you receive it not from men, but from one hundred and sixty-seven times in the New Testament, people are said to be saved by being able to respond to Him.

That's called that many times. This is one rather important. Oh, hear me tonight if you claim to be a child of God, think of the responsibility of being amongst a group of people who are members of the only kind of folks this side of eternity that have ever heard a word from God.

For nobody but God's sheep ever hear Him speak. And brethren, that don't bring responsibility. There's no hope for you.

You mean tell me you've heard from God? Don't you refuse the voice of Him that speaketh. My Lord, we share in the days of this flesh, the Father will say there in a thousand back to them, this is the Son of Man. But nobody will except to show.

Oh, I sometimes say, put your faces and not evade it and not believe it and let it go in one ear and out the other. We might change our churches from folks who are listening to something except Him and never are hearing from Him. Ladies and gentlemen, there's no hope in time that He turns to anybody except as He hears God talking to us.

You stand up and say, I believe I've found the will of God. You're a devil if you say it unless deep down in your heart you really believe God has spoken to you. Huh? That's right.

Hear me. My sheep will. But you tell me to hear from God don't put burdens on a man's shoulders.

Listen to me, I say, look at me and I've heard from God. That's what I pray. God call me by His grace.

That's what I pray. There's a bunch of little babies running around bellyaching half the time the pastor has to have his little soothing soot to give most of us with full aches and pains. Why? Because I don't have any spiritual exercise.

Yes, but not producing. Oh, the responsibility, the awesomeness of being a person whom God calls to listen to me. To listen to me.

Election calls men and women to reflect the holy character of God. Read again and again the Old Testament. One thing is just on nearly every page of the dealings of God with that elect nation who lost their election.

One reason they did is they didn't pay any attention to Him when He said Be ye holy even as I am holy. I'm not going to get into what it means to be holy. It'll take an hour and a half I guess.

It don't mean some things we don't do. It don't mean a few of the little rules we're passed. But holiness is utter conformity to the will of God.

Holiness is to be whole solely dedicated to one truth that God shall be done in my life if He kills me. Holiness is the cry of my Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane when He said It would be possible let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless nevertheless thy will be done if it kills me.

Holy man is the man who's devoted to the will of God. Israel Be holy Church of God He has chosen you in Him that you should be holy. Holy I truly hear.

What a response. God calls in His elective grace men and women to hear His voice to reflect His character and to yield themselves as instruments of God to reveal Christ to me. Israel lost her election for she rejoiced in privilege and refused responsibility.

I was up in Pennsylvania last fall and they took me out to the New Tribes training camp where they train missionaries to go where nobody else has been where the gospel has never been since. I got my eyes open. I went out there three times during the meeting tried to investigate a little bit it shocked me missionaries are trained to live on berries or bark missionaries are trained right there to learn how to sleep outdoors they find their food in the forest they put them through the rigors of the way the folks they're going to preach to have to live and the way they'll have to live if they go out there.

And I thought about our nice little comfortable stuff we call Christendom America myself included my soul we don't know what discipline means. I used to go over to Camp Wheeler down in Bennett, Georgia and watch them I was in another field and watched them train infantry infantrymen in the army foot soldiers you been in it?

You know what I'm going to tell you I stand there in horror as the boys on their bellies hands and knees and bellies crawl through and under the barbed wire hundreds of yards and on foot down yonder and here there are men with rifles and they're aiming and they got real bullets and boys ought to get killed in training and I questioned one of the officers and said looks to me like it's awful cruel to use real bullets and kill boys he said it sounds that way but he said it's better to kill a few of them in training than all of them have to get where the fighting is said if we put blanks in those guns we'll never get those boys learning how to crawl right down on the ground he said if they don't learn in training to crawl like a lizard on the ground as they're going from this place over

yonder by damn it we'll all get killed and I reflected upon the fact that the Apostle Paul he must have been talking about what we're facing today we rest on nothing not ever since the days have crept upon us when nothing short of learning to endure hardness is good I'm going to quit and I'm never going to quit maybe I'll talk a little more about it tomorrow listen to me I have a personal friend who was an arch-chaplain in the Second World War he's a Baptist preacher he got in as a chaplain had his heart broken there's any chaplain that didn't smell like a Christian did if he served in the armed forces he found out one thing ladies

and gentlemen that whatever else our churches that we call them are doing they ain't making Christians two weeks after your boy got in the army all his little

religion was gone brother unless he had the real thing and not many of them did and I was chaplain one field with 30,000 soldiers I count on these two hands the boys who had a testimony for Christ I'm telling you the truth there's all Baptist this Baptist this Catholic this Presbyterian something brother when the influence of mothering home and congregation is gone and you're in that Barber's atmosphere nothing but the real thing will stand and this young fellow had his heart broken when he got out of the army he didn't take a church he got him a job and for three years he studied the Bible trying to find out what it meant to claim to be a Christian and what it meant to have a group of people meeting together claiming to be a church of the Lord Jesus Christ finally five young couples in

the subdivision where he and his wife had a little home they got acquainted with him and they got to meeting they met together twice a week just studying and then the six families organized what they called a church it takes three years to become a member you have to go to school to that church three years before you can be a member they're trying to do what I sense you want to do here I didn't say you've done it I think you're shooting in that direction find out what it means to be a member of the church of God evident though it may mean evident that there's no room for any spectator no room for anybody that just want to study about war and not go to it and I'm going to close I believe that one of the cardinal doctrines of the Bible that we give lip service to I was going to speak on it

tonight but the fool around my time is gone I think I'll speak on it maybe tomorrow night or Wednesday night change up the sermon make a difference what we claim to believe but we don't the priesthood of the believer I believe God's calling us back to the New Testament and I believe the biggest task we face is to find out how the membership of our churches can exercise their ministry as priests I'm going to close with this passage Thank you my brother challenging message and I hope we shall not soon be forgetful hearers Amen I thought as he preached what Jesus said in Luke 6 46 Why callest thou me Lord, Lord and doest not the things which I say professing Christianity and being a Christian are poles apart I'm as sold as I can be on the proposition that if a man's in Christ Christ becomes

his total master He'll either be the Lord of all or he won't be your Lord at all Seems a shame we have to have a business station but that's part of divine service too isn't it I'll have you stand relax yourself and have a word of prayer if you please Our Father, we thank Thee tonight for the Lord Jesus Christ We ask that You'll help us to really become a people of God involved in doing the will of God We pray that Thou shalt jar us if it's necessary lest we become compassionate and filled with a God-forgiving self-sufficiency God forbid that we should congratulate ourselves boast of our piety boast of our soundness while the world around us rushes madly on its way to a Christless eternity May we more and more become involved in doing justly in loving mercy and in walking humbly with our

God We ask in Christ's name Amen You may be seated

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/0/SID0657.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/rolfe-barnard/gods-call-in-electing-grace/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net