



# Divine Call Into Ministry

**“Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek” (Acts 16:1).**

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**“Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him” (Acts 16:2-3).**

“Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: 2 Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek. 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily” (Acts 16:1-5).

God's call comes in different ways to different people. To some, like Saul, it can be as dramatic as the Damascus road experience (Acts 9) but to others like Timothy, it can be as subtle as a helper to an apostle. The call to leadership is glorious and is uppermost in God's heart. The means does not matter as the call itself.

The disciples Jesus called were busy people in their own fields of endeavour. There were not contemplating about full time involvement in divine service when they were called. This has always been the divine pattern in selecting choice servants. He prefers willingness to wisdom (Isa 42:19), availability to ability and industry to idleness. Moses was called while tending Jethro's flock, Elisha while ploughing the fields, Amos and David while shepherding; Saul while seeking for lost sheep, Esther while faithfully fulfilling her role as housewife, and 'Paul' while persecuting the church. Lazy and indolent people generally have no place in God's programme. God left behind the theologically sound sons of prophet to call Elisha; He bypassed the experienced sons of Eli to call young and inexperienced Samuel; and overlooked the scholastic and argumentative Pharisees to call meek and humble fishermen. He prefers to bestow his treasures in earthen vessels that the Excellency of the glory might be of God not of man (II Cor 4:7). He chooses the foolish and weak things of

the world to confound the wise and the mighty (I Cor 1:26-29; Acts 4:13; 13:40,41). The case of David also illustrate the fact that no experience in life is useless. His experience of killing the lion and the bear to protect the sheep were instrumental to his confidence in killing Goliath as well as fighting the enemies of Israel to protect the nation. His musical skills at spare time as shepherd paved way for him not only to get into the king's palace but also to become the sweet psalmist of Israel. We learn these:

- 1) Their ministry of visitation brought Paul and Silas back to Derbe and Lystra where they met Timothy, a young man of good report (vs 1,2) whom Paul enlisted into their work (vs 3).
- 2) To eliminate obstacles to his reception by all, Paul arranged for him to be circumcised (vs 3), even-though he believed that circumcision was not a pre-requisite to salvation, and he was still on a mission to deliver the decrees from the elders at Jerusalem confirming that (vs 4).
- 3) Their capacity to establish/grow churches increased with Timothy's joining (vs 5).

God has always been interested in finding men and women who will remain faithful amidst contemporary backsliding and unfaithfulness. He found such men as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Jephthah, Gideon, Micaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Paul etc, and such women Deborah, Esther, Ruth and Phoebe. A person called of God is worth more than a thousand aimless ones. Through God, the called can shape a generation for His glory. Faithful Elijah restored backslidden Israel to righteousness. A dedicated Nehemiah rebuilt the broken walls of Jerusalem. Now is your time!