

Lesson: Magnifying Our Calling

What does it mean to “Magnify Our Calling?”

Magnify Your Calling

DC 83:6c-d For **whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods** of which I have spoken, **and the magnifying their calling**, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies: they become the sons of Moses and of Aaron, and the seed of Abraham, and the church and kingdom and the elect of God;

DC 117:5 Verily, I say unto you, **If these my servants** will henceforth **magnify their calling in honor before me**, they shall become men of power and excellent wisdom in the assemblies of **my** people.

“Magnifying Our Calling” has to do with Functional Authority

DC 104:44a Wherefore, **now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed**, in all diligence.

44b He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved, shall not be counted worthy to stand. Even so. Amen.

Example of what it means to “Magnify Our Calling”

Jacob 1:19-20 And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, **taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads, if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence**; Wherefore, **by laboring with our mights**, their blood might not come upon our garments; otherwise, their blood would come upon our garments, and we would not be found spotless at the last day.

Magnify Our Calling – Enhancing Our Ability to Exercise Our Authority with Spiritual Power

Spiritual power and authority is the power of the gospel which makes for salvation.²³ It was with this in mind that the Apostle Paul wrote, "I magnify mine office; if by any means I ... might save some."²⁴ A similar statement from modern revelation is enlightening: *If these my servants will henceforth magnify their calling in honor before me, they shall become men of power and excellent wisdom in the assemblies of my people.*²⁵

The thought is that, as the minister enters into the larger aspects of his calling, meeting its most exacting demands with courage and high expectation, so he is endowed with power from on high and men are saved from sin and to righteousness.

Our church is poorer today than she was in an earlier day because so many of us have lost the vision of the glory of salvation. We are content to think in minimums instead of maximums. **Men who exercise priesthood after the order of the Son of God need an enlightened appreciation of what it means to be safe under God.** It means, first of all, to be an integrated personality, to have no civil war within himself, to be committed unreservedly to the best that he can see and know and do. It means to be aware of power to the uttermost, and to be alive with that power for the achievement of the best. It means to have a present sense of victory against the background of the ages. ***Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956***

Sons of Mosiah Magnified their Calling & Received Power and Authority

- a. *Alma 12:3-9* And what added more to his joy, they were still his brethren in the Lord; yea, and they had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; For they were men of a sound understanding, and
- b. **they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.** But this is not all:
- c. **they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting,**
- d. Therefore they had **the spirit of prophecy**, and **the spirit of revelation**, and when they taught,
- e. **they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God.**
- f. And they had been teaching the word of God **for the space of fourteen years, among the Lamanites**, having had much success in bringing many to the knowledge of the truth; Yea, by the power of their words, many were brought before the altar of God, to call on his name, and confess their sins before him.
- g. Now these are the circumstances which attended them in their journeyings, for they had many afflictions;
- h. They did suffer much, both in body and in mind; such as hunger, thirst, and fatigue, and also much labor in the spirit.

Whatever Things Are True...Think on These Things

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brethren,

- whatsoever things are true,
- whatsoever things are honest,
- whatsoever things are just;
- whatsoever things are pure,
- whatsoever things are lovely,
- whatsoever things are of good report;
- if there be any virtue, and
- if there be any praise,

think on these things.

Who can keep us from fulfilling our calling?

No One but Ourselves!—“What impedes and defeats the work of God in us is our self-will, our determination to run our own lives in our own way. This is why Jesus told his disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.” *Source: Authority and Spiritual Power, Edwards, F. Henry, 1956*

Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Brother Earl Curry speaks of conditions associated with spiritual authority and power as they relate to magnifying our calling. He said:

“The finest blessings, the most gracious bestowal of more than pentecostal power, cannot come to men:

- Whose trust is in worldly wisdom and the arm of flesh;
- neither can it come to such men as are self-centered, or arrogant, or proud, or overcome with surfeiting,
- or whose lives are filled with a multitude of interests which are of little lasting value;
- nor can it come to any whose hearts are hardened and insensitive to spiritual guidance or whose spiritual perceptions are of low order, or are as mere crumbs from the bounteous table of the Lord.

Brother Curry continues:

- It will not come to any number or set of ministers who in their own wisdom and counsel bring the ways and means and methods of the great and abominable Church or any of her worldly daughters and seek to substitute these for the simple, the unpretentious, but yet...deeply spiritual ways of the Lord.
- It cannot come to those whose hearts are impure and whose lives are stained, sometimes very deeply with the sins of negligence or extreme preoccupation with the affairs of the world or failure to make the great concerns of the Lord their great concerns,
- or are light-minded, or are ignorant of the word of God, or know not the word of the prophets, nor see the starkly clear signs of approaching catastrophic crises.
- It is impossible for it to come to men who, in this day—when the long foretold judgments of the Almighty are about to sweep over the earth—are concerned with little more than the Churches of the world....

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Brother Curry concludes:

Yet, all who will, all who see, **may now prepare themselves**. Blessed are all such as **shall draw close to the Lord in lowliness of heart, in great love, sacrificially, and in great faith**. Such will be pillars of strength to God's people, and they shall be instruments of power in His hands...

If you are filled with a Godly concern, if you become of great faith, if you will call on Him in mighty prayer, if you will prepare yourselves, if you will go apart into the quietness of the woods or hills or desert places, or best of all, into the solemnities of holy sanctuaries—into places where you can listen for the still small voice—behold, He shall wondrously show you what lies ahead. He will show it to the spiritually awake among you, be they aged or young. God would make you strong for these times. He would have you take such steps in preparation as only He can show you.”

(The Endowment by Earl R. Curry, pp. 6-8)