

# Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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## Acting On the Leading

By Dan Trygg

“Then the Spirit of Yahweh will come upon you mightily, and you shall prophesy with them and be changed into another man. <sup>7</sup> And it shall be when these signs come to you, do for yourself what your hand finds; for God is with you.”

1 Samuel 10:6-7

“Whatever your hand finds to do, verily, do it with all your might.”

Ecclesiastes 9:10

“Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that is in your heart, for Yahweh is with you.’”

2 Samuel 7:3

“And his armor bearer said to him, ‘Do all that is in your heart; turn yourself, and here I am with you according to your heart.’”

1 Samuel 14:7

“For we are a workmanship of Him, being-created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has prepared beforehand in order that we might walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

“To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

“...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for it God is the One inworking in you, both to desire and to actively-work for His good pleasure.”

Philippians 2:12-13

I was reading about Samuel’s prophecy to Saul, immediately after he anointed him to be king over Israel. He told him about three external events that were going to happen that day, after which the Spirit of Yahweh would come upon him, and he would be changed into another man. From that day forward, **he was to “do for himself what his hand finds, because God is with you.”** These external circumstances were certainly beyond Saul’s control, but they each came to pass, in confirmation of Samuel’s word. Then, the Spirit came upon Saul, when he had encountered a group of prophets who were worshiping and prophesying, and he also prophesied. At that point, **he was changed into another man.** For a time, however, nothing changed. He went about his life like he had before. He did not even talk about his experience with God. He seems to not have been a very religious person before, and, even though he had experienced God, he was uncomfortable talking about it. Even though he was much taller than most men, and strikingly handsome, he was very self-conscious and painfully unsure of himself. When Samuel called the nation together, to publicly choose and anoint the king, Saul was hiding among the baggage. Although the process of choosing was open to all to see, and there was no way to manipulate the method of casting lots, the fact that Saul was chosen by lot out of all the people of Israel (in *further confirmation* to Saul), and that he was physically imposing and handsome in appearance, his own uncertainty and timid manner inspired ridicule, not confidence or loyalty. He did not know anything about being king, or acting like a king. BUT, when the Ammonites threatened to gouge out the right eye of every man of Jabesh-gilead, and they appealed to him for help, the Spirit came upon him mightily and he became a man of decisive action. His commanding message and demeanor gathered the fighting men, and he led them in a dramatic night trek to surprise the Ammonites while they were asleep, and totally routed and defeated them. **When the occasion arose, he responded to the pragmatic need and acted in conjunction with the impetus and boldness inspired by the Holy Spirit within him. The external circumstances provoked the Spirit in him to action, and he responded wholeheartedly and definitively to what He was leading him to do.**

The counsel of Samuel is restated as a general principle in Ecclesiastes 9:10. The language is nearly identical. “**All which your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.**” In the context of Ecclesiastes, it is a challenge to act while you have the opportunity, because life is brief, and such opportunities will soon be gone. The language, however, is striking. “What your hand finds to do...” – anyone who was biblically literate would automatically be reminded of the counsel of Samuel to Saul. **The message is similar, respond to the challenge and opportunities that external circumstances introduce into your life. Engage your “power” in addressing that need.**

This principle is similar to what Jesus shared with His disciples in John 5. He made it His practice to “do what He saw His Father doing” (Jn. 5:19). He said that “the Father loves (phileō) the Son and shows Him all things that He is doing (Jn. 5:20). The word translated as “shows” means to “draw attention to, point out, cause to see, reveal; to make known by visual, auditory, gestural or linguistic means; to demonstrate, teach or explain”. As you can see, the word has a wide range of meaning as to how or in what manner God might choose to reveal what He is doing to us. The point is that it is *not* all about some internal “voice” or a dream or vision, or anything like that. It *may* be, ...but **it could be that God will just cause you to “notice” something that stands out to you, and you will recognize within yourself that this is, or could be, “God at work”.** Jesus was always paying attention for such insights, so that He might join the Father by working in a way similar to what He saw Him doing. When Jesus saw the Father at work,

it was time for Him also to act, ...and to act in conjunction with what the Father was doing. He “did what the occasion required”, but He adjusted His approach to what He could recognize that the Father was doing.

**The next two examples describe a *different avenue* of prompting. Both David and Jonathan were led by their hearts.** The response of Nathan to what David shared with him of his desire seems like **a general principle: Do all that is in your heart for Yahweh is with you.** We find Jonathan and his armor bearer also following the same general principle. **They recognized that what their hearts were inclined to do was not typical.** They were confident in God, and **their hearts prompted them to take bold action for the cause of God’s people.** The subjective leading, however, was not enough. It was enough to follow in initial steps, but **they looked to God to clearly confirm their heart leading,** so that they would know for sure they were following Him. In David’s case, God appeared to Nathan to tell him that David was *not* the one to build His house. His heart’s desire, however, *was* pleasing to God, and he made preparations for the temple. His heart prompting was good, and he took action, even though he was not the one to finish what his heart had envisioned. Note the principle: “Do all that is in your heart for Yahweh is with you.” **Nathan expected that if David’s heart was in the right place with God, he could move forward in the direction of his heart.**

Jonathan said to his armor bearer, “Let’s cross over to the garrison of the Philistines. It may be that Yahweh will work for us, for Yahweh is not restrained to deliver by many or by few” (1 Sam. 14:6). It is the armor bearer who states the general principle, here: “Do all that is in your heart.” But, then, he adds, “Go ahead, my heart is with you, according to your heart.” **Both of them realize that they are not thinking or operating based upon human wisdom.** They knew that the odds were against them, ...but **they both recognized the unusual confidence that God had given to them.** The armor bearer confirmed Jonathan’s faith, and the leading of his heart in this situation. **So, they determined to act on the inclination of their hearts. BUT, then they decided to confirm this radical faith-choice with a circumstantial test.** They decided to let their enemies see them, then if they told them they would come to them, they would stay back, but if the Philistines told them, “Come up here”, they would know that God had confirmed their heart-prompting, and would give them victory. As they revealed themselves to their enemies, they responded almost word for word to what they had determined, so they were confident that God was with them. They went ahead and defeated them all. **They took their initial steps in response to their hearts, watching to see if God would lead them further. As He did, through external circumstances, they were encouraged to go forward.** The armor bearer not only expressed that his heart was in agreement with Jonathan’s, but **he affirmed that he was willing to follow and back up the leading that Jonathan was experiencing. Now, that is true partnership in our faith-walk should look like, ...truly being willing to back one another up.**

**The passage from Ephesians 2:10 emphasizes the circumstantial kind of leading,** “...what your hand finds to do”. Paul says that we have been created and prepared by God, a “workmanship of His”, designed, equipped and empowered by Him. **We have been made ready for good works which He has also prepared ahead of time, and will bring into our lives.** Our responsibility is to “walk in them”, which means that we are to meet those needs, or accomplish what needs to be done in order to serve God and people. **We are to “do what our hand finds to do”, and do it with the empowerment and ability which God has given to us.** The language of this verse clearly expresses a belief that God is sovereignly in control of our lives, and the circumstances He brings to us. **It teaches us to expect and watch for service opportunities.** As we serve others, people will see the goodness of God expressed in us, and they will praise Him (Matt. 5:16). Of course, expecting and seeing the opportunities to serve are of no value, if we do not follow this recognition up with action. **We need to step into these opportunities when they come up, ...and we need to follow through with excellence** in our actions and our interactions with those we serve.

The final passages, from 1 Thessalonians and Philippians both describe God’s working in and through the desires of the heart. **Philippians 2:12,13 clearly states that God is the One working in us. He works within our hearts to give us godly desires, ...His desires.** It is important to realize that the Christian life is not just about being kind and thoughtful people. **God Himself is personally, actively at work prompting in us the desire to do what He wants us to do.** Beyond that, however, **He also gives us the capacity or ability to do His will. However, we must choose to work out, or give expression to, that desire and capacity, or it goes nowhere.** We must ACT on the prompting and the empowering in order for it to actually become visible in the real world.

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12 is a prayer that God would fulfill every good desire and work of faith. This is emphasizing the other side of this equation, again. **The good desires, which are prompted by His Spirit, and the actions which are the outworking of faith, need the ongoing empowering and inworking of God to enable us to bring these desires, dreams, intentions and advances to complete fulfillment.** Once again, we see the interplay of God’s leading and human response working back and forth. **Paul prays for God to support us all the way to the completion of the promptings He Himself fosters within us. He prompts and leads. We act in faith-response to Him. He brings it all to completion. We must persevere to the end of each faith-project. God is glorified in us, and we are glorified in Him.**