

A Divine Call

“Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”, Genesis 12:1-3.

Permit me to rephrase verse 1. “Now the Lord had said unto the people of the earth, Get thee out of thy evil ways, get away from those who commit evil deeds, and I will shew you a new way of living”.

To do this, every man, woman, and child on this earth needs to know two important acts of God.

God sent His Son, and the angels declared the event to shepherds in the field, “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid”, Luke 2:8-9.

At our Lord’s baptism, the voice of the Father from Heaven, confirmed that Jesus was the sent One, “...Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”, Mark 1:11.

And to three fishermen on the Mount of Transfiguration, God declared “This is my beloved Son: hear him”, Luke 9:35.

Much of my early life I was surrounded by a beauty that comes from God’s Presence in a persons life. I was one of the lambs that never heard the shepherds voice, and because my spiritual eyes had not been opened, I did not realize what I was missing.

About forty years ago, I received a Divine call. Suddenly my spiritual eyes were opened. I was being called by God to become a shepherd, not a shepherd to just watch and feed the flock, but a

shepherd who would, at times, go many miles in search of straying lambs.

I would go to Church and sing songs of praise to God. I even became a 'past-master' with an "Amen" as prayers were read from a book. I was invited to read, and teach His Word. But I never really knew the Chief Shepherd.

We celebrate Christmas. HOW? We give gifts to one another. Did any of us gift part of ourselves for God to use in the coming year? Did any of us gift part of our time to spend more time with God?

The Scriptures tell us,

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus came as - and with - the word of salvation.

2 The same was in the beginning with God. Jesus came as the promise of God in the Garden of Eden, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”, Genesis 3:15

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. The lands were formed by His Word. The trees, plants, and grass were formed by His Word. The birds, animals, and fish were formed by His Word. MAN WAS CREATED BY GOD'S HANDS, Genesis 1;9-10, 11, 20-21.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (John 1:1-5). Our life was initiated by God breathing into us to give us life, Genesis 2:7.

God sent part of Himself - His Word. Christmas is the time we celebrate the arrival of the Word of God that became flesh.

May I suggest that our greatest desire should be to have a greater relationship with Jesus in the coming months? What the Word is to our life, and daily living.

If Jesus was to stand beside you, and ask, “I have a new path for you to walk. Are you ready to walk with me now?” Would you be ready - and prepared - to go as the shepherds did when they received the angelic announcement?

Are you ready to stand in His company? God wants to reveal Himself to us. But are we like the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who, when asked if he had any fear of death, said in his seventy-fifth year, "I am ready to meet my Maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter", November 30, 1949.

What then, is 'A Divine Call?' It is a call from God to a servant He can trust in the same way Abraham trusted his senior servant to find a wife for his son Isaac.

Jesus clearly stated what the Divine Call to God's People was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world", Matthew 28:19-20.

Thus, the Lord is trusting us to go forth and seek for the straying lambs, that we might bring them back to the fold.

The Holy Spirit will then guide and lead them along the Path of Righteousness, that they will become a member of the Bride for Jesus

I