

## When God Calls Your Name

**Will you hear His audible voice ever in your lifetime?**

**Would you recognize it if you did?**

**What's in a name? Heritage. Identity. Reputation.**

**Has God called your name? He has called us to salvation and service.**

**Unbelievers will miss out for eternity. Rev 3:5**

He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not **erase his name** from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

**I heard him call your name. Whosoever... If any will...**

**The test is denial of HIS NAME. Rev 3:8**

I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and **have not denied My name.**

**Have you heard Him? He has talked to you. To some the "still, small voice." To others the announcement from the heavens. If we don't want to hear it we will think it has thundered.**

**You know the principles. Pray for the specifics. Dare to live the difference that Jesus has made in your life and you will receive an eternal nickname given by the Lord Himself. Rev 2:17**

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a **new name** written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

**The blessing is beyond anything you can imagine. Rev 3:12**

He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and **I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.** (This will never fade, nor get old. The things of this earth will, but the things of heaven never will. Do you believe it is worth it? Do you want an imperishable wreath?)

**What is involved in listening to the Holy Spirit?**

(Seek to be blameless before Him. Confess sins. Christian often get the big, overt ones under control somewhat early in their Christian journey. It is the sins of the tongue and the attitude that are the true tests of a changed life. Someone who not just looks good but has become "good" by the power of the Almighty God.)

1. God **called** your name to life itself.

2. He calls to confront our **fears**. Gen 3:9

Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

3. He calls to confront our **unloving attitudes**. Gen 4:9

Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"

4. He calls to special **projects**. Gen 6:13-14

Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth. 14 "Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.

5. He calls to great **adventures**. Gen 7:1

Then the Lord said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time.

6. He calls to new **beginnings**. Gen 8:15-16

Then God spoke to Noah, saying, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

7. He calls to be **fruitful** and **multiply**. Gen 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

8. He calls to **special promises**. Gen 9:8-11

Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying, 9 "Now behold, I Myself do establish My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, even every beast of the earth. 11 "I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be cut off by the water of the flood, neither shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth."

9. He calls to a walk of **faith**. Gen 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

10. He calls to **special places**. Gen 12:7

The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him.

**11. He calls to great blessing. Gen 13:14-17**

The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; 15 for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. 16 "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. 17 "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

**12. He calls to trust Him. Gen 15:1-2**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." 2 Abram said, "O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

**13. He calls to hardship. Gen 15:13-14**

God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14 "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions.

**14. He calls to be blameless before Him. Gen 17:1-6**

Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. 2 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly." 3 Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, 4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you.

**15. He calls to unimaginable blessings. Gen 17:15-16**

Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 "I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

**16. He calls to unreserved faith. Gen 18:13-14**

And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' 4 " Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

**17. He calls to make tough decisions. Gen 21:12**

But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.

**18. He calls to testing. Gen 22:1-2**

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

**19. He calls to remember the promises of the past. Gen 26:2-5**

The Lord appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 "Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. 4 "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws."

**20. He calls to reliance on Him. Gen 31:3**

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you."

**21. He calls to new reputations. Gen 32:24-30**

Then Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When he saw that he had not prevailed against him, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob's thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, " I will not let you go unless you bless me." 27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." 28 He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed." 29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there. 30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, " I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."

**22. He calls to sacrifice. Gen 35:1**

Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and live there, and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau."

**23. He calls to transfer spiritual heritage. Gen 35:9-12**

Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him. 10 God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name." Thus He called him Israel. 11 God

also said to him, "I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you. 12 "The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

**24. He calls to fearless trust in Him. Gen 46:1-4**

So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "**Jacob, Jacob.**" And he said, "Here I am." 3 He said, " I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. 4 "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes."

**25. He calls to the prepared. Exo 3:4**

When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

**26. When He calls your name, how do you respond?**

- A. Some are not listening.
- B. Some pretend they do not hear.
- C. Some question the identity of the speaker.
- D. Some question the clarity of the message.
- E. Some question the content of the message.

**27. When He calls your name, how do you answer?**

**A. Some answer from religion and not relationship. Matt 7:21-23**

Not everyone who says to Me, '**Lord, Lord,**' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, '**Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

**B. Some answer too late. Matt 25:11-13**

"Later the other virgins also came, saying, '**Lord, lord,** open up for us.' 12 "But he answered, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 "Be on the alert then, for you do not know the day nor the hour.

**C. Some answer from disobedience. Luke 6:46-49**

"Why do you call Me, '**Lord, Lord,**' and do not do what I say? 47 "Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 "But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

**D. Some answer, "Here am I."**

28. **When He calls your name twice, it is time to stop what you are doing and start something else:** (be alert at all times, spiritually awake, ready to change direction, ready to enjoy resurrection to the new life.)

**A. The current assignment and change course. Abraham. Gen 22:11**

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "**Abraham, Abraham!**" And he said, "**Here I am.**"

**B. Being afraid and accept the promises. Jacob. Gen 46:2-3**

God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "**Jacob, Jacob.**" And he said, "**Here I am.**" 3 He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there.

**C. Living in the wilderness and become a leader. Moses. Exo 3:4**

When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "**Moses, Moses!**" And he said, "**Here I am.**"

**D. Spiritual deafness and develop. Samuel. 1 Sam 3:10-13**

Then the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "**Samuel! Samuel!**" And Samuel said, "**Speak, for Your servant is listening.**" 11 The Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. 12 "In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. 13 "For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.

**E. Self-promotion and strengthen others. Simon Peter. Luke 22:31-32**

"**Simon, Simon,** behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; 32 but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

**F. Worrying and worship. Martha. Luke 10:41-42**

But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

**F. Persecuting the Lord and pursue Him for relationship. Saul/Paul. Acts 9:3-4**

As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "**Saul, Saul,** why are you persecuting Me?"

29. **Listening to God:**

**A. How to listen to God:**

1. **Respect puts Him first.**
2. **Attention clears out distractions.**
3. **Concentration keeps out distractions.**
4. **Reflection seeks to understand.**

**B. Israel was told to "listen" early in its history. Deut 6:4-9**

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 " You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**C. God told us to listen to His Son. Matt 17:5 cf 1 Tim 6:3**

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; **listen** to Him!"

**D. His "sheep" hear His voice. John 10:27-30**

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 "I and the Father are one."

**E. Some choose to not hear or accept the truth. Mark 4:10-12**

As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, began asking Him about the parables. 11 And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, 12 so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN."

**F. Jesus told us to pay attention to the Greatest Commandments. Mark 12:29-31**

"The foremost is, '**Hear**, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord; 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 "The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

**G. He also told us to be careful what we listen to. Mark 4:21-25**

A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not brought to be put on the lampstand? 22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has anything been secret, but that it would come to light. 23 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." 24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you **listen** to. By your standard of measure it will be measured to you; and more will be given you besides. 25 "For whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him."

**H. Jesus, while on earth, commanded His disciples three times to "listen": (Aorist Imperatives)**

**1. To the Parable of the Sower. Mark 4:3-9 (Know about human responses.)**

**Listen** to this! Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 "Other

seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. 6 "And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 "Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. 8 "Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." 9 And He was saying, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**"

**2. To the real cause of defilement. Mark 7:14-23**

**(Know the difference between Liberty and Legalism)**

After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, "**Listen** to Me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. 16 [" If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."] 17 When he had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. 18 And He said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, 19 because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.) 20 And He was saying, " That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. 21 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

**3. To the Parable of the Landowner. Matt 21:33-45**

**(Realize the depth of evil.)**

"**Listen** to another parable. There was a landowner who PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. 34 "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. 35 "The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. 36 "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. 37 "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 "They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?" 41 They said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the *proper* seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*; THIS CAME ABOUT FROM THE LORD, AND IT IS MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES'? 43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people,

producing the fruit of it. 44 “And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.” 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard His parables, they understood that He was speaking about them. 46 When they sought to seize Him, they feared the people, because they considered Him to be a prophet.

**I. Four times on earth He invited His disciples to keep on listening, namely to: (Present Imperatives)**

**1. Discipleship has a cost. Luke 14:25-35**

Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 “Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 “Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand *men* to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 “Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 “So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 “Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 “It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**”

**2. We are in a battle. Matt 13:37-43**

And He said, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, 38 and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil *one*; 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are angels. 40 “So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. 41 “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, 42 and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 “Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. **He who has ears, let him hear.**

**3. All will be revealed. Mark 4:13**

And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? 14 “The sower sows the word. 5 “These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16 “In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are

only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." 21 And He was saying to them, "A lamp is not brought to be put under a basket, is it, or under a bed? Is it not *brought* to be put on the lampstand? 22 "For nothing is hidden, except to be revealed; nor has *anything* been secret, but that it would come to light. 23 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

**4. Prophecy will be fulfilled. Matt 11:7-15**

As these men were going away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John. What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 "But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft *clothing*? Those who wear soft *clothing* are in kings' palaces! 9 "But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. 10 "This is the one about whom it is written, BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.' 11 "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and violent men take it by force. 13 "For all the prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 "And if you are willing to accept *it*, John himself is Elijah who was to come. 15 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

**J. Jesus told John to write to seven churches in Asia Minor and tell them to listen to His words. Rev 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22**

**K. All should "listen" to the testimony of Jesus. Acts 2:22-24**

"Men of Israel, **listen** to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 " But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power

**L. A wise person will not just listen but act. Luke 6:47-49**

"Everyone who comes to Me, and **hears** My words, and **acts** upon them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation upon the rock; and when a flood rose, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. 49 "But the one who has **heard**, and has **not acted** accordingly, is like a man who built a house upon the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."