

DAY ONE

Three Kinds of (Dream) Callings

Overcoming obstacles fuels dreams. #DreamCalling

Calling dreams to life can be tricky. How do you know if God is really speaking to you—or if it was the pizza you ate last night? The answer might surprise you. As a self-proclaimed “Dream Defender” who champions and cheers the dreams of many others, I must remember two things:

1. Forgiveness starts with me.
2. Transformation is not easy, but it is worth it!

Do you want the power of calling dreams to life in others, including yourself? First, it’s important to learn how to *discern* the kinds of (dream) callings of God on your life.

My health is one of the ways I discern the calling of God on my life. I struggled with health issues during my teens and almost all of my college years. I was housebound on and off due to acute eczema that took the skin off my face, feet and hands. To top it all off, I also struggled with anxiety. If there’s anyone who understands suffering, it’s me. If I know one thing well, it’s that:

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It's why I jump out of bed every morning and attack the day with enthusiasm. So hear me when I say this:

I see you. I hear you.

I know you're struggling to live out your dreams. Let's look at Isaiah 49:1-6 to understand the difference between three different (dream) callings: sovereign, hidden and global.

“Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver.

He said to me, “You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor.”

But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing at all. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God.”

And now the Lord says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—

he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

SOVEREIGN CALLS

Have you ever felt isolated or distant from God's call on your life? Isaiah wrote, "He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver" (Isaiah 49:2).

God equips us in His sovereignty. He fills us with His Spirit, gives us abilities, intelligence, knowledge and all craftsmanship (Exodus 31:3). If you feel like God has called you to something, but you can't quite figure out *why* nothing is happening yet, remember two things:

1. Just because life is painful and difficult, it doesn't mean it's a closed door.
2. Just because there is an open door, it doesn't mean it's from God.

HIDDEN CALLS

God's call actually begins in the mother's womb. The Lord called Isaiah from the womb, and He calls us, too (See: Isaiah 49:1; Psalm 139:13-16).

Some of us may have an easier time discerning what our calling is, but rest assured, if you are a child of God—make no mistake—you are chosen and called a child of the Most High God (See: 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 82:6).

One of the most difficult lessons I needed to learn was my identity in Christ. It's easy to attach my identity to what I'm good at, like being an author or helping others self-publish their books. I'll never forget the day a pastor asked me, "Renee, you know it doesn't matter if you don't write another book, right?" My worth isn't found in *what* I can do, but in *Whose* I am!

GLOBAL CALLS

I remember begging God for *years* to heal me. I remember specifically saying something like this:

“God, if you heal me, I’ll do anything.”

I remember lying in that hospital bed wanting to experience the global call of God on my life. I knew I had a testimony, and I knew that God was calling me to write my story in a book so that others would be encouraged.

The promise I stood on for years while waiting for the global call on my life was 1 Peter 5:10.

“In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation.” (NLT)

Fellow dreamer, don’t give up. Even right now as you are clinging to the global calling on your life, keep going! If you’re experiencing the death of a dream—it’s painfully normal.

“For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.” (Psalm 30:5, ESV)

What dreams are you hoping God will call to life? Are they hidden, something given from birth, or a global call to help call dreams to life in others?