

Hearing the Call

[Acts 6:4](#)

[Acts 6:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

God has issued some dramatic calls to service. For example, Moses heard His voice from a burning bush, and Isaiah saw a vision of heaven’s throne room ([Exodus 3](#); [Isaiah 6](#)). But a spectacle is the exception rather than the rule. For most who follow God to the mission field, His call is a tug on the heart, persistently whispering, **“How will they know God unless someone tells them?”** (See [Romans 10:14](#).)

It’s better if the Lord doesn’t have to use drama to get our attention. Consider Saul, who needed a serious talking to and temporary blindness to get him on the mission field ([Acts 9:3-9](#); [Acts 26:13-18](#)).

[Acts 9:3-9 \(NASB\)](#)

³“As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

⁴and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

⁵And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

⁶but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”

⁷The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

⁹And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”

[Acts 26:13-18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹³“At midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me.”

¹⁴“And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

¹⁵“And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’

¹⁶‘But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you;

¹⁷rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

¹⁸to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

I know I'd rather hear the Lord's still small voice ([1 Kings 19:12](#))!

[1 Kings 19:12 \(NASB\)](#)

¹²“After the earthquake a fire, *but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of a gentle blowing.*”

People can try to ignore the heart tug, block the ever-present call with activity, or satisfy it by giving money rather than themselves. Some say no outright. But the call persists. God's will is set and His plan is steadfast. Though we may run, we can't escape His call to obey ([Jonah 1:1](#); [Jonah 3:1](#)).

[Jonah 1:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying.”

[Jonah 3:1 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying.”

The road of obedience will certainly be marked with challenges. But difficulty is part of any life—at home or abroad, in mission work or a traditional job. Thankfully, the rewards of serving are greater than any hardship. Remember that Jesus promised Peter a hundred-fold return on his investment in the kingdom ([Mark 10:28-30](#)).

[Mark 10:28-30 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁸“Peter began to say to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You.”

²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,
³⁰ but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”

Carrying the gospel is a great opportunity to serve God. What better way to thank Him for saving us and writing our name in the book of life than to share that experience with others. If the Lord's still small voice is calling, say yes and see what amazing, life-changing work He can do through you.