

1. Romans: the Call and Faith

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.' Genesis 12.1

No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised..... Romans 4.20-21

As Jesus was walking along, He saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.'

When hearts are seeking and open, the Spirit has used Romans to transform lives, even history. That's the power of the Word and Spirit! Before any transformation occurs, however, comes the _____.

Ultimately we are called by God to forsake all of our _____ in order to know Him. When we hear the call, in simple obedience, something has to be left behind to follow Jesus.

Abram and Matthew were quick to obey. That's not true for everyone! Moses _____ God's call and engaged in a dialogue with God as to why he was not able to respond! For in every call we have to count the costs.

It is not so much what Jesus sees in us that makes us worthy, but rather what He puts in us when we obey His commands. The _____ to discipleship is always obedience. The Spirit opens the eyes of my heart and I see truth, which is just another word for reality, and it is up to me to respond in obedience, or not.

When I resist Jesus' call, I slow down my growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ, if I don't stop it altogether. It was so embedded in my identity that it took me a long time to surrender my desire to succeed. That's the _____ Jesus takes when He calls "tax collectors and sinners" to be His disciples.

Eventually, through the rough and tumble of life, and God's steadfast love and faithfulness in Christ, and the _____ of the Holy Spirit, I actually can manifest a faith like Abraham.

Ultimately the call of God is nothing more than trusting Christ in the rough and tumble of life, _____ He will never leave us or forsake us, even when all the facts seem to say otherwise.

Can you _____ the call of Christ? What is your response?