

Three Big Steps—God’s Call

Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak (Jeremiah 1:6-7)

We’ve gotten accustomed to the shrill thrills and bells of Hollywood-like calls and the shiny glitz of marketing. Yet beyond that is more, much more both in style and substance and especially the latter in “God’s Three Step Plan for Leaders”. I am persuaded that God’s call comes in three steps:

1. **Step 1—Called and Anointed**--First you are called and anointed in some specific visible, unusual way
2. **Step 2—Prepared and Trained**--Then you are prepared and trained over time
3. **Step 3—Crowned and Appointed**--Then you are appointed to the task at hand and/or to a sequence of service tasks.

Jeremiah was called from the womb and anointed. Samuel was called at seven years and responded with “speak Lord, for thy servant heareth”. He later became a prophet in Israel. David was called and anointed with oil while in the fields minding sheep. He continued his training and fought Goliath at the apex of his training, but had to wait his turn to be crowned King and appointed. Joseph was called and anointed in dreams and visions and went through a period of capture, the ignominy of pit isolation, herded to Potiphar’s house and finally imprisoned, before being appointed governor. King Josiah became King of all Judah; he was called, anointed, trained and appointed simultaneously; the little slave girl in Naaman’s house was called while in her slavery, and Jairus’ daughter was called from the grave.

God calls whom He wills, in His own unique way and equips them with strength to fulfill the tasks. It is our role to listen carefully. He never leaves us deficient. That’s why we have Christian Seventh-day Adventist schools for training and teachers as mentors, along with the surrounding nurture and care of our churches, for each of us is also a mentor. We don’t recruit students and workers—we gather the called to be trained. It is that call and that invitation that we must invite from our youth in response, for whom God calls, He may also chasten and prepare in His own way.

<https://youtu.be/Vir9cxM1FGs>