

# Calling means: listening

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## Calling means listening

Just as Jeremiah says: 'I have called you but you did not listen' ([Jeremiah 7:13](#)). But He is faithful and does not give up on them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people' ([Jeremiah 7:23](#)). This call extends to the ends of the earth ([Isaiah 45:22](#)). Jesus also worked hard to call people. He calls many to come to Him, as in [Matthew 11:28](#), [Mark 10:14](#), [John 7:37](#). In [Luke 5:32](#) He speaks about His own work with these words: 'I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.' Jesus' coming is all about calling. In order to save sinners, He calls sinners! He does not just change them, but transforms them through calling them to repentance. We can see the ministry of the Apostles as examples of God the Spirit calling many more people to turn toward God.

# The way of calling

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## The way of calling

So, God's call is a warning to leave the path of sin and an invitation to come back home. He is not just anyone; He is like the father who is searching the streets to find the son who walked away. God is the respected Father who we had ignored and despised. Now He goes out to call us and say that we are still welcome in His household. He wants us to feel again what an honor it is to belong to Him and be part of His family. When He calls, we feel the shame of having left and dishonored Him. It is good to realize that God is also calling people in a more general way. When God makes the words of the Bible real to someone, that person has more often than not, already noticed something about God. For example, God appeals to us, He talks to us through creation ([Psalm 19:1-4](#)). He warns or threatens us by the forces of nature ([Psalm 29:4-5](#)). He shows how great He is and what power He has. He does this also by judgments in general ([1 Chronicles 16:14](#)). In this way, God has communicated to all nations at all times. He has not left Himself without witness ([Acts 14:17](#)). Sometimes God spoke very personally by dreams (to Pharaoh, [Genesis 41](#); or Nebuchadnezzar, [Daniel 2](#)), or through miracles (to Darius, [Daniel 6](#))

# Still today

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## Still today

This was not just true in Bible times, but is still the case today. God is the sovereign God

over all creation. He is familiar with all cultures and languages. He is Lord over the things that are seen and the things that are unseen. Therefore, in our lives we will discover that God uses different methods to gain our attention. If there are no books and Bibles, He will use stories and testimonies and even dreams to trigger in our hearts a search for the truth. When we are hardened and stubbornly set in our own ways, He sometimes uses disasters and tragedies to shake us up and open our hearts to His voice. Or He will rescue someone from danger or bless a person with kindness.

This shows that God is often working in people long before they realize it. Yet, what is not so clear in these kinds of 'calls', is that God is calling them, who this God is, and what He expects them to do. All of this is much clearer in the calls that are described in the Bible.

## He who calls

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### **Who is calling?**

We are not called by a god or some power, but the Bible calls us to the only true God. We are not just invited to some inner peace or spiritual experience, but the Bible calls us to accept Jesus Christ as the Son of God. So, using the Bible, we go out, preach the Word of God, calling people to come back to their Creator and worship Him alone as Lord over their lives. This is the first step on the path of salvation.