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The Call to Ministry

*For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me;
Yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 1 Corinthians 9:16*

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

As we observe the Pastoral Appreciation Day in the life of this beloved church we praise God! On behalf of my wife and family, **we want to sincerely thank all of you for your love, prayers, encouragement, and other acts of kindness you have extended to us for more than thirty-one years.** We have been blessed and privileged by God to serve as your under-shepherd. We especially thank the 2019 Pastoral Appreciation chairpersons Sister Valentina Moreno-Cheek and Sister Debra Cobb, and the Pastoral Appreciation Committee for every sacrifice that you made in planning this week of worship and celebration. We also thank the membership for your many expressions of love.

In meditating on our journey together in His Name, I was led to share the following thoughts with you on **The Call:**

The call to ministry comes from God to the pastor as well as to the laity. However, if we move on our own intuition and try to make it into a call of God we fail, but when we get right with Him He brushes all that aside. Then He gives us a tremendous, riveting pain to fasten our attention on something that we never even dreamed could be His call for us. And for one radiant, flashing moment we see His purpose, and we say, "Here am I! Send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

This call has nothing to do with personal sanctification, but with being made broken bread and poured-out wine. Yet God can never make us into wine if we object to the fingers He chooses to use to crush us. We say, "If God would only use His *own* fingers, and make me broken bread and poured-out wine in a special way, then I wouldn't object!" But when He uses someone we dislike, or some set of circumstances to which we said we would never submit, to crush us, then we object. Yet we must never try to choose God's plan for us. **If we are ever going to be made into wine, we will have to be crushed God's way for you cannot drink grapes.** Grapes become wine *only* when they are squeezed.

If you have ignored, and thereby removed, the great supernatural call of God in your life. Take a review of your circumstances. See where you have put your own ideas of service or your particular abilities ahead of the call of God. Paul said, ". . . woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" He had become aware of the call of God, and his compulsion to "Preach the gospel" was so strong that nothing else was any longer even a competitor for his strength. **God orchestrates every force at work for His purpose in the end. If you will agree with God's purpose, He will bring not only your conscious level but also all the deeper levels of your life, which you yourself cannot reach, into perfect harmony. Amen.**

~Oswald Chambers
My Utmost to the Highest

In His Service I Remain,
Pastor Orlando B. Yates

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18 – 20

