

Called to Reign

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is the founder and now the senior pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens' ministry has spanned four decades and has included the establishment of Maryland Bible College and Seminary in Baltimore and the development of "The Grace Hour," an Angel Award-winning radio talk show that is still heard on Christian stations throughout North America and via the internet.

This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 2006

From a message preached on February 12, 1997

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
Chapter 1	7
HOW GOD MOVED MEN INTO ALL THE WORLD	
Chapter 2	13
CALLED OUT FOR A PURPOSE	
Chapter 3	22
IT CAN BE DONE	
CONCLUSION	30

INTRODUCTION

Christians need to understand the call of God. It is crucial because ability and power and eternal blessing will depend upon a thorough understanding of the call of God.

Hebrews chapter three addresses the brethren as “holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling.” Your calling is extremely serious, and I pray that the Holy Spirit of God will speak to you through this booklet.

According to 2 Timothy 1:9, when He saved us, He called us with a holy calling, “not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

Before the world began, God had a plan for your life that was in Christ Jesus, and it was according to His own purpose and grace. It was more than just to get up every morning and go to a job, as necessary as that is. You have a very holy calling.

It isn't just any old thing. It is a heavenly calling, planned for your life before the foundation of the world, according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus. To understand it you must listen to the Word of God. You have been called—not just to live, but to reign!

Chapter One

HOW GOD MOVED MEN INTO ALL THE WORLD

Philippians 3:14, Paul said, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” First Corinthians 1:26-27 also talks about your calling. Not many mighty, not many noble, not many wise men, are called. Instead, God has chosen the foolish and the weak things to confound the wise and the mighty.

But Ephesians chapter one in verse 17 says, “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.” Why? That the eyes of your understanding may be open to understand what His calling is (verse 18). It is His calling—His calling that is my calling. It was planned in eternity past, and it has precise steps (Psalm 37:23).

For Paul, in Acts 16:9, it was a vision that led

him to Macedonia. His geographical location in the call was utterly important. Had Paul not gone to Macedonia, Europe would not have had the Gospel. That is the importance of geographical location.

First Corinthians 7:20 says that we should be very careful to abide in the calling wherein we were called. He repeats it again in verse 24. Verse 22 explains it: "For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant."

Everything in my life and your life is ordained—my calling, my marriage. A single person's life has a special call that is called in the law of love. It is a special high calling, a holy calling. In the Scriptures it is called a sacrifice of love for your engaged Husband, Christ, when He comes.

Very few people understand the calling. Many people have been saved for months and they don't even know who their pastor-teacher is. They don't even know their calling.

God Leads with His Call

It is very interesting to see how God has built His Church. For the first fifty years, the

Gospel was in Jerusalem, but because they would not honor the Great Commission or the Great Commandment, God had to force them out. They gathered every day for fellowship (Acts 2:41-47), but in Acts 8, after just fifty years, God had to force them out because they would not go.

In Acts 15, the church sent men to Antioch and Syria with Paul and Silas. Then the soul winning vision chilled. The missionary vision died. The love for each other became irrelevant.

God removed His blessing out of Antioch and Syria, and He raised up men to go into Istanbul and Constantinople, from A.D. 330 to 600.

After a time, commercialization, tradition, and compromise crept in, and God said, "I'm going to move it into Rome." So the Word of God moved into Rome. At first the church was on fire for God, but then the love of God began to wane and the Holy Spirit was grieved in that place. Tradition came in. Compromise came in. Adding to the Bible came in.

And then the Word of God moved to France in the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. But again, the Spirit was grieved. The love of God ceased, the soul winning fervor

stopped, and the missionary obedience stopped. France became amoral, and the blessing of God on that nation departed for many hundreds of years.

The Word of God moved into Switzerland with John Calvin, and into Germany with Martin Luther. Martin Luther wrote on the church door his ninety-five page thesis, "The Just Shall Live By Faith." Calvin was used mightily in Switzerland, but then it happened. Men of God were pitted against each other with accusations, and then the love of God ceased. The soul winning fervor left. The missionary vision left. Body life? There was none. So God moved once again, this time into the Iberian Peninsula, into Spain and Portugal.

One of the greatest missionary works that ever took place was in the Iberian Peninsula. From there, the Word of God went into places like Australia, New Zealand, South America, and many, many other places. Then materialism took over, and money and security became the issue. An emphasis on temporal materialism was overdone, and people started to withdraw. The church became dead, and the love of God ceased, and the soul winning stopped. One of the greatest groups of people in the world, but

the soul winning stopped. Missionary vision was gone. There went the move of God from the Iberian Peninsula.

It moved into England, and for awhile we had men like William Carey at Northhampton. At first, it was going good until liberalism, ecclesiasticism, and compromise came in. They began to let the Bible become less than the total authenticity and authority of life, and the love of God left England. The power of God was no longer there. The center for missionary life, which was so fervent, was no longer of value whatsoever in England.

Lest We Forget

Then God moved into New England. There He used men like Luther Rice and A.J. Gordon who had a fantastic vision in the middle of the night, where an angel met Jesus after He had gone back to heaven, and the angel asked Him, "What did You tell them?"

Jesus said, "I told them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, make disciples out of believers, and go everywhere, and I'll go with them."

Then the angel said to Jesus, "Lord Jesus, what if they don't go?"

And in the dream God said, “I have no other plan. If they don’t do it, I have no second plan.”

So the Gospel moved to the south, east, and west in what today we call America, the client nation—the nation that represents God more than any other nation, all over the world. It is a nation that has 496,000 ordained ministers right now, one for every four hundred people. But despite this, it is a nation where the soul winning fervor is chilled, the missionary vision is barely there, and Body life is virtually unknown in most of the churches. Most Christians would not know what is meant by Body life. Pastors and their people bring reproach to Jesus Christ by getting into immorality everywhere, all over this nation, not sanctifying the Lord before people.

Apparently, the ways of the world have never changed—and neither has God’s call. He will continue to hear the cry of souls who need to know the Savior. Moved with compassion, He will continue to use the foolish and the weak things who will respond to His call to set the captives free with the Gospel.

Chapter Two

CALLED OUT FOR A PURPOSE

“And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

“And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

“And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

“For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (2 Peter 1:5-10).

Make sure of your election and calling.

Number one: You have a heavenly calling.

Number two: It is a holy calling.

Number three: It is a high calling.

Number four: It is your calling.

Number five (and first of all): It is His call.

When you get married, consider your calling. That is why it is important to understand the value of being equally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14). Many people who love their church and love their spouse with all their heart have never been completely happy because they did not consider being equally yoked in the call of God.

With every step you make, consider your calling. Psalm 37:23 says He guides your steps. According to Psalm 119:133, iniquity will not have dominion over you because He guides your steps by His Word. God wants your steps guided into your calling. Don't fight it. Don't wrestle it. Find it out if you don't know it already.

Called into Royalty

When you get your call down pat, you need to understand that the Body of Jesus Christ is God's fullness on the earth (Ephesians 1:23). Also, understand that God gives every single believer a reigning position. I cannot emphasize this enough. In Revelation 1:5-6, we read,

“...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father....”

God said, “I’m giving you a life that’s eternal. I’m giving you a timeless call.” God creates something fantastic out of just a little. He takes a little person who is not noble, not mighty, not intellectual, so He can receive the glory. He calls every single Christian and makes him a king. God makes people special and gives them royal authority and a royal position. He gives us a royal place in His Kingdom today, spiritually. Of course in Revelation 5:10, in the Millennial kingdom, we will reign with Him on the earth. But 1:5-6 is a different passage. It means that God’s people are not to be the tail, but they are to be the head (Deuteronomy 28:13). God has given us royal rights in a royal family with a royal position.

You may take it lightly because of familiarity, and maybe you will not, but the Word of God says that He quickened us together with Christ and seated us together in Christ, in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6).

Colossians 3:1-3 says that if you are risen with Christ (and you are if you are born-again), then seek those things which are above. Do not

set your mind on things below, for your life is hid with Christ in God. The first part of that verse says, “For ye are dead.”

We have been given this position. You see, a king receives the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness to reign in life by Jesus Christ. A king reigns. A king has a separate territory, and he is a very important person. He has subjects. And God says, “I have given you royal favor, so I have given you a reigning position.”

I received a letter from a man who said, “For years I lived in negativity. I was negative to my wife and my kids. I would scream, throw things at the wall. I started drinking heavily. Then a friend at work asked me to go to church and I heard you speak a message about the Glorious Gospel of love and mercy and grace and forgiveness and what God could do.” And he said, “I came forward and accepted Christ.”

He said, “I’ll never be able to understand it. I went home and I didn’t have a desire to drink. Week after week went by, and my wife could not believe it. Then she went with me and got saved, and then our two daughters and a son got saved. I’m a brand-new Christian.”

He received the power to reign.

A Royal Position, Power, Provision, and Place

We have a royal position, far above principalities, far above powers, and far above the rulers of this world (Ephesians 1:21).

Then we have this royal power. We have the ability to think with God, and we have the manifestation of God. We have the operation of the Holy Spirit of God, and the power of God.

We also have a royal provision. He has made you a king and He has made you priests. That means you have sacred rights. You can go to God and say, "I'm a believer-priest, God, and I can go directly to You. I don't need a man to go through. I can go directly to you in my priesthood." You can go directly to God, and you have the power and authority to pray for people and to have your own sins forgiven directly through Christ. You are a believer-priest, and that means you can execute sacred rights in the holy oracles of God's provision.

But there's something else. You are called to a royal place, or a special place. The Bible says you are called into a special Body. You are called unto one pastor-teacher, wherever you are and whoever that is. Whether it is a pastor in Maine or somewhere else, but that's where your call is.

And the Bible says, “Abide in the calling wherein you are called” (see 1 Corinthians 7:20).

In Isaiah 57:15, we read, “For thus sayeth the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” The word for “contrite” in the original Hebrew goes into the principle of somebody who has fallen again and again, and they are crushed.

The humble spirit isn’t somebody who has fallen into deep iniquity, but somebody who has been constantly hurt by circumstances and people—wounded, bruised, and raped, so to speak. They have been hit hard, and they are at the mercy of the living God. So God said, “I’m not only the high and exalted One who is above every single thing on earth, but I am with a poor broken sinner, and My habitation is inside his soul.”

He Who Inhabits Eternity Lives In Me

And He said, “I will revive this person. I inhabit eternity. I inhabit a divine plan. I AM THAT I AM (see Exodus 3:14). I do it all, but I share My exaltation inside of the woman at the

well and inside of any single person who will let Me in. I'll give them the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness to reign in life by One, Jesus Christ" (see Romans 5:17).

Once a year, the high priest put his hand on an animal representing the people of Israel, who brought their sacrifices. On his hand was this beautiful, fantastic incense, but the moment he touched the animal, God supernaturally took the fragrance away. That is a picture of when Jesus Christ bore our sins on His body and the Father turned His back. That precious, holy, perfect, incense was gone because He was taking on all the sins of the whole world.

The next day they would have to go back, and the scapegoat would be sent into the wilderness—into a valley where no one could go. No one could see anything in that valley. If you went in looking for it, you could never get out. That was where the sins of the nation of Israel went, into a place where nobody could get in and nothing could get out, representing the wiping and washing away of all their sins. So no one had access to their failures. Thank God for that! Instead, we have a reigning place.

The Word of God says, in 1 Corinthians 12:27, that you are members in particular. That

means you have been designated to be a portion in a living organism, designated to be placed in the Body as a particular portion, as a particular member, as a particular part of Christ. Just as your fingers are part of your hands, and your arm is a part of your body, and your feet are a part of your legs, you are a living organ. You are living in the fantastic, organic, wonderful Body of Jesus Christ.

It is not simply a “universal Body.” You are a member in particular of a living Body in which He is the head and you have a heavenly calling, a holy calling, a high calling, a royal position, a royal provision, and a royal assignment. It is to function in that Body as a king, blessing the other Body members, ruling with them, reaching the lost with them, building up other Body members as a member in particular with your particular gift or gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11). You are here as God has placed you (verse 18), and here you are.

Life is not dull. Life is the most exciting thing. And if it's not that way where you are, you are missing the whole point. That is why our people fill up the church on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. They did that long before we had college, long before we had a radio

program. It was always this way. Why? Because we are members in particular. That's why.

Chapter Three

IT CAN BE DONE

Hattie Wyatt was seven years old. She went to a little church just outside of Philadelphia. It was all broken down in a very dirty looking building. But the preacher was good.

She came home early one day, and her mother said, "Why are you home? Why aren't you in Sunday School?"

She said, "Because the place is small and it's full and there's no room for me."

So Hattie got on her knees, and she said, "Mom, I'm going to sign a contract with God today that He will bring in a great, big, beautiful church because the way that preacher preaches, he's going to need it."

Within just a month, Hattie came down with consumption and died, and the small assembly gathered at her funeral. Her mother showed them the contents of her little pocketbook: fifty-seven pennies and a prayer that read, "God can

do it.”

The pastor began to get overwhelmed, and this man, Dr. Russell Conwell, wrote *Acres of Diamonds*. Motivated by Hattie’s life to write that book, he made six million dollars. Then from Temple Baptist Church they built Temple University and Temple Hospital.

You see, a seven-year-old girl believed that she had authority with heaven. She was just seven, and God took her home. She left fifty-seven pennies and a prayer, “God can do it.”

Living Proof

May I say it today? It can be done! Abraham, though you failed with Hagar, it can be done. You waited until you were ninety-nine and a hundred years of age before God gave you Isaac, but you received the promise.

It can be done, Jacob, despite your ups and downs and failures. It can be done, Jacob. You will represent the twelve tribes of Israel with four different wives. It can be done.

It can be done, Moses. You murdered a man and you had to go away for forty years. You lived in fear, and you got away from God, and God waited and waited, and He brought you back. He let you lead your people out of Egypt

with a stammering tongue and an impediment in your speech. It can be done, Moses.

It can be done, David, despite Bathsheba and despite Uriah and despite the fact that you had several major weaknesses in your life. You fulfilled the entire will of God (Acts 13:22). You never turned aside (1 Kings 15:5). David, you will reign with Christ in the Millennial Reign as the prince. It can be done, David.

Solomon, after you prostituted your life, it can be done. You were wealthy, and you went after women and money. When you finally repented in the book of Ecclesiastes, God said, "Son, write Me two inspired books. Your life isn't over. You're going resume now and you are going to reign through the gift of grace, through the abundance of the gift of righteousness. You're going to reign with One, Jesus Christ. Go back reigning, King Solomon, and write two inspired books." Solomon did that in his middle eighties. It can be done.

It can be done, Samson. You have done wrong, and you have been chastised. Believe God, Samson. You didn't know your hair was growing again and that your strength was being restored (Judges 16). In your death, you will kill more Philistines than you ever did in your life.

You will come out triumphant, Samson, because God let you reign. It can be done.

And it can be done, Peter. You denied Christ three times, but God said, "I want to you to go with the Gospel, first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. You will go to Samaria and present the Gospel. You'll be the first one. Peter, despite what you've done, you are going to do it. You will reign with Christ and die as a martyr.

It can be done, Saul of Tarsus, though you have gone out murdering Christians. God will make you a tremendous apostle to the Gentiles, and you will suffer for the divine cause of Jesus Christ (Acts 9:15, 16). But you will receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness to reign in life. It can be done, Paul.

John the apostle, it can be done on the Isle of Patmos. God will come in and bless you and give you a tremendous vision of His heart.

Going Forward with the Gospel

As we continue in the call of God and go on into places like Turkey and Peru, as we go on into all these countries, we are definitely going by the grace of Almighty God. It can be done.

Abide in your call and accept your royal position. Act in your royal provision and accept

your reigning power. Accept the words of faith, then accept the victory. It can be done!

Many people live in the effects of a life that is not from God. They are never free from stress and they suffer greatly. One article said that 30 to 40 percent of the flu is related to stress, which is often because the soul isn't right. Now don't get condemned if you are sick. We all have to deal with it. I'm talking about a principle.

But when the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the power of Christ control the human spirit, and that transforming power goes into the five parts of your soul and into your body, you have the royal reigning power of grace. You will begin to realize that you have been made to be someone special for God, and that you are a king right now.

Yes, you will reign in the future, but right now you are a king, and a king has territory. A king has subjects. A king has a spirit of authority. As a king, you will reign with the Prince of the kings of the earth. Because you are a king, you can reign over projections, over temptations, and over sin.

God gives you the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness to reign. You can know God precisely and live in God's operational

power through His Word operating in you. When you begin to realize that, you will be the most outstanding Christian here.

Don't be indifferent. Soul winning must never be chilled off here. Young people should go soul winning. The missionary vision must never stop! The whole counsel of God must never cease! The conviction of every Word of God must continue!

Jesus said, "I am, I was, and I always will be" (see Hebrews 13:8). In John 8:58, Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am." This wonderful eternal One who inhabits three dimensions of time is inside our bodies reigning.

You don't have to let sorrow take over. You don't have to let frustration and depression take over. We are more than conquerors through Him that loves us. We are hupernikao, super victors, through Him that loved us (Romans 8:37). And the Bible says in Luke 1:37 that with God, everything is possible. Then the Word of God says that He always causes us to triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14).

I'm going to take the Bible literally. I'm going to take the promises literally. In Hebrews 4:1, the Bible says to be very careful that you don't leave a promise unclaimed. Don't even

leave one. God says, “I’ve got your life, and I’m available with a promise for this situation.” Don’t leave it in the Bible. Internalize it. Pick it up. Run with it. Love with it. Let it work patience in your situation, and run with that promise.

We have a place to reign. Our subjects are people who have fallen into sin. We don’t reign by ruling over them. They had to fall before God. But we reign through our prayers and our testimonies, and we see the power of God as we intercede.

We have something to reign over, and that is our old sin nature, sickness and disease, emotional problems. We can reign over these things. What’s more, God has given you at least one gift. He has placed you in the Body, and you are a member in particular.

Don’t be a wandering person. Don’t be proud and arrogant. Realize that you have a particular place—not just any old place but a geographical call to some location. It can change under the Great Commission certainly, but you have a call to a geographical location. The operational will of God depends upon the geographical will of God. God will bless anybody who lives clean anywhere, but how much more will

He bless when you are in the perfect will of God? Find your particular place to share and be God's living hand, living eye, living tongue, living arms. Be part of God's organism in the place He has called you. Be a royal member of His family and reign with Him with royal authority.

CONCLUSION

Mix faith with the Word of God, and the promise brings in the power. Get spontaneous in believing about healing and don't get passive. So many people hear a phenomenal message on resurrection power, then they get so passive, waiting for heaven to come, when they could be reigning with health right now.

Come on! The Bible says we are more than conquerors through Him, and with Christ nothing is impossible. Don't be passive! Be active! If you don't mix faith with the promises of God, you will not profit. So, mix faith!

Get excited in faith. Say to yourself, "Hallelujah, He did it tonight. There is substance in my soul. And even if there is no evidence, there is substance. I'm not waiting for it to happen. My confession is that I'm mixing what I have heard with faith, and there's substance for my business, substance for my marriage, substance for my needs. I've got substance in me. I have

the promises of God.”

Stop thinking that you're the tail. You're the head! Don't look at your life as one that will just accomplish a little. Look at your life as one that will accomplish more than you'll ever know. Take your royal position, provision, power, and place, and begin to reign with Christ today!

Father, I'm not going to do much praying. I preached it. You will cause us to triumph. You deliver. You heal. You bless. You have a purpose. You have a plan. We are royalty. Bless us, protect us, empower us, enable us, and keep us quickened. In Jesus' name. Amen.