

Read Ezekiel 1:2-5a, 13-15, 19-20, 22, 26-28; 2:1-7



Pastor John David (J.D.) Walt

"To embrace the called life does not narrow the scope of the future. It opens up the horizon."

"The called life chiefly involves learning to behold God—Jesus Christ— in such a fashion that you become his protégé/ his disciple in the making."

- J. D. Walt. Called:?! Following A Future Filled with the Possible © 2011, Seedbed Publishing

The called life involves moving...

From Darkness to Light

From Death to Life

From Ladder-Climbing to Cross-Descending

From Dutiful Discipline to an "Abiding Desire"

From "Saving the World" to "Serving My Friends"

From a Predictable Life to "Leaving the Building"

From Self-Assuredness to God-Confidence

From a Power Position to a Humble Place

From One Who Talks to One Who Hears

From Outward Appearances to Inner Person

From Disillusionment to Insight

From "I Can't Do It" to "There's a Fire in My Bones"

From a Static Job Description to a Series of Divine Assignments

From a Hopeless Situation to a Hopeful Preparation

From Ordinary Faithfulness to Extravagant Obedience

From the Scripted Life to the Stories that Matter

Yet God's call is revealed in our w_____ of obedience with Him.

Which mean our lives will move way beyond the essential d_____ envisioned in the calling God lays on our hearts.

Ways Ezekiel's life was impacted as he pursued the call of God in his life...

- 1) Ezekiel was impacted E_____ (3:14-15)
- 2) Ezekiel was impacted R_____ (3:22-24)
- 3) Ezekiel was impacted S_____ (3:25) (cc.8-11) 11: 13
- 4) Ezekiel was impacted P_____ (3:26-27)
- 5) Ezekiel was impacted S_____ (his place in the community)
- 6) Ezekiel's m_____ was ultimately impacted (24:15-25)

Things that enable & strengthen God's calling...

- 1) Sovereignty of God - "SON OF MAN" 2:1
- 2) Spirit of God - 2:2; 3:12,14,24; 8:3; 11:1,5,24; 37:1; 43:5
- 3) Salvation of God (34:11-31) ("a new Spirit" → 11:19; 18:31; 36:26-27; 37:14; 39:29)

Romans 12:1-2

What is the will of God for my life? That's the question I asked for so long and the one I am most often asked. According to the text above, the will of God means walking in the way of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. To know the will of God is the outcome of becoming a particular kind of person and walking down a particular path. The plan unfolds as we offer our lives as a living sacrifice. The details start coming as we are converted from the patterns of self-centered living to the mind of Christ.

To attempt to forecast the "will of God" for one's life is an exercise in futility. The God we follow doesn't offer a map or GPS device. He offers himself. Looking ahead one could never predict it. But when one looks back along the unlikely path travelled there is a deep sense of, "I wouldn't trade that journey for all the money in the world." No matter the specific vocation or destination, to walk in this way of abandoned trust always and inevitably leads to the beautiful life. This way of life, like the wine at the wedding feast in Cana, keeps getting better and better, transforming from good to pleasing to perfect.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.... They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. -- J. D. Walt
