

HARD WORK & GOD'S GRACE

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (ESV)

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS? 5 YEARS? This was a question I was asked every annual review when I worked the emergency department... I said learn ECG rhythms better, I did... Take a phlebotomy course, I did... get my RN license, I started... become a Pastor, I did.

In the passage we are going to look at, Paul speaks to 3 arenas of calling that got him to where God wanted him... These arenas can help YOU in pursuit of your calling.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (ESV) ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

I IDENTIFYING CALLING:

A- Are you called? This is an answer you must seek out for yourself.

1. We know Paul's story, how he had an encounter with God, and he asked God: What do you want me to do.
 - a. This is a question every believer needs to ask God... God made plain to Paul what he wanted him to do.
2. For you; the same is true, you must identify for yourself What does God want you to do.
 - a. Most are here because you have identified this answer: Yes I am called, I feel called, I want to be used in that way

B- So, God is involved in calling; **V10** by the grace of God I am what I am...

1. God planned, God encountered, God called, God formed, God is using my life!
2. See; This isn't just a fellowship thing, a conference emotional thing... Its a God thing-
 - a. God wants you to identify your calling!
 - b. PG: *Calling is an invitation to purpose... Calling is the potential of your life... Calling is of God*

II WORKING HARD:

A- V10 I worked harder than any of them...

1. Pursuing calling takes WORK!
 - a. Guys can have a lot of ideas about how this will come about...
 - i. Ill live carnal, self centered, no prayer life, no bible reading, no evangelism, no commitments, shaky marriage-
 - ii BUT THEN WHEN I GET SENT OUT! Im gonna be amazing!
2. It takes work, and pioneering takes work, and ministry takes work, and leadership takes work
 - a. If you are afraid of work... ministry will not be for you!

B- So what is Paul saying here? He put in the work! Labor, toil, tired, weary, hard working-

1. He committed himself to the work- No matter how hard, I'm doing this
2. He submitted himself to the work- No matter how tiring, I'm obedient to what God wants
3. He expected the work- It's going to be there, so get it done! PG: *"It just has to be done"*

III GOD'S GRACE:

A- Text reminds us of a supernatural element: **V10** though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

1. Don't forget who called him; GOD DID... Paul says don't forget who equipped me: GOD DID.
 - a. Quote that changed my calling: God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called!
2. When Paul settled his calling, and positioned his life for calling, God met with him every step of the way!
 - a. There was a Grace connected... a grace to handle, manage, grow, accomplish, minister!

B- Its all 3 arenas at work... all 3 working together... All 3 dependent upon each other

1. WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS IN THE NEXT 2 YEARS? 5 YEARS?
 - a. Where do you want to be, what do you want to be doing?
2. Hard Work & God's Grace