

**I am Called and Gifted**  
Series: God Keeps His Promises  
Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
August 28, 2022

Welcome again to worship.

We are in the midst of our series “God Keeps His Promises.” We are looking at 10 promises God makes to us.

**First, we are promised forgiveness.**

**Second, Freedom.**

**Third, Assurance.**

**Then, Hope.**

Today, I want us to consider our fifth promise God keeps, and that is **Calling**.

There once was a story about a man named Speedy Morris. Speedy was a basketball coach for LaSalle University. He was shaving one day when his wife called out to tell him he was wanted on the phone by Sports Illustrated. Speedy Morris was so excited by the prospect of national recognition that he nicked himself with his razor and ran—with a mixture of blood and lather on his face—down the hall promptly falling down the stairs. Limping and in some physical distress he finally got to the phone and the voice on the other line said: “For just seventy-five cents an issue you can get a one year trial subscription...”<sup>1</sup>

One of the most remarkable things to realize in the Christian faith is that the God of the universe calls us to be part of the implementation of His kingdom here on earth. God calls us to join Him in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all the world, to building up His Church, to being Christ’s hands and feet.

I want to read from one of the greatest call stories in all of Scripture, one that has inspired untold numbers to Christian service and ministry. It was part of my call, sitting in a hand-me-down upholstered chair in my dorm room in college.

Allow me to read Isaiah 6:1-8:

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”<sup>2</sup>*

When God calls someone, there are three things that happen.

**First, when we are called, we get a glimpse of God.**

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<sup>1</sup> Nelson’s Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations and Quotes, 2000, pg. 222.

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah 6:1-8 (NIV)

Isaiah says that he saw God and those of the heavenly realm who are around Him. He heard the song we will all hear one day:

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”<sup>3</sup>*

When we are called, we realize the greatness of God, His majesty, His authority over all.

**Second, when we are called, we get a glimpse of who we are.**

When Isaiah sees God, he immediately recognizes his own depravity, his own corruption, his own sin. And not only his own sin, but the taint, the stench of sin because of who he lives with.

*“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”<sup>4</sup>*

MARY KAY LADY WHO WORKED AT TRACTOR SUPPLY STORE IN THE TIRE DEPARTMENT.

When we see the beauty and holiness of God, we see our own ugliness and sin.

**Finally, when we are called, God calls us to His purposes.**

Listen to Isaiah again:

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”<sup>5</sup>*

Did you notice that God calls to obedience, not to anything specific. He calls us to go where He will send, but that destination is usually not included in the call. It is obedience to Him that we are called to.

Here’s the thing: God promises to call us to serve Him where He has planned us to go.

He has called each and everyone of you to serve Him in His kingdom.

And since He has called us, He has promised our sixth promise: to Gift us.

Let me read from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthian church:

*Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don’t want you to misunderstand this. You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only*

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<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 6:5 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)

*Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*<sup>6</sup>

Let me quickly share three things from this passage about Gifting.

**First, Gifts come from the Holy Spirit.**

Verse 1:

*Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this.*<sup>7</sup>

Then verse 4:

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.*<sup>8</sup>

The gifts come from the Spirit. God is the source of our gifting.

**Second, our gifts are different.**

Verse 5-6:

*There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.*<sup>9</sup>

Then Paul lists several spiritual gifts. They are not all here. Paul has several lists. There are some 30 spiritual gifts listed in the Bible.

The point is that we are not all gifted the same. You are gifted differently than I am.

**Finally, our gifts have a purpose.**

Verse 7:

*A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*<sup>10</sup>

I like this definition of the purpose of a spiritual gift: To glory God and edify others.

My spiritual gifts are not for me, but for you. Your spiritual gifts are not meant for you, but for others. And when we hoard our spiritual gifts, we rob others. We don't help them in their path to the Lord.

And here's the thing: God gifts the called instead of calling the gifted.

You can be the greatest musician, but you are nothing for the Lord unless He has gifted you.

You can be the greatest public speaker, but you do nothing for the Kingdom of God unless He has gifted you.

My friends, God has called each and everyone of us. And when He calls us, He gifts us. All for the purpose of glorifying Him and edifying others, building the kingdom of God here on earth.

The story goes of a fire at an apartment building. The firefighters pulled a woman out of the building, but she was screaming and kept trying to go back in.

"But why?" they asked.

"My baby! My baby is still in there."

The firefighters told her she could not go back in, for she would surely die.

But she kept crying out and trying to go back into the blaze.

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<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (NLT2)

<sup>7</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:1 (NLT2)

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:4 (NLT2)

<sup>9</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:5-6 (NLT2)

<sup>10</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT2)

One firefighter said, "I will go."

"You can't," they told him. "You will surely die."

"I must try," he said.

So, he began to climb the ladder. They directed their hoses on him to keep him cool.

He reached the window of the woman's apartment and went inside. The smoke was so intense, he had to crawl on the floor. He could not see, could barely breathe. He felt around until he reached the baby crib. He reached in and took out the bundle and held it close to his chest.

He made it back to the window. The people cheered. The firemen put their hoses back on him as he came down the ladder.

On the ground, he handed the bundle over to the woman, who opened it, then cried out. Inside was her baby's doll.

How many of us are holding onto the toys of this world? Instead of rescuing those that had headed to the fires of hell, we are grasping the toys of this world. We are called and we are gifted to save people from the eternal fires. Are we going to take our calling and use our gifting to save people or toys?