

Our Calling

We have established our identity by examining the primary factors that come to bear on our existence: God, His Kingdom, the Church and its manifestations. We have concluded that there is both biblical and historical precedent for a society such as The Navigators. The question now is - "Are The Navigators called of God?" And, if so, what is that calling?

Definition: A Calling is a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action, especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence. (Note 5)

One meaning of Calling in the New Testament is "being chosen for a task." "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle..." - Romans 1:1.

The origin, nature and goal of such a call is heavenly. "But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by His grace..." - Galatians 1:15,16; cf. Acts 22 and 26. Paul said, "Tell Archippus: 'See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.'" - Colossians 4:17.

What is the work we believe that God has given us to do? In broad terms, the answer is found in the nature of God Himself and His Great Commission. Specifically, it is determined by the Scriptures, the providential leading of God and the inner conviction of the Holy Spirit.

I. The Scriptures

We have established that there is a biblical precedent for persons called to a specialized function as set forth in Ephesians 4:11 ,12 and illustrated by Acts 20:4. This established our legitimacy and our identity, but not our calling. We shall see that our calling grows out of the Great Commission.

II. The providential leading of God

As early as 1931, Daws prayed - "Lord, soon bring us into touch with a band of young men, rugged soldiers of the cross, with an eye single to Thy glory."

About 1957, the first formulated Navigator aim stated - "The objective of The Navigators is to help fulfill the Great Commission by recruiting, building and sending laborers."

In 1961 - "The objective of The Navigators is to contribute to the fulfillment of the Great Commission by producing reproducers and assisting others to produce reproducers in every nation."

Note: Our ten-year objective then was - "to demonstrate producing reproducers in the countries where we decide to operate."

In 1966 - “The objective of The Navigators is to help fulfill the Great Commission by multiplying laborers.” (Note 6)

In 1968 - “The objective of The Navigators is to help fulfill the Great Commission by multiplying disciples.” (Note 7)

In 1977 - “...by producing functioning (serving) disciples in every nation. “
“ . . . by means of disciplemakers and disciplmaking ministries.”
“by the reproducing of disciplemakers and disciplmaking ministries...”

Observe the consistency in these various statements of Aim. Although we have improved the clarity of our statement over the years, the essential content has not changed. Four ingredients have always been present:

- A. Great Commission
- B. Laborers
- C. Multiplication
- D. Every Nation

III. The inner conviction of the Holy Spirit

This inner conviction is expressed by our sense of peace that we are moving in the right direction. “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...” - Colossians 3:15. In the final analysis, this is the key to a society like The Navigators discerning the will of God.

There is a basic agreement on our calling. Our terminology has changed as we've gone along, but we do share a sense of conviction and peace about what God wants us to do.

**The following pages in this Section are an exegesis of the elements of our calling. Out of these we will derive the statement of our Aim.*

We Are Called to Help Fulfill Christ's Great Commission

The Great Commission is a primary point of reference in establishing our calling.

I. It is Not a New Idea

It reflects God's program from the beginning. Mission arises primarily out of the nature of God Himself. God is a sending God. Genesis 12:3; Deuteronomy 4:5,6; Deuteronomy 28:9-11; Isaiah 11:9; Isaiah 49:6. Cf. Acts 13:47; Isaiah 6:8; John 1:7; John 20:21.

II. It Was Jesus' Last Instruction to His Disciples.

<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>Jerusalem</i>	<i>John 20:21</i>	<i>The Cost</i>
<i>Week later</i>	<i>Mt. in Galilee</i>	<i>Matthew 28:19,20</i>	<i>The Result</i>
<i>Over the 40 days</i>	<i>Summarized</i>	<i>Luke 24:44-49</i>	<i>The Message</i>
<i>Ascension Day</i>	<i>Mt. of Olives</i>	<i>Acts 1:8</i>	<i>Power, Strategy</i>

III. The Basics of the Great Commission are Evangelizing and Establishing.

- A. It is preaching the Gospel of the grace of God and teaching a life of obedience to His Word.
- B. It is building and doing battle - Matthew 16:18. Illus.: Luke 14:31-33
- C. It is winning the lost and building the saved - Colossians 1:29.
- D. "We take for granted that the object of the ministry is to convert sinners and edify the body of Christ. No faithful minister can possibly rest short of this. Applause, fame, popularity, honor, wealth - all these are vain." (Note 8)

IV. Motives

- A. Obedience to Christ - Romans 1:14; 1 Corinthians 9:16,17
- B. Love for God and Man - 1 Corinthians 5:14; Matthew 22:39
- C. The glory of God - Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 43:7.
- D. The fear of the Lord - 2 Corinthians 5:11
- E. The Gospel reveals man's only hope - John 6:68
- F. Co-labor with God - 1 Corinthians 3:9

V. Our Calling Must Focus on the Great Commission

A. In explaining His mission, Jesus began with Isaiah 61:1 - the needs of the world. He recruited laborers and apostles to help in the mission of meeting those needs - cf. John 20:21.

B. Paul described his calling as - "...to reveal His Son in me that I might preach Him among the Gentiles" - Galatians 1:16; cf. Mark 3:14; also Acts 22:14,15 and Acts 26:16-19.

Disciples

“Go and make disciples” - Matthew 28:19. This is the imperative and goal of the Great Commission.

I. What is a Disciple?

The term “disciple” is broad. It includes all of Christ's followers, from new Christians (Acts 14:21) to mature believers - Acts 16:1 .

While all disciples share the same relationship to Christ, they are in different stages of maturity and have different gifts.

A disciple is more than a learner: he is a follower of Jesus Christ. He learns by hearing, observing and imitating - by obedience to Christ and His Word. Christian growth results from being a follower of Jesus Christ - 1 Corinthians 4:15-17; Philippians 3:15-17; Philippians 4:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9.

Jesus said that disciples should have certain characteristics. They put Him first - Luke 14:26,27; they continue in His Word -John 8:31; they love one another - John 13:35; they bear much fruit - John 15:8.

II. Definition: *A Disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ.*