1 Peter 2:9
9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Corinthians 1:26–27
26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.
27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

1 Peter 1:15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;

2 Timothy 1:8–9
8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,
9 who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,
Galatians 1:11–18

11 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up.
12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

13 For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.
14 I was advancing in Judaism beyond many Jews of my own age and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.
15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased
16 to reveal his Son in me
Acts 9:15–16
15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

“Cheryl paid the ultimate price,” said her father, Charles, “but in truth, she paid that price every day. She lived out God’s Word. She adorned herself with his truth . . . She shared Christ to those who were hurting and suffering.

Make no mistake about it . . . There are a host of Afghan people today who know about Jesus because, like Nicodemus, in the cover of darkness they came and they
asked, ‘What are you doing here?’ And she told them about Jesus.”

Sometimes we think of the call as a place to realize our dreams—and sometimes it is—but there are times when it can cost us our very lives.

If God has put a fire inside you—if he’s asked you to join him in some cause—then leave what comfort you have for whatever he has called you to do. Don’t negotiate. Don’t think about how inadequate you are. And don’t think that it is too late.

Those who are happiest are those who have taken the greatest risks. They stepped out into a place that was uncharted and unsafe. They didn’t know how it would end. They only knew what they were supposed to do next. So whatever God has told you to do, say yes.

Acts 13:36
36 “For when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.

John 1:46 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”

Luke 1: 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,
28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”

29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

Holmans Illustrated bible Dictionary
FEAR Natural emotional response to a perceived threat to one’s security or general welfare. It ranges in degree of intensity from a sense of anxiety or worry to one of utter terror.

31“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

Isaiah 7:14
14“So the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

35The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

"Mary read the reports about her hero's death and a ridiculous idea began to come into her mind and to keep returning there as often as she threw it out: she was to follow Livingstone to Africa ... for over a year she tried to forget the idea. But she was not allowed to forget."

Gordon MacDonald: I have lived my life under the discipline of a call. Looking back, the call seems to have emerged in a family conspiracy in which my mother and grandmother prayed fervently that God would raise up a preacher in their family.

That apparently was me. How (or why) God merged his choice with the prayers of two women is a mystery to me. But their prayer is part of the story.

In my second year of life, two military aircraft collided over our home and showered fuel and flaming debris over our neighborhood. I was in our backyard in the one place that escaped the falling wreckage.
My life's being spared was a mystery, perhaps a miracle. Three years later in a similar situation, I was rescued in a near-drowning incident.

Thus the family story: my life had been preserved by God for a purpose only He knew.

"Be very careful," my mother would say. "You dare never say no to God. Should you choose to do anything else but what God calls you to do, you'll be a sad person all of your life." A bit over the top? Perhaps. But, again, that's part of the story.

Throughout childhood and into my teen years, I was romanced by the idea of pastoral life. When other boys dreamed of driving fire trucks and playing professional baseball, I dreamed of preaching the Bible and leading people toward Jesus.

A one-time babysitter tells me that, at the age of four, I loved playing "worship service" in which she was the congregant and I was the pastor.

As a teen, I gained a love for words, for public speaking, for leadership. Men and women in ministry told me they saw potential in me for pastoral work. My heart soared when I listened to people challenge us in the direction of Kingdom activity. I could see myself in a pulpit or doing missionary work. Nothing else was quite so interesting.

In college, however, I succumbed to an impulse to join the Air Force and fly jets. I went to the recruiting center for the required physical examination.

"You're color-confused," a doctor said as he examined my eyes. "You can't distinguish certain colors well enough to qualify as a pilot."
As I left the recruiting center, I thought I heard a bit of laughter from Heaven, as if God were saying, "Did you really think you could get away from your call that easily?" My mini-rebellion quashed, I submitted to what seemed to be inevitable—I was destined to serve God.

You could call this a call-story.

Every *called* person has one. A call story is a history of "whispered words and events" that capture the soul and make you aware that God is speaking.

For some of us the call-story is dramatic. In one forceful moment, you gain a sense of conviction that God has spoken and directed. You are never again the same after this.

Gordon MacDonald says: For others, like myself, the call is like a continual dripping: it just beats on you until you capitulate. "Okay. Okay!"

Eph 4:16
16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.