

Daniel W. Williams – Ordination Recognition

Sunday, 3:00pm

Woodbury, NJ

May 31, 2009

Introduction

- This is a great day for Daniel Williams, for his family, for New Beginnings Bible Fellowship Church, for the Bible Fellowship Church, and for the Church of Jesus Christ.
- One of those men whom God has called and appointed to serve as pastor / teacher is being recognized.
- What leads me today is the thought that some don't see the significance of the call to ministry or the recognition of that call.
 - Some just haven't thought about how a man comes to serve as pastor / teacher.
 - Some see an event like this as just a ritual, a formal routine that you must endure.
- What we are recognizing here today is a work of God.
 - You are seeing it portrayed before your eyes.
- Men of the Bible spoke of a call from God.
 - Jeremiah understood that called had called him to be a prophet, to communicate God's word. (Jeremiah 1:4-7)
 - When Jeremiah was discouraged, God would not let him go. (Jeremiah 20:9)
 - God's word is fire in the bones of the preacher which must come out.
 - The apostle Paul had the same understanding.
 - He had been called to be an apostle, one sent to preach the gospel. (1 Corinthians 1:1)
 - Paul had not attended a job fair but had been appointed by the Lord Himself.
- God said that those who communicate the word of God are His gifts to His church. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- We are here because God has called Daniel L. Williams to the ministry of the word.
- What is and what is not the call of God?

I. What the call of God is not.

A. Pastor Dan is not smarter than everyone else.

1. He has been to seminary.
 - a. He has studied some Greek, some Hebrew, some systematic theology and the art of preaching.
 - b. That does not make him smarter but it means that he has been blessed with some tools that will help him and you.
 - i. We know a good carpenter has tools and knows how to use them.

- ii. Seminary has provided Pastor Dan with some good tools and he has shown that he knows how to use them.
 - 2. But that does not make him smarter.
 - a. There might be times when he thinks he is smarter than everyone but you can remind him that he is not.
 - b. Calling is not about how smart you are.
- B. Pastor Dan is not more spiritual than others.
- 1. Because God has been at work and leading in his life, he has been learning about walking with the Lord.
 - a. When someone walks with the Lord, often you can sense that the Spirit is at work in them.
 - b. Spirituality is a hard thing to define.
 - i. It has become a trendy word which tends to water it down.
 - ii. A spiritual person is one in whom you can see the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. But Pastor Dan is not more spiritual.
 - a. Anyone who seeks to be led by the Spirit will be spiritual.
 - b. Being called by God does not make him more spiritual.
- C. Pastor Dan is not a better Christian than others.
- 1. We tend to evaluate a person's Christian-ness or their Christianity by the way they live.
 - a. People who follow Jesus as Lord show His love in their lives and seek to obey what He has taught.
 - b. Good Christians are people who are serious about being what God wants them to be.
 - 2. But Pastor Dan is not a better Christian.
 - a. Anyone who is serious about serving the Lord is a good Christian.
 - b. Being called by God does not make him a better Christian.

II. What the call of God is.

- A. The call of God is a summons from God to serve Him in the ministry of the word.
- 1. God sends His Holy Spirit to set a man apart for this special task.
 - a. We have already made the point that those who are called are not in any sense better than others in Christ's church.
 - b. God calls a man often giving no explanation for why he has been chosen for the task.
 - i. Both Jeremiah and Paul had come to believe that they were called to their ministry before they were even born.
 - Obviously, God did not call them because they came with great abilities.
 - ii. They understood that their calling was by the grace of God.

- The grace of God is the outworking of what He has determined to do.
 - When God moves graciously, what you see is what He wants whether you understand it or not.
 - God knows why He called them and does not have to offer an explanation.
2. God communicates His intentions in the heart and mind of the one He is calling.
 - a. My own sense of call is nearly as vivid as God's leading to salvation.
 - i. I have been asked how I knew.
 - ii. My only answer is, I knew.
 - b. God does not have a problem communicating His will.
- B. The call of a man is recognized by the church in an action called ordination.
1. If God has called a man by His Spirit, then by God's Spirit others will know.
 - a. The call of man is not merely personal and subjective but rather recognized by others.
 - i. If being called by God is my own idea, what good is it?
 - ii. If others agree with me, then it is beyond my own personal decision.
 - b. Others will see that God has called a man.
 - i. You can see that God has used his preaching and teaching.
 - ii. You can see that God has equipped him to communicate God's word.
 2. Ordination is when the church agrees with a man that he has been called by God to preach the gospel.
 - a. Ordination is a recognition.
 - i. Ordination does not make a man something he is not.
 - ii. It does not confer gifts or give some status.
 - b. Ordination declares that God has called a man to the ministry of the word.
 - i. It is not about the man but about the God who called and equipped him.
 - ii. It does not make the man different but announces to the church that God has once again provided a man to proclaim His word.

Conclusion

- Pastor Dan has been called by God.
- That call began in his heart and mind.
- He came to the Bible Fellowship Church to announce that he had been called and they said, Let's see.
- He served and showed the hand of God in his ministry.
- Pastor Dan is one of God's gifts to the Church, to the Bible Fellowship Church, and to New Beginnings Bible Fellowship Church.
- The Bible Fellowship Church has already declared that they believe He is called of God.
- We are here to affirm that we believe that God has set him apart for this ministry.