

Not Many Wise Called – 1 Corinthians 1:26

Most true Christians accept that they are not among the wise, mighty or noble.

1 Corinthians 1:26 [New King James] *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.”*

This could be taken negatively, but this is not the way God looks on us.

In this article I wish to show you that this statement made by Paul under God’s inspiration is a positive challenge to every true Christian who has this realistic understanding of themselves.

Do not read over and just accept our status according to how this world judges people.

This is a tremendous opportunity being offered to all true Christians by the Creator God.

1 Corinthians 3:9 [New King James] *“For we are God’s fellow workers ...”*

This is the key to understanding this challenge that God has given us.

We had to recognise that we are **not** wise, mighty or noble for God to work in and through us.

James 4:6 [Amplified Bible] *“... God sets Himself against the proud and haughty, but gives grace [Holy Spirit – verse 5] continually to the lowly, those who are humble-minded enough to receive Him.”* [Proverbs 3:34; 1 Peter 5:5]

What is God’s goal for all He is calling in this way?

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 [New King James] *“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”*

This is how the Creator God will use us in the future as long as we remain humble and pliable in His hands, [Isaiah 64:8; Romans 9:20-21].

What is our first step?

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Out of pure gratitude that God has chosen us and what He has done for us and all humanity through the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a *“living sacrifice.”*

The Greek word translated *“bodies”* is *“soma”* meaning the whole life, body, mind and human spirit, [Job 32:8].

Our part as “fellow workers” with God has to be total.

Luke 14:26-27, 33 [New King James] *“If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” ... “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.”*

The Greek word translated “*hate*” is “*misēō*” meaning to love less by comparison.

These and other scriptures clearly tell us that this calling by our Creator God and Saviour **cannot** be a part-time occupation, it has to involve every part of our life.

How is God’s goal for us accomplished this change in our life made?

Foolish

Ephesians 5:15-17 [New King James] “*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*”

Seek wisdom and God’s will.

How?

2 Timothy 3:14-17 [New King James] “*But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*”

The key is God’s Word, the Christian Bible, the more we study it the greater will be our Godly wisdom as the Holy Spirit leads us into understanding all truth, [John 16:13].

This understanding of God’s Word, [**1 Corinthians 2:9-12**] will be retained in our human spirit, [**Job 32:8**] and then brought to remembrance when needed by the Holy Spirit, [**John 14:26**].

James 3:17 [New King James] “*But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*”

This Godly wisdom is only found in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, coming directly from God [above].

Weak

Ephesians 3:16-21 [New King James] “*that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height, to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*”

It is the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit that strengthens us to face all problems and to make all decisions in our lives.

Our part is to allow the Holy Spirit to remain active within us, by not grieving Him.

Ephesians 4:30-32 [New King James] “*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*”

We find listed here things in our lives which will grieve the Holy Spirit and hinder His work within us also attitudes which will ensure that He remains un-grieved.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [New King James] *“Do not quench the Spirit.”*

We quench the activities, that of making us “on fire” for God’s way of life, that the active presence of the Holy Spirit can generate in us.

Nor should we ignore and not use any gifts that we have received by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [1 Corinthians 12:4-11].

Noble

The Greek word translated “noble” is “*ēugēnēs*” meaning well born, a nobleman of high rank in human society.

Acts 4:13 [New King James] *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”*

Peter and John did not have what we call today a higher education, it was only because they were with Jesus Christ over a long period of time that God would be using them in a powerful way.

Only when a true Christian has experienced a period of the active presence of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, [Romans 8:9] working in them that God can use that person.

Psalms 37:34 [Amplified Bible] *“Wait for and expect the Lord, and keep His way, and He will expect you to inherit the land, in the end, when the wicked are cut off you shall see it.”*

A promise that will be fulfilled by Jesus Christ at the time of His Second Coming, [Revelation 20:4-6].

To put to shame the things that are mighty

Isaiah 2:2-4 [New King James] *“Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”*

This is looking forward to the future return of Jesus Christ and His taking over world rule.

“Mountains and hills” are symbolic of national ruling governments and the people who are ruling, both secular and religious, at this time.

Revelation the twenty-first chapter depicts the glorious fulfilment of this prophecy in the New Jerusalem, where only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life will be allowed to enter.

How do true Christians learn to be part of this world ruling government of the returned to this earth Jesus Christ?

Luke 8:18 [New King James] *“Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”*

The Greek word translated “hear” is “akōuō” meaning to desire to understand what we hear and apply it to our life, the way we think and act.

This is the **only** way in which we can be prepared to be used by God now and in the future.

Romans 12:2 [NIV] *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This can only happen as we are led by the Holy Spirit, [**Romans 8:14**], and the God-like characteristics, “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit are developed in our lives, [**Galatians 5:22-25**].

This is the challenge given to us by our Creator God and Saviour in **1 Corinthians 1:26-30**.