

**The Call of God to Samuel:
A Lesson on God's Call to Service
1 Samuel 03:01–10**

1. *The need for God's call*

- a. Samuel was still young and tender-hearted:
He had faithfully been serving the LORD,
assisting Eli
- b. A prophet was needed:
God's Word and visions were rare
- c. A replacement was needed for Eli: He was weak and almost blind (physically and spiritually),
2:22-36; 4:14-18

2. *The call of God and the need to respond to God's call*

- a. God's call came at night after Samuel and Eli had gone to bed
 - b. God's call was given repeatedly, time and again
- 1) The first call was misunderstood:
Thought to be from Eli, a human source
- Samuel ran to Eli
 - Eli sent him back to bed

1 The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli.
In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One night Eli,
whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see,
was lying down in his usual place.

3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out,
and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD,
where the ark of God was.

4 Then the LORD called Samuel.
Samuel answered, "Here I am."

5 And he ran to Eli and said,
"Here I am; you called me."
But Eli said, "I did not call;
go back and lie down."
So he went and lay down.

- 2) The second call was also misunderstood:
Thought to be from Eli, a human source
- Samuel ran to Eli again, but he was again sent back
 - Samuel did not yet know how to recognize and discern the call of God, His Word
- 3) The third call was again misunderstood:
Thought to be from Eli, a human source
- Samuel ran to Eli
 - Eli finally realized the truth: God was calling the boy
- c. God's call demanded a response
- 1) Eli told Samuel how to respond to God's call:
"Speak, LORD, for your servant hears"
- 2) Samuel responded by making himself available to the LORD
- The LORD called a fourth time
 - Samuel responded:
"Speak, for your servant hears."

- 6 Again the LORD called, "Samuel!"
And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."
"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."
- 7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD:
The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.
- 8 A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!"
And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."
Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy.
- 9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"
So Samuel went and lay down in his place.
- 10 The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"
Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."