

ELDER COMMISSIONING SERVICE

When God Calls A Man

Acts 20: 17-31


April 7, 2024

Deitrich Bonhoeffer on God's Calling:

“When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die. The death may not be physical, although that may be required, but it is always the death of the self submitting to the will of God”

We look for Four Essentials in a Leader:

- 1) Does the man have an observable calling by God?
- 2) Does the man demonstrate character qualities found in Scripture?
- 3) Does the man demonstrate competency for the position?
- 4) Does the man demonstrate the chemistry necessary to fit
fit
into the group?

A dirt road winding through a forest with autumn foliage. The road is the central focus, leading the eye into the distance. The trees on either side are in various stages of autumn, with some showing vibrant orange and yellow leaves, while others are still green. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**Separation to God, separation
from the world, is the first
principle of Christian living.**

Watchman Nee

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sub·mit

/səb'mit/

verb

to align my will with God's
to find freedom, direction, &
true purpose.

MEN OF GRIT

FORGING A LEGACY OF STRONG MEN

grit

[gr-it] noun

Possessing a strength of character and fighting spirit.
Having the drive and determination to push through
regardless of the obstacle thrown your way until you
succeed.



**No reserves.
No retreats.
No regrets.**

(discovered written in his Bible after his untimely death)

William Borden

FYI:

Christian character is cultivated in the trials, in the wilderness experiences of life

Those who come out of the wilderness are all in with God!

Moses' leadership character was cultivated in the backside of the desert

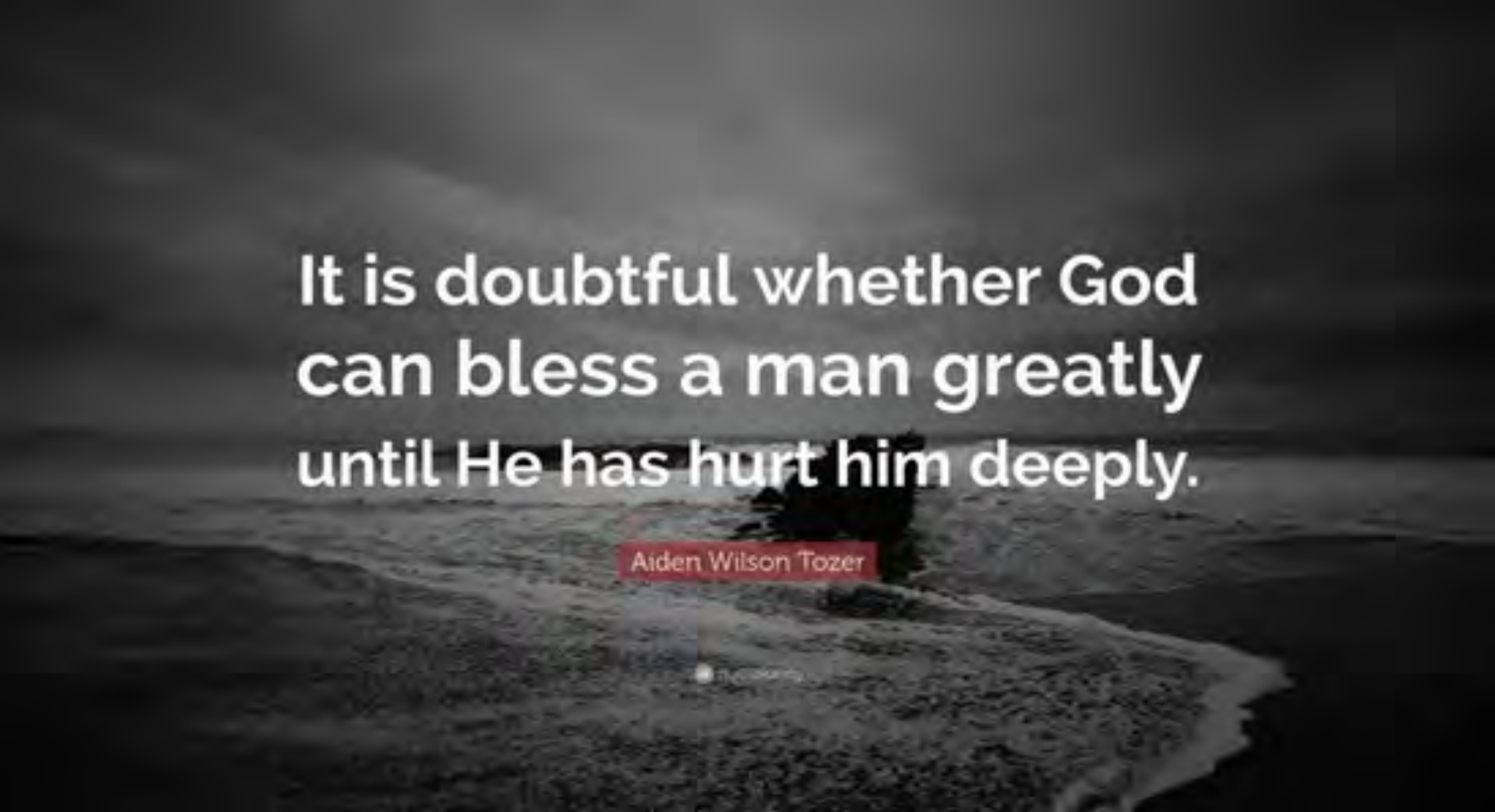
Leaders *must* be prepared for opposition

Leaders *must* be prepared to protect

Leaders *must* be prepared to sacrifice themselves


Paul's leadership character was cultivated in the trials of life

It is in the trials of life, in the wilderness experiences of life, that your character is cultivated

A dark, moody photograph of a beach at night. The sky is dark and cloudy, with a faint light source on the horizon. The ocean is dark, with white foam from waves crashing against a dark rock in the center. The beach is visible in the foreground, with some light reflecting off the sand and water.

**It is doubtful whether God
can bless a man greatly
until He has hurt him deeply.**

Aiden Wilson Tozer

A photograph of a desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a cloudy, overcast sky. The dunes are in the foreground and middle ground, with a flat horizon line. The sky is filled with soft, greyish clouds. The overall tone is muted and somewhat somber.

Does it not seem strange that the generation with the most advanced technology and the easiest-to-read Bible translations is the weakest generation of Christians in the history of our country? Church attendance has never been lower, and the Christian influence in our culture never weaker.

A.W. Tozer

www.tozer.org

Paul to the Ephesian Elders (Acts 20: 19-20):

*“Serving the Lord with all humility,
with many tears and trials.”*

Humility is a character trait of Godly leaders!

Paul taught the *“whole counsel of God”* – (Acts 20: 27)

Paul’s encouragement to all Elders (Acts 20: 28):

*“Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to all the flock,
among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,
to shepherd the church of God which He purchased
with His own blood.”*

Biblical terms

- Elder = πρεσβύτερος = older, mature man (wisdom)
- Bishop = ἐπίσκοπος = oversee, supervise (governing, managing)
- Pastor = ποιμήν = shepherd (teaching)

Biblical terms

- Elders are bishops (Acts 20:17, 28; Tit. 1:5, 7) and elders are pastors (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2)
- Elders, bishops, and pastors (1) are always used in the plural and (2) are always used the masculine (males)

The Role of Elders

Elders' work was defined for them.

1 Peter 5:2-4

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, **serving as overseers**, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; 3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but **being examples to the flock**; 4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Elders are to protect the flock -

“For I know this, that after my departure

*savage wolves will come in among you, not
sparing the flock.” -Acts 20: 29*

Elders are to protect from savage wolves -

*“Speaking perverse things to draw away
the disciples after themselves.” Acts 20: 30*

Jude puts it this way:

Jude 3-4

- ▶ “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. ⁴ For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(NKJV)

Calling all believers to **WATCH** and **WARN!!**



“Therefore, WATCH and remember that for three years I did not cease to WARN everyone night and day with tears.” – Acts 20: 31

Satan's tactic:

To infiltrate believers with deceptive false teaching

How do Elders protect?


“For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God – Acts 20: 27

Character Qualifications:

- 1 Timothy 3: 1-7
- No one meets these character qualifications perfectly, except Jesus Christ
- This should reflect the predominant way the man conducts his life; Elders are not perfect

The Elder's Wife:

- Jason will need the support of his wife, *Nicky*
- God created woman to be a helper, an aid, a surround; one who understands the seriousness of his calling
- A man needs an understanding wife to help him be the greatest he can be for God's glory



be an
Influencer
for
Jesus

CHRISTian poetry
by deborah ann

Matthew 5:14



service
Savior
desire to serve
this congregation,

Elder Commissioning Service

Having ~~received~~ *April 7th, 2024* a call of full-time
upon his life from our Lord and
Jesus Christ and having a
the spiritual needs of
who had full and

sufficient opportunity for judging his God-given gifts and
leadership among them, and after satisfactory examination by the
Leadership of this Church, in regard to his Christian experience,
Leadership and Doctrine, this man is hereby commissioned to the
office and service of Elder.

Elder Candidate: *Jason Baize*

Wife: *Nicole Baize*

Will you, *Jason*, and your wife, *Nicole*,
please stand and come forward?

As I ask you, *Jason*, each of these questions,
please respond to these vows with “*I do*” or
“*I don’t*”

Jason, do you affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?

Jason, do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and

New Testament to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the

only

Jason, do you sincerely believe the Statement of Faith of this Church contains the truth taught in the Holy Scriptures?

Jason, do you promise that, if at any time you find

yourself out of accord with any of the statements in the Statement of Faith of this Church, you will, on your own initiative, make known to the Pastor and other Elders the change which has taken place in your views since your assumption of this vow?

Jason, do you subscribe to the government and
discipline of Calvary Chapel of Battle
Creek?

Jason, do you promise to submit to your fellow
Elders in the Lord?

Jason, have you received, as far as you know your own heart, a call of full-time service upon your life from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and do you have a desire to serve the spiritual needs of this congregation?

Jason, do you promise to be zealous and faithful
in

promoting the truths of the Gospel and the
purity and peace of the Church, whatever
persecution or opposition may arise to you
on that account?

Jason, will you be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as Elder, whether

personal or relative, private or public, and will you endeavor, by the grace of God, to adorn the professing of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with

exemplary

piety before this congregation?

Jason, are you now willing to take personal responsibility in the life of this congregation as an Elder, to oversee the ministry and resources of the Church, and to devote yourself to prayer, the ministry of the Word and the shepherding of God's flock, relying upon the grace of God, in such a way that Calvary Chapel of Battle Creek and the entire Church of Jesus Christ will be

Now to you: *The Church*

Will you, the body of believers, please stand?

As I ask each of you these questions, please respond corporately with “*I will*”

Will you, the body of Calvary Chapel of Battle
Creek, acknowledge and publicly

receive

Jason Baize as Elder, as a gift of Christ

to

this Church?

Will you love Jason and pray for him and his ministry, and work together with him humbly and cheerfully, that by the grace of God you may accomplish the mission of the Church, giving him all due honor and support in his leadership to which

the

Lord has called him, to the glory and honor of God?

Will you pray for Jason and Nicole, asking God to

protect them and to care for them, both physically and spiritually, and will you encourage them, knowing that the ministry to which he is called will bring trying times and tough situations?

Will you submit to Jason's leadership knowing that

he is called as an Elder to this Church

and

will you seek counsel from him, or

direct

others in the body to him, when the

need



Paul references the laying on of hands in his letter to Timothy, as he spoke about the gift from God

“For this reason, I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

2 Timothy 1:6

This signifies that Paul laid hands on Timothy when anointing him for ministry