

Speaking where the Bible Speaks

I heard of a young lady that said, “That’s the truth! I’m almost sure of it.”

That seems to be the way that many approach their spiritual welfare. They, like many, believed the first story they were told. They were given assurance that the speaker had been called by God: as has been affirmed, “Ultimately, the call to preaching is a spiritual and emotional journey that requires a commitment to the work of ministry. It is a call that involves a sober and informed commitment to the work of ministry and the affirmation of one's gifts and character by a local church.” Therefore, whatever they speak is under the control of the Holy Spirit.

What do the scriptures say about being called? The apostle Paul affirms, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, for that God chose you from the beginning unto salvation in sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 2:13-14).

If a man is “called by God to preach,” why must that same man be approved by the congregation before his calling is ratified?