

A lone, gnarled tree with dense green foliage stands on a rocky, grassy cliffside. The tree's trunk is dark and twisted, leaning slightly to the right. The background shows a hazy, green valley with rolling hills under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**JOURNEY:
Our Response
to God**

A misty landscape with a large tree on a rocky outcrop. The scene is hazy, with a large tree on a rocky outcrop in the foreground. The background shows a valley with a river and distant hills, all shrouded in mist. The overall tone is soft and atmospheric.

Ephesians 3:1 When I think of all this, I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles . . . (NLT)

What does the word call mean?

According to the new compact Bible dictionary call can mean one of four things

- To speak out in the way of prayer
- To Summon or appoint
- To name a person or a thing
- To invite someone to accept salvation in Christ

Paul's Call

2 assuming, by the way, that you know God gave me the special responsibility of extending his grace to you Gentiles. 3 As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. 4 As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. 5 God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets.

Paul's Call

We have call to:

- Turn from sin and live in the freedom we are given in Christ (Rom 3:23, 6:23)
- Be set apart from the world and to Christ (2 Tim 1:9; 1 Peter 2:9)
- Be thankful (Col 3:15)
- Love others and live in unity (Phil 2:1-4)
- To be missionaries in this foreign land that make Disciples (Matt 28:16-20)
- To seek to know God and spend time with him

Paul's message

Ephesians 3:6-12 And this is God's plan: Both Gentiles and Jews who believe the Good News share equally in the riches inherited by God's children. Both are part of the same body, and both enjoy the promise of blessings because they belong to Christ Jesus. 7 By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving him by spreading this Good News. 8 Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ.

Paul's message

9 I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning. 10 God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God's presence. (NLT)

Paul's message

Galatians 3:26-29 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. 28 There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you. (NLT)

Paul's message

What is our message?

- We have a message of hope
- We have a message of grace
- We have a message of unity
- We have a message that is good news

Paul's Circumstances

Ephesians 3:13 So please don't lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored.

Paul's Circumstances

2 Corinthians 11:22-29 Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. 23 Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. 24 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.

Paul's Circumstances

25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, 26 I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers.

Paul's Circumstances

27 I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. 28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? 30 If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

(NLT)

Paul's Circumstances

Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. (NLT)

Paul's Circumstances

1 Corinthians 15:58 So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless. (NLT)

Paul's Circumstances

What hinders us from sharing our message:

- Being tired
- We don't know the message
- We don't believe the message is true
- We are too busy