

In Christian theology, the phrase “I have been called to serve God” reflects a believer’s understanding that God has purposefully chosen and commissioned them to carry out His will. This calling is not merely an obligation but a divine invitation to participate in God’s redemptive plan. The Bible affirms this in passages such as: Romans 8:28–30 (NIV):

- *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose... And those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*
- Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)
- *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

This calling can be general serving God in everyday life or specific, such as missionary work, pastoral ministry, or other forms of Christian service.

Biblical Cities in the New Testament

A List of Biblical Cities: Then and Now

(Using the New International Version, NIV)

The New Testament contains numerous references to cities that were central to the spread of Christianity. Understanding their modern locations helps us connect the biblical narrative with historical geography.

| Biblical Name | Biblical Reference (NIV) | Modern Name | Present-day Country |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Antioch | Acts 11:26 | Antakya | Turkey |
| Caesarea | Acts 23:23 | Caesarea | Israel |
| Ephesus | Acts 19:35 | Selçuk | Turkey |
| Philippi | Acts 16:12 | Philippi | Greece |
| Thessalonica | Acts 17:1 | Thessaloniki | Greece |

The cities listed were key centers of early Christian preaching and missionary activity.

Biblical Cities in the Old Testament

A List of Biblical Cities: Then and Now

(Using the New International Version, NIV)

Many Old Testament events occurred in places with rich historical

and theological significance.

| Biblical Name | Biblical Reference (NIV) | Modern Name | Present-day Country |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Bethel | Genesis 28:19 | Beitin | Palestine |
| Ai | Joshua 7:2 | Deir Dibwan | Palestine |
| Shittim | Joshua 2:1 | Tall el-Hammam | Jordan |

These cities represent locations where God revealed Himself, gave instructions, or demonstrated His power.

The Apostles of Jesus

Names, Details, and Theological Significance (New International Version, NIV)

Jesus’ apostles were personally called by Him to be His closest followers and to spread the Gospel after His resurrection. The calling of the apostles illustrates the divine commissioning of ordinary people for extraordinary mission (Mark 3:13-19, Acts 1:15-26).

| No. | Name | Other Names | Biblical Reference (NIV) | Role & Theological Note |
|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|

What Does “I Have Been Called to Serve God” Mean?

| No. | Name | Other Names | Biblical Reference (NIV) | Role & Theological Note |
|-----|-------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Simon Peter | Cephas (John 1:42) | Matthew 16:18-19 | Called “the rock” on whom Jesus would build His church. |
| 2 | Andrew | — | John 1:40-42 | Brought others (including Peter) to Jesus; a “fisher of men.” |
| 3 | James | Son of Zebedee | Acts 12:1-2 | First apostolic martyr; part of Jesus’ inner circle. |
| 4 | John | “The beloved disciple” | John 21:20-24 | Author of Gospel, epistles, and Revelation; emphasis on love. |
| 5 | Matthew | Levi | Matthew 9:9 | Former tax collector; author of the first Gospel. |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

The apostles’ lives demonstrate God’s calling to faith, discipleship, and mission.

Prophets of the Bible (Men)

Major Prophets and Their Historical Context (NIV)

The prophets were God’s messengers, called to warn Israel and

the nations, call for repentance, and foretell the coming Messiah. Their words shaped Israel’s history and the unfolding plan of salvation.

| No. | Name | Time & Kings | Audience | Theological Role |
|-----|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Elijah | Ahab, Ahaziah | Kingdom of Israel | Called people back to God’s covenant faithfulness (1 Kings 18). |
| 2 | Elisha | Jehoram, Jehu | Kingdom of Israel | Successor of Elijah; performed miracles demonstrating God’s power. |
| 3 | Jonah | Jeroboam II | Nineveh (Assyria) | Prophet of repentance and God’s mercy to Gentiles. |
| 4 | Isaiah | Uzziah, Hezekiah | Judah | Prophesied the coming Messiah and salvation (Isaiah 53). |
| 5 | Jeremiah | Josiah, Jehoiakim | Judah | Called for repentance before Babylonian exile; foretold New Covenant. |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

Shalom.

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