

HELEN SANDERS

6-14-2023

THE CALLED-OUT ONES

As we study scripture, we learn about God, and we learn the will of God. In the Old Testament we learn that the Holy Spirit came only upon certain people, including prophets, priests, and kings. He could be taken away from them, as it did with King Saul when he sinned.

In the New Testament the Holy Spirit enters within the believer in his spirit at salvation and resides within each saved person. One can then be baptized with the Holy Spirit where the Holy Spirit comes upon them to be a witness and have the power to live an overcoming life.

Every believer joins in one body together and is called the church. The Greek word for Church is *ekklēsia*. It comes from the Greek root word *kaleo* which means to call and the Greek word "ek" which means from or out. So, together it means called out.

What does it mean to be called out? It means that we are called out of the world's lifestyle of sin into a lifestyle of holiness. We no longer desire the things of the world. We seek after the things of God.

The "church" or "called out ones" should not look or act like the world. They are children of light now and are no longer in darkness. They reflect the light of God rather than the darkness of Satan.

In Isaiah 60:1-2 it says, ***"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee."***

I truly believe it saddens the Lord when we, as the church, do the same things as the world does. When darkness is elevated even in the church through the lighting and the music rather than the light of God it must displease the "father of lights." (James 1:17.) We are to shine. It takes God's light shining in us, the called-out ones, to shine into darkness.

The called-out ones are to be different. We are called out of the old ways of the world and are new in Christ. (11 Corinthians 5:17-18.) We do not have to act like the world to reach the world. We are to act in such a way that it makes those watching us desire the salt in us rather than the darkness of the world. It makes them thirsty for the things of God. It calls them out of darkness.

Called out ones, let your light shine for Jesus. Don't hide it in the darkness.