

LIVING WATER

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CALLED INTO EXISTENCE

by Taylor Hogland

In Romans 4:17 we find a powerful truth stated about God:

"God ... calls into existence the things that do not exist."

This is the only Scripture (that I know of) which makes this statement explicitly, but this theme of God calling things into existence is manifested time and time again throughout the entire Bible.

In the first recorded account of God's activity, the Creation account of Genesis 1, we find this theme introduced as we read of God speaking into existence an entire universe that beforehand was *"without form and void"* (Gen. 1:2). God says **"Let there be light"** – and there was light. God says **"Let the dry land appear"** – and it was so. All of it - the plants, the animals, the entire cosmos - did not exist beforehand. It was the work of God calling things into existence that brought something out of nothing, form out of the formless, and order out of chaos.

But it doesn't stop there.

This thread continues on as God interacts with mankind: He calls Abraham to be a father of many nations – when he and his wife couldn't produce even a single child.

He calls Moses to lead the emancipation of thousands – when he was an old man living in obscurity. He calls David to be a king – when he was merely a shepherd.

The Son of God carries on this theme when He called Simon from being a common fisherman to being a "fisher of men" (Matt. 4:19). He calls him from his occupation to a brand new way of life, a change in identity, even going so far as to change his name to *"Peter"*, the Greek word meaning "rock" or "stone". The irony of this name change cannot be overstated - Simon was, by all accounts, unstable and impetuous. Yet Jesus saw his potential and named him accordingly. Everything we read about Peter in his later years indicates he lived up to the name.

Each of these individuals were called to be something they were not – yet, slowly but surely, God showed them that He was capable of making of them what He said they would be.

And He has called you, too: to a holy calling (2 Tim. 1:9), to be a conqueror (Rom 8:37), an heir (Jas. 2:5), sons and daughters of God (Gal. 3:26). You may not see it clearly as of yet, but rest assured - God most certainly does. He has plans for you, a particular path in which He will bring it all into existence. And what does He ask of you throughout this process?

Trust, and submit.