

SESSION 7: CHOOSING (pt1)

The last several sessions have taken you through the steps of proving and preparing yourself so that God can choose or select you for use in His kingdom. Here are some of the things we have discussed:

- surrendering and evaluating your own heart
- proving yourself by enduring trials and testing
- remaining faithful to God and others

This process develops both your gifts and your character by building integrity in your actions and your words. In these next few sessions, we will be discussing how to be chosen by God and equipped for the work of the ministry.

Think: How can I position myself so that the Holy Spirit can select me for service after my gifts and character have been proven?

Selection (choosing) is not based on your talents and gifts. It is God's appointed calling. Just because you are gifted in speaking, does not mean you are called to be preacher. Any ministry needs to be the divine call of God. It is very dangerous for a person to select themselves for ministry. Selection needs to be done by someone - GOD and other SPIRITUAL LEADERS.

The lack of a "divine call" in someone will set them up for failure in ministry.

What might cause a person to rush to appoint themselves?

- A desire to be useful
- Lack of patience in the proving process
- Most often ***pride*** will cause someone to appoint themselves

Humility will wait for a call.

When God calls you, He equips you. There will be a grace to do the work He calls you to do.

Grace is not according to your skills, color of skin, your background, your economic or social status etc. The grace will be there because God called you to do it. If you appoint yourself, you will not be equipped for it.

How to be chosen (selected) by God

A. Chosen because of Fruitfulness

God calls - many are called but few are chosen. He chooses those who are faithful and fruitful.

Student assignment: Read John 15:16-19

John 15: 16-19

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, that you love one another. ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

~ God is choosing you to bear fruits, but He chooses and separates you according to your fruitfulness. When He sees that you are fruitful, He can put you in higher positions. God will never speak to you from the place you are currently at. He will always speak from a higher position; always encouraging you to grow, to come higher.... When you are gifted, you should be fruitful. Fruitfulness is confirmation of your gifting.

How can I be fruitful? **ABIDE IN HIM**

Student assignment: Read John 15: 1-8

Jesus Is the Vine—Followers Are Branches

15 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Abide in Me, (remain, continue to be present, wait/tarry, do not become another or different than me)** and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.



In the process of “abiding in Him” you become fruitful.

How to be chosen (selected) by God

B. Chosen because of God’s Covenant

You are chosen by grace, not by “works.”

Let’s look at the differences:

Work: earned

Grace: gift

Work: limited

Grace: unlimited

Work: we exalt us

Grace: we exalt God

GRACE: Through grace you enter the presence of God with love and confidence. Grace shifts your eyes to look on God, not yourself. Remember, you are a son and daughter of the Father. He looks down on you and loves you - that is the grace of GOD!

WORK: The law teaches us to earn blessings. Law will always cause you to focus on your faults. Law will always cause you to live in guilt and condemnation. Any mentality of guilt and condemnation is of the law, and not of grace.

Remember these 2 practical comparisons:

1. The law will cause you to always live in “the courtroom of God.”
2. Grace will always cause you to live in “the living room of God.”

We are saved by grace so don’t go back to the law. If you will rely on grace you will live a victorious life. Grace liberates you - Law enslaves you. God sets you free. It is not by your own strength, but His.

Grace brings conviction, resulting in repentance and forgiveness. Law brings condemnation, resulting in guilt and bondage.