

Our Spiritual Blessings in Christ

Chosen before the creation of the world

Ephesians 1:4-6 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:11-12 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

1) He chose us, we didn't choose Him

- The fact that God chose us before the creation of the world puts all emphasis on His sovereign grace in as it wasn't in any way possible for us to choose Him.
- We often hear testimonies where people say that “they chose to follow Jesus” or “they found Jesus”, etc.
 - The reality is that we didn't choose Him at all, but He chose us and called us to follow Him
 - We didn't find Him, but He found us – it was Him who came to seek and save the lost, not the lost who were seeking the Saviour to be saved
- John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit —fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.
 - Jesus wasn't speaking to the crowds, but to His disciples, whom He had chosen.
 - He had personally chosen each one of them, and He has personally chosen each one of us.
 - Bearing fruit for Christ is how we know that we are chosen and walking within His predetermined purposes.
 - Bearing fruit isn't something done because we're commanded to do it, but it's done as a product of what we are in the same way as apple trees bear apples and grape vines bear grapes. They're not commanded to bear those fruit, but bear them naturally as that's their purpose of existence
 - Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
- He didn't look at our character, whether we were worthy or not, our skills, or anything else that would qualify us for Him to choose us.
 - He chose us before the creation of the world and predestined us to be his children forever.
 - This fact means that nothing in the universe, nothing in heaven or hell, could or can change our destiny to be children of God.
 - This gives us a sense of security knowing that our lives have been in the most secure hands in the universe since before the beginning of time
 - Of course, we know that we are secure in Him because we're bearing the fruit of being children of God i.e. being holy and blameless in His sight
- Holy means to be set apart to God from everything else
- Blameless means that we are innocent of all and any wrongdoing and that no one can accuse us of any wrongdoing.

2) The purpose of His choosing us

- 1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.
- He chose is both to be and to do
 - To be children of God
 - To make known the mystery of His will
 - Colossians 1:27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- God, knowing that we would be destined for an eternity in hell showed mercy towards us that we wouldn't perish but spend eternity with Him.
 - Love was His motivation. Grace and mercy were His means
- His purpose for choosing is can be summed up in this way:
 - God, who is rich in love, didn't want us to perish for eternity in the flames of hell due to our sin, so He chose us to be His own that we may reflect His character in the world and proclaim His praises to all people, and spend eternity with Him as His own children.

3) Living as chosen people

- Being a chosen people comes with responsibilities
- If we are chosen for a position at a company or to be part of a sports team, we can't just rejoice in the fact we were chosen and then do nothing. We have to carry out our responsibilities of being in that position and as a member of that team otherwise the management will regret having chosen us
- Israel was a chosen nation and God's purpose for them was to be a light to the Gentiles
 - They were to be a channel of blessing to the nations of the earth
 - Genesis 12:2-3 I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.
 - As a mandate they failed in carrying out their responsibility to be a blessing to the nations, but as a promise the mandate was fulfilled through Christ
- Don't think that you're not expendable. God can raise up the rocks to declare His glory if He wants to
- How then should we live as a chosen people?
 - We ought to reflect the character of Christ as a holy and blameless people
 - Live a life of gratitude that He chose us because He didn't have to
 - Fulfill the God given responsibilities that He has given you according to the way He has made you and the gifts He has given you
 - Be kingdom people living under the Lordship of Christ in all things, at all places, and at all times bring glory to Him in all ways
 - Live life in the light of eternity