

HE CHOSE US IN HIM

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world,
to be holy and without blemish before him.”*

Ephesians 1:3-4

If we really stop to think about this passage.... That God the Father chose us before the foundation of the world...it's actually quite mind-blowing.

- ◆ If you truly believe and accept this, how does it change your perspective on your life?
- ◆ How does it affect the decisions you make, the choices that lie before you?
- ◆ How does it impact a review of your life — right and wrong choices and actions, obedience and disobedience to God's voice?

It's humbling to realize all the times and ways we've stepped out of God's Will, chosen selfish or safe paths instead of living in Divine Will.

God the Father didn't just choose us. He chose us to be holy and without blemish before Him. That's a tall order! THAT has been the purpose and goal of Strike Force of Prayer these past 4 1/2 years.

Going Before Our Heavenly Father and Christ Jesus

I Repent for My Disobedience.

- ◆ Dear Father God, as I self-examine and reflect back on my life, I realize how many times and ways I chose my own way, when I knowingly did NOT do Your Will, but chose my comfortable and seemingly more safe choices. God forgive me.
- ◆ Holy Spirit, reveal to me all the times and ways I went my own way, rather than God my Father's way. Help me to balance the books with my Heavenly Father and to restore right order to our relationship from these past errors of mine. I know not all

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the repercussions from my wrong actions, from willfully choosing my way rather than my Heavenly Father's way.

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I'm truly sorry for my errant ways. I offer You all of my sufferings, all of my hardships, as a love-offering penance for all the times and ways I chose my will over Your Will. Help me Father God, to cultivate merits in my sufferings, that these merits will help me to cultivate the virtues of holiness; so that I will one day stand before You without blemish.

God Chose From Love

- ◆ Dear Lord God, You gave us Deuteronomy 7:6-8, *"For you are a people holy to the Lord, your God; the Lord, your God, has chosen you from all the peoples on the face of the earth to be a people specially his own. It was not because you are more numerous than all the peoples that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you; for you are really the smallest of all peoples. It was because the Lord loved you and because of his fidelity to the oath he had sworn to your ancestors, that the Lord brought you out with a strong hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery."*
- ◆ From this verse I understand that You chose me from love, for love. This is not a verse that is given to puff up the ego, as a superior brand of human chosen by God. It is a passage that speaks to the privilege of love and the non-randomness of my life. That even when I was wandering in the wilderness, living in my own willful ways, You still had your hand and eye on me, waiting for me to return to You.
- ◆ Now I can appreciate how *"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."* 1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- ◆ Now I see how You have loved me all these years, even when I had turned my back on You and what You had called me to do and be in this life. Thank You Heavenly Father, for your patience and faithfulness. Thank you for modeling true love for me. Help me to love others as You love me.

Drawn by You Lord God

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, John 6:44 tells me that it was YOU that brought me to Christ Jesus, YOU drew me to him. *"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."*

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- ◆ Knowing and remembering this convicts me that You created me for a purpose in You, that never was any of my life random or purposeless. The fact that I stand here before You today means You did not give up on me. You did not forsake me. You are Faithfulness in the most true and pure way. And since I was made in your image, I am called to be that purity of faithfulness. Help me to be so!
- ◆ Romans 8:29 confirms that I was destined to be as Your Son Jesus Yeshua: *“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”* So this is my goal and He is my role model!
- ◆ Help me then, Heavenly Father, to love others even when they are not acting lovable, even when they are not acting true and good themselves. For your ways of love and faithfulness are not our ways — thank goodness! You raise the standard for love and faithfulness like an anchor in my soul; that because I am truly and eternally loved by You, I can love others even when they have not been loving or kind to me. I can be as Christ Jesus Yeshua and be your gold standard of love, loving not as a response to how someone else behaves; but as Love itself showing up in the world, as Divine Love Incarnate Jesus Christ has done as my brother.

Called Into Your Wonderful Light

- ◆ Lord God, lest we believe only those from before Christ Jesus are “the chosen ones”, Saint Paul the Apostle tells us in 1 Peter 2:9, *“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”*
- ◆ Jesus called me out of darkness and I choose your wonderful light! Dissolve in me any remains of darkness; programs, beliefs, grudges, offenses, habits that are not part of your light, anything that keeps me from living in your wonderful light, which is love and union with You Lord God.
- ◆ For 1 John 1:5-7 tells me: *“God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, ‘We have fellowship with him,’ while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.”*

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- ◆ Heavenly Father, to “*walk in the light*” seems so esoteric and even vague; but if it were not possible, it would not be written throughout Your Word. Since I was made in your image, then I was made from your light. So this must be my natural state, to “*walk in the light.*” Lord God, remove from my mind and heart anything that is blocking this holy remembrance and ability of my natural state.

I Want to Be In Union With You

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I take to heart 1 John 2:5-6, “*This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to live [just] as he lived.*”
- ◆ How Jesus lived was in union with your heart, “*I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me,*” John 14:31
- ◆ “*Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.*” John 14:23-24

You Equipped Us

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, John 16:13 reminds me I was never meant to go it alone! That when You chose me, You also equipped me. One way was by gifting me your Holy Spirit: “*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.*”
- ◆ Heavenly Father, I surrender to You all the clutter in my mind, the obstructions and wounds in my heart, the flaws in my character, that impair my hearing Your Holy Spirit; that impede my living by Your Spirit. I repent for all the times and ways I turned my back on him and didn’t listen to him, to my detriment and others. I am so sorry for all the harm that was caused by my not heeding the guidance of your Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Strengthen my spirit, feed my heart with your love and mercy, with your grace and goodness. Let your grace and goodness, love and mercy be my operating system.

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Created for Your Glory

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, Your Word in Isaiah 43:7 tells me I wasn't just chosen, but intentionally created for your own glory: *"All who are called by my name I created for my glory; I formed them, made them."*
- ◆ "Created for your glory" is unfathomable and feels like a tall order if I am in my ego Lord God. But living in your Divine Will, submitted to your heart and ways, then your glory has its way through me. Heavenly Father, let your glory have its way through me!
- ◆ Romans 8:30 confirms Isaiah: *"And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified."*
- ◆ I pray, Abba Father, that I am justified by loving others as You love me, by giving mercy and forgiveness to others as You have given to me, by being an instrument for your grace, as You have poured out so much grace to me.

Sealing Prayer: As God's Chosen Ones, Holy and Beloved

Colossians 3:12-17

*I put on then, as one of God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness, and patience, bearing others and forgiving others,
if I have a grievance against someone;
as the Lord has forgiven me, so must I also do.*

And over all these I put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

*And let the peace of Christ control my heart,
the peace into which I have been also called in one body.*

And I am thankful.

*I let the word of Christ dwell in me richly,
as in all wisdom I teach and admonish others,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in my heart to God.*

*And whatever I do, in word or in deed,
I shall do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.*