

When God Calls Things Happen



28 November 2021

GOLDEN CHAIN of GRACE (PART 3)

John 11:1-6, 38-44; Romans 8:28-30

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 3:1-6

Do You Know God? The very first two things that God revealed about Himself:

- ①
- ②
- ③

Do You Fear God?

Do You Know Yourself?

★ Are you a creature of God and **completely dependent** on HIM, your Creator, for **everything**? (Acts 17:25; Job 12:10; Dani 5:23; Prov 20:24; Jer 10:23)

Do You Have the Holy Spirit in You? Can others see the Holy Spirit working in you? (Romans 8:9, 14; Galatians 5:22-23)

Have You Diligently Made Your Election and Calling Certain?

(2 Peter 1:10) What evidence did you use?

Is Your Grace _____? Is Your Grace _____?

What Is Your Definition of "Grace"?

When Did God "Grace" You? (2 Timothy 1:9; Ephesians 3:11; Titus 1:2)

Is God's Grace WORKING in You to Grow as a Disciple and Obey

His Commandments? Do others see your growth? Are you helping others to grow?

God's GRACE

- ① God's grace is HIS transforming power bestowed on those who are absolutely **helpless** (Romans 5:6; Luke 18:26-27) and **undeserving** of His kindness.
- ② God's grace is a **GIFT**. God **gives** His gifts - He does not **offer** His gifts.
- ③ God's giving comes purely from within Himself and is not influence by anything outside of Himself. (Deut 7:6-8; Heb 6:17-20; Titus 1:2)
- ④ God's grace belongs to Him and He bestows it as it pleases Him. (Matthew 20:1-26; 11:25; Exodus 33:19; John 17:2; Romans 9:15-24; 1 Cor 4:7; Ephesians 1:11; James 1:18)

The GOLDEN CHAIN of Grace (Romans 8:28-30)

- (v. 28) Do you love God? (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
- (vv. 29-30) THE GOLDEN (Amazing) CHAIN of God's Grace!

- ① **HE** foreknew . . .
- ② **HE** predestined . . .
- ③ **HE** called . . .
- ④ **HE** justified . . .
- ⑤ **HE** glorified . . .

HE

The “Beginning” of Grace

- In **eternity**, when there was ONLY God (meditate on this), God **decided** (desired) what would be and what would not be. (Isaiah 41:22, 26; 44:6-8; 43:9-12; 45:21; 46:9-10; 48:3-8; **Acts 15:18**)
- When did God know who would be saved and who would not be saved? OR when did God know who He would save and who He would not save?
- How did God know who would be saved and who would not be saved?
- (Romans 8:29; 1 Peter 1:2) By His *foreknowledge*. What is the basis of God's *foreknowledge* - His plan, purpose, counsel, will.
- God knows because He is ETERNAL and has purposed everything that will happen! Even His people's salvation.

Because God Chose (Elected) He Predestined!

- Whatever God predestines happens!
- **GOD's PROVIDENCE:** “God's **constant care** for and His **absolute rule over** all His creation, **directing all** things to their **appointed** end for His own glory and for the good of **His** people.”
- Here in the Golden Chain of Grace God makes it clear that EVERYONE who He chooses, every one of them with no exceptions, will be conformed to the image of Christ.
- (Philippians 1:6) What God **starts HE** finishes. **MEDITATE!!**
- (2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:23; Colossians 3:10) ALL disciples (Christians) grow and grow continuously because God has predetermined that they will grow day by day! The verbs are PRESENT TENSE; PASSIVE VOICE! **GOD'S AMAZING & POWERFUL GRACE WORKS CONTINUOUSLY IN HIS PEOPLE.**
- It is God's will that ALL His people (Christians/Disciples) GROW in the knowledge of Him and His grace. (2 Peter 3:17-18; Romans 8:29)
- God's grace ensures this will happen.
- **ARE YOU GROWING AS A DISCIPLE IN and WITH A LOCAL BODY OF BELIEVERS? IS GOD'S GRACE WORKING IN YOU EVIDENT TO YOUR BROTHERS and SISTER IN THE CHURCH YOU ARE WORKING.**

- **WE LIVE IN DANGEROUS TIMES WHEN THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS PICK and CHOOSE WHAT COMMANDMENTS THEY WILL OBEY AND HOW THEY WILL OBEY THEM.**
- Again, whatever God predestines happens!

The Call of God

- Because God chose and God predestined He calls His people *in time*.
 - Election and predestination is/was accomplished in ETERNITY.
 - The call of God happens in time at His timing. (John 11:6, 39)
- The call of God in contrast to the call of men:
 - ★ Man's call is a universal call to "all creatures". (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)
 - ☆ God's call is NOT universal. God did not send out His prophets to all the nations in the Old Testament. Meditate on how many today have not heard!
 - ★ Man's call is FREQUENTLY REJECTED. (i.e. Luke 14:15-24)
 - ☆ God's call CANNOT be REJECTED. (Psalm 33:6, 9 as God **created** He **re-creates** - 2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - God's call is IRRESISTIBLE. (Job 23:13; 9:12; 12:14; Ecclesiastes 3:14; 7:13; Lamentations 3:37; **John 11:43**)
- The call of God is HIS POWER (grace) that TRANSFORMS His people –
 - It calls His people OUT of darkness INTO His light. (1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:67)
 - It calls His people OUT of DEATH INTO ETERNAL LIFE. (John 11:43; Ephesians 2:1-3, 5; Romans 6:23b; 1 John 3:14)
 - It calls His people OUT of bondage INTO freedom to live in righteousness. (Romans 6:18, 20, 22; 1 John 3:6-10)
 - It calls His people OUT of fellowship with men INTO **fellowship** with Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:9)
 - It calls (draws, drags) His people to Christ (John 6:44, 65) and Christ will raise up EVERYONE the Father gives Him. (John 6:37-40).
 - It calls His people OUT of unholiness and sinfulness INTO a state of holiness and real hatred of sin. (1 Thess 4:7; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Timothy 1:9; Psalm 119:104, 128)
 - It calls His people OUT of enmity with God INTO being at PEACE with God. (Romans 5:1, 10-11; Colossians 3:15)
 - It calls His people TO BE SAINTS. (Romans 1:6-7; 1 Cor 1:2)
- The call of God is not small calling –
 - It is a **HOLY** calling. (2 Timothy 1:9)
 - It is a **HIGH** calling. (Philippians 3:14) God's calling takes His people to His very throne. (Ephesians 2:6)
 - It is a **HEAVENLY** calling. (Hebrews 3:1) It is a call OUT of the world into citizenship in God's kingdom. (Philippians 3:20)

- ▶ It is **IRRESISTIBLE, IRREVOCABLE, UNCHANGING** because it is the call of the **SUPREME BEING** of the universe. (Romans **9:19-25**; 11:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Philippians 1:6) **IT IS THE POWER of GOD.**

Who Does GOD Call

- “Those whom He foreknew (chose) and those whom He predestined He called.” (Romans 8:28-30)
- Those whom GOD prepared beforehand for glory. (Romans 9:23-24)
- Those whom God “put into Christ” before the foundation of the world. (Eph 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 1:9)
- Those who were REDEEMED by Christ on the Cross where He paid their ransom. (Matthew 20:28; John 19:30)
- Those whom it pleased God to call. (Matthew 11:25-27)
- Those whom God wills to be gracious. (Romans 9:15-18; Exodus 33:19)

God's Business and Our Business

- God's business: ELECTION; PREDESTINATION; CALLING; GRACE.
- Our business:
 - ① Continually REPENT of our daily sins. (Mark 1:14-15)
 - ② Continually BELIEVE (TRUST) God. (Mark 1:14-15)
 - ③ Walk (live) WORTHY of God's calling.
 - ❶ (Ephesians 4:1) **Walk worthy** . . .
 - ▶ “walk” - forward not backwards; a goal in mind, progressing continuously, **walking not sitting**.
 - ▶ “worthy” - from “balancing of scales” - “anything that was expected to correspond to something else”
 - ❷ (Colossians 1:10) **Walk worthy** . . .
 - ▶ “**fully** pleasing God . . .
 - ▶ “being **fruitful** in every good work . . .
 - ▶ “**increasing** in the knowledge of God.”
 - ❸ (1 John 2:6) **Walk** as Christ walked . . .
 - ▶ Delighting to do the will of the Father. (Psa 40:6-8; John 4:34; 5:30)
 - ▶ Always doing what pleased the Father. (John 8:29; Matthew 3:17; 17:5)
 - ▶ Obeying the Father's commandments. (John 14:31; 15:10)
 - ▶ Walking in the light of the Father. (1 John 1:6-7)

God Saves by GRACE and GRACE ALONE!

(Ephesians 2:8-10)