

Why Did God Choose You?

It does us good to wonder about such things, because from the answer we can understand how to better please the Lord, and prepare ourselves for the part He chose us for, in His Great Plan.

Pondering on questions like this is called meditation, and thinking about God and His ways are symptomatic of a child of God, just as the wicked meditate upon violence, Proverbs 24:1-2, *'Do not be envious of evil men nor desire to be with them; for their heart devises violence, and their lips talk of troublemaking.'*

King David was a meditator. Meditation is not that which some practice, by emptying their minds of everything while making some strange repetitive sound. That is simply inviting the attention of evil influences and demonic possession. King David thought deeply about God and correlated it to his own life, Psalm 63:6-7, *'When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.'* In the longest Psalm, 119, the psalmist says *'I will meditate on thy precepts and have respect unto your ways.'* He mentions meditation 7 times, including verses 27, 48, 97.

David thought deeply about God's creation, and the way God deals with us, even from his youth guarding his father's sheep, Psalm 143:5, *'I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.'* In meditating on such things David recognized that it would please God – that meditation is actually a reverent act of worship. Psalm 19:14, *'Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.'* Meditation then, is spiritually positive, as Paul maintained to Timothy. 1 Timothy 4:15, *'Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.'*

So, why were you chosen by God? Let's look at some of the many Godly men and women of old, and see if there is any common denominator, that could give us a clue.

We'll start with Noah. Genesis 6:9, *'This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.'* Noah was alone in **fearing God** in his generation, verse 5, *'Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.'* Noah respected God enough to avoid the evil all around him, which caused God to bring the flood upon the earth.

Abraham too feared God, and though we know from his life that he was not perfect, he obeyed his Lord's commands, Genesis 12: 1-4, *'Now the Lord had said to Abram, "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing." I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'* **So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran,** and Genesis 26:5, *'because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.'*

Moses too, brought up in Pharaoh's court, understood that he was one of the children of Israel, and respected the laws taught to him by his parents. Though he doubted his ability when God spoke to him from the burning bush, he upped sticks and left for Egypt when God asked him, **because he too feared the Lord**, more than he feared Pharaoh.

Exodus 4:19-20, *'Now the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go, return to Egypt; for all the men who sought your life are dead." Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt.'*

Joseph, taken as a slave to Egypt, dared not to commit adultery with his master's wife because of his respect for the Lord, Genesis 39:9, *'There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back*

anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?’ He too was well aware of the commandments; *‘then Joseph said to them the third day, “Do this and live, for I fear God.”* (Genesis 42:18).

Samson was chosen as a Judge of Israel before he was born, Judges 13:5, *‘For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.’*

He was a mighty man of giant passions, 14:2,6, *‘So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.”*

Later, when a young lion attacked him, we see his courage. Judges 14:6, *‘And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.’*

With a great weakness for pretty women he is hardly a righteous man, but his life story reveals absolute **belief and trust** in the Lord, as is witnessed by his death, 16:28-30, *‘Then Samson called to the Lord, saying, “O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!” And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars, which supported the temple, and he braced himself against them, one on his right and the other on his left. Then Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” And he pushed with all his might, and the temple fell on the lords and all the people who were in it. So the dead that he killed at his death were more than he had killed in his life.’*

Ruth, daughter in law to Naomi, refused to leave her when she decided to return to Israel, Ruth 1:6, *‘Then she arose with her daughters-in-law that she might return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread.’*

She too had learned to **trust in the Lord**, Ruth 2: 11-12, *‘And Boaz answered and said to her, “It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge.’* Ruth came to worship the True God. Despite being a Moabite she became one of the ancestors of Christ, (Matthew 1:5-6)

Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho, **believed in the Lord enough to risk her life** by hiding the spies Joshua had sent out to spy out the land, Joshua 2:1,6, *‘Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.”* (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.)’ So she was saved at the fall of Jericho and is listed among the saints in Hebrews 11:31.

King David was chosen from amongst his brothers, 1 Samuel 16:11-12, *‘And Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all the young men here?” Then he said, “There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.” So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!”*

It was because of his nature. He had the task of looking after his father’s sheep, and from what we know of David he took his responsibilities seriously, and meditated on his role in relation to God’s laws. When the sheep were troubled by small predators, maybe foxes or jackals, he stepped in and found victory with God’s help.

His **trust in God grew**, and when a young lion and then a bear came along they were also dispatched, 1 Samuel 17:34-37, *‘But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep his father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” Moreover David said, “The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’*

Esther, a beautiful Jewess (Esther 2:7), brought by God to become Queen in Persia, risked her life to go and save her people, Esther 4:11,16, *'All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.'* 16, "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!"

Striding out in faith, putting yourself at some risk because of your belief in and respect for the Creator seems to be a common trait of God's people.

Daniel feared God, Daniel 1:8, *'But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.'* Daniel feared to break God's food laws.

When jealous civil servants plotted to have him thrown to the lions, Daniel refused to cease his daily prayers to God, despite their schemes, Daniel 6:10, *'Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.'* And the result we can read in verse 22, after he was placed in the den of lions, *'My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.'*

Worship and **trust in the Lord** once again!

Finally, let's look at an example from the New Testament. The Apostle Paul started out as the archenemy of the Christians – the Pharisee Saul. Many were martyred at his hands, Acts 9:13, *'Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.'*

Strange then that God chose Saul - verse 15, *'But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel."*

What God saw was a man zealous for his faith in the true God, diligent in what he believed was his service for that God and one who God knew would devote the rest of his life to that service **at whatever cost**, 2 Corinthians 11:23-28, *'Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness— besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for the churches.'* Time and again Paul placed his life on the line in God's service.

So, we have looked at many examples, placed in God's word for our edification. What commonality have we found? All of them believed in and feared – that is they took heed of God. Abraham, Samson, Rahab and David - and the rest – none of them were without sin but all of them strode out in faith, placing their trust in God to enable them to do whatever they could do for Him.

There is evidence to show that God knew in advance how they would react to him and so gave them the chance to become His servants. God's faith in them was justified by their trust in Him, and that seems to be the only common denominator. Queen or harlot, King or womanizer, it was their **active trust and service of God** that assured them of a future in God's Kingdom.

God needs all kinds of people in His family, and so doesn't just choose holy priests! Each has a special quality that will enable them to reach those of a similar kind with the gospel when they are serving in His Kingdom. **Some were no doubt chosen for their particular weakness**, rather than their righteousness!

1 Corinthians 1:27, *'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'*

I'm not suggesting however that we should cultivate our weaknesses! We may well be weak in some areas, when God calls us and chooses us, but, once called and chosen He expects us to grow spiritually and overcome. Read through God's message to the seven churches in Revelation 1-3. In each case it is those who overcome their weakness who sit down with Christ in His Kingdom. eg Revelation 2:26 *'To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations.'*

and 3:21 *'To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.'*

Others may be chosen for their talents, experience and skills, and here we should recognize that God does direct our lives to make sure these things are available to Him from the foundation of His Kingdom on Jesus Christ's return.

Think on these things brethren. Meditate upon your own life and the reasons why God has chosen you so that you may consider how best to improve upon that reason and develop the talent God has granted you. Each of us has been called for a reason. Each of us will fulfill a special purpose in God's Kingdom, but most of all God wants to see us believe in our calling and have the courage and boldness to fulfill whatever opportunities He places before us.

To trust God in the small things builds our faith to stand firm as the larger challenges come, and with God's help we gradually grow in faith as we see His intervention in our life, until we can encourage others. In the last years before the resurrection some will be strong enough to give their lives for their witness to the world.

With God's Holy Spirit, even the weak and foolish can become as bold as King David. There is no excuse for remaining a harlot or a wimp. Men and women of action who won't sit on a fence, won't hide their religion, won't neglect their calling, men and women who carry forward God's plans and their possible part in those plans with courage and audacity even in the face of danger, these are the ones who will actually make it to become Kings and Priests in God's family in the Kingdom of God.

Let's remember that even now, as those whom God has both called and chosen, we are representatives or ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. Hebrews 11:13-16, *'These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly, if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.'* Our home, our car, our appearance, our land, our lives, should all be representative of God's standards.

In conclusion then, let's look at who God says will be with Jesus Christ on His return, Revelation 17:14, *'They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.'*

Brethren, you have been called. You have been chosen, but do you believe and trust in God enough to stride out in faith, in the footsteps of Christ and continue to stride out faithfully till your life's end?

I hope so for that is why God chose you !