

Make Your Calling and Election Sure

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Therefore, brothers and sisters, **be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choice of you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble:** (2 Pet. 1:10)

*We are the product of our decisions (Don't Blame GOD). In simple terms, God gave us a free will, and He will not violate it. The Lord cannot be mocked! (Gal. 6:7,8). In Noah's day, the Church was reduced to 8 people, this is horrible but True. **Do you know that most of the people throughout Earth's History are in Hell right now, and that a great majority of people attending Churches today are not saved.** They think they are because they have been deceived by the devil. This is hard to believe for most people but it is absolutely True! **Did you know that because of Adam's Sin no one can enter Heaven. Adam's sinful blood flows within our bodies as well.***

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (Rom. 3:10)

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.
(Is. 64:6)

The Problem is SIN, Heaven is Perfect; Sin Cannot Exist There

*God's Love was so great for us that He sacrificed His own Son against our Sin. Perfect innocence would pay the price (penalty) for the guilty (humanity). We cannot pay for our sin with good works (going to Church, paying our tithes, helping the poor, taking communion, sacrificing our lives for others, etc...); because we are sinners. **We sin because we are sinners, we are not sinners because we sin.***

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor. 5:21)

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. (Gal. 2:15,16,21)

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:5-7)

*Without the proper understanding of the Word of God we are nothing but a social club! Again, in order for us to understand God's Word (The Bible) correctly, we need Two Things. The **WORD** and the **SPIRIT**! The Holy Spirit brings you a tangible and understandable experience with Jesus. The Word and Spirit work together, you can't have One without the Other! The Spirit without the Word will produce Doctrinal errors, and the Word without the Spirit will produce a dead lifeless Church not having the Life of Christ!*

Let's Understand the WORD

*The WORD manifest's itself in Three ways. "**GRAPHE**, **LOGOS**, and **RHEMA**"*

GRAPHE;

Is the Printed Word (the Written Word). In actuality, the Greek word Graphe refers to the written Word. It's usually translated "writings" or "Scripture." You can place 100 Bibles around your house with a great big one on the coffee table for all to see, and yet never know the Author which is Jesus Christ!

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

(John 5:39,40)

Getting to know God begins by reading and understanding His Word (The Bible). Everything you ever wanted to know about God is found in the Bible. The entire Bible is the Testimony of Jesus Christ and His rescue mission of man.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

Here's the problem; why the world and some so called Christians will miss Heaven and be in Hell! They read the Word (The GRAPHE) but it means nothing to them because of unbelief they are willfully Ignorant. They willfully refuse to believe the Word.

Knowing this first, **that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts** (in the Church), And saying, **Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.**

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: (2 Pet. 3:3-6)

But these people blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively. Woe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error and perished in Korah's rebellion. **These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.** (Jude 10-13) ESV

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. (Psa. 14:1)

The LOGOS;

*Logos is a concept word in the Bible symbolic of the nature and function of Jesus Christ. It is also used to refer to the revelation of God in the world. **It is the Written Word revealed and understood.** One can read the Bible and not understand what it says (Graphe). It takes the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word to us correctly. To understand God's Word correctly, one must manifest a revelation from God. Simply put, **The Logos is the Living God (Word) revealed in the flesh** (John 1:1-14):*

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, **To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:** (Gal. 1:15,16)

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)

The RHEMA;

In the Bible, the Greek word Rhema (ῥῆμα) means "an utterance" or "thing said". A Rhema is a verse or portions of Scripture that the Holy Spirit brings to our attention with application to a current situation or need for direction. When God gives a word of knowledge, word of wisdom or a prophetic Word on healing, it becomes the Rhema that is filled with Spirit and life. The Rhema Word has within it, the spiritual seed that releases faith, life and power. Its fulfillment is accomplished through the operation of the Holy Spirit. Rhema is the Word heard when the Holy Spirit is speaking to our spirit. Examples; Simeon who saw the birth of the Messiah; Annunciation of Mary by the Angel; Noah's building of the Ark; Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac; and many more: In the Bible, both Logos and Rhema are only referred to as spoken.

But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. (Gal. 1:11,12)

Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.
(Jer. 14:14)

And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.
(Mark 9:4)

*An Experience with JESUS can Only Come through the Logos or Rhema Word
The Born Again experience can only manifest itself through the LOGOS and RHEMA Word! The purpose of the Born Again experience is to know Jesus intimately, like you would your mother, your father, your best friend etc. Knowing about Him will not save you (The GRAPHE), you must know Him personally. He must reveal Himself to you! Look at Paul's testimony!*

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.
(Phil. 3:7-11)

Most of the Church is Living a Christ Less Christianity

Many in the so called Church today are religious and not Born Again! A drunk is in a better situation than these, because a drunk realizes he's wrong and not right with God. But a religious person does not realize they're not right with God and self deceives himself. There's no doubt satan has blinded their minds along the way. Formal religion has taken the place of believing faith and understanding the Word of God!

But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ.
(2 Cor. 3:14)

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2 Cor. 4:4)

Believers and Make Believers (thank you Sandra Kennedy)

*Let's begin by saying; The Bible is our Foundation. It is Absolute Truth from God, anything or anyone that contradicts it is a liar! It is our guide to instruction and correction in the righteousness of God through the HOLY SPIRIT! The problem is, some believe and others think they believe! **God Gave Us a Severe Warning;***

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' (Matt. 7:21-23) NASB

Keep in mind these were Christians, the New Testament is written to Christians, not the un-believers (world)! Jesus is addressing Church folk here. In this chapter (Matt. 7): Jesus talked about hypocrites, He talked about giving holy things to dogs, and pearls to swine, He talked about the straight and narrow gate, and how a good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and closed by saying; foolish men build their houses upon the sand! As He spoke these words the crowds were amazed at His teaching, for He taught as one having Authority and not as the scribes.

Notice Jesus Did Not Call Them Liars (Matt. 7:22) *"they really did those things"*
But there was something about what they were doing that was totally wrong and insulted the Lord! The Lord sounded very angry and insulted when He declared;
"I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS."

These people appeared to be Christian but in reality were fakes, relying on their self works, their carnal nature instead of the Holy Spirit. They had no true relationship with Jesus Christ! They were like actors on a play willing to receive the applause of men. They were self deceived. One thing is someone lying to you, but it is quite another when you lie to yourself. The real issue is not what people think of you, but what is really important is what God thinks about you. We must pray and meditate asking God what He thinks about us. Don't worry about the opinion of people. Most of them are more messed up than you are. Showing God your good works is not a sign of a True disciple. A True disciple is known by his obedience to the will of God.

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.***

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

(Matt. 16:24-26)

*Every single disciple should constantly examine their heart before the Lord!
Let us walk away from any man made pleasing religion (self deception).*

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (2 Cor. 13:5)

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. (1 Cor. 11:28)

*It is one thing for someone to lie to you, but it is something entirely different for you to lie to yourself! There are many of us who have lied to ourselves for so long we can't see the Truth when God presents it to us. We believe our own lies because people cheer our good works. In every church there are believers and make believers. **Some believe and others think they believe!** Listening to our own lies puts us in the category of non-believers. True disciples hear God's voice. Someone who says they're saved but lives the life of the un-saved is a liar. I'm not talking about a slip-up or a momentary failure, I'm talking about a constant unrepentant lifestyle. Someone who says the right thing but refuses to act it out. They know what the Word says, but refuse to obey it.*

Remember What Jesus Said; (v. 21)

Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven:

Make believers are very good actors, sometimes their disobedience is so subtle that they are able to keep an appearance of a Christian disciple (2 Tim. 3:5). Having your name on a Church roll means nothing. Names on church rolls don't save people, good works don't save people, water baptism don't save people, taking communion don't save people, etc...

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Matt. 15:8,9)

We learn how to behave correctly in church thinking that is what is going to save us. Knowing how to act right in Church does not grow you into Christ! Jesus declares He is LORD of All, and demands strict obedience. He is to be feared and worshipped. Notice the Judgment seat of Christ when they said LORD LORD! That is a strict statement on who He is. Remember He is not talking about un-believers here, He is talking to Christians (church folk). Jesus called the religious crowd Hypocrites! Outward works were highly important to that group. That's why the pharisees observed the commandments in detail but failed to understand the condition of their heart! Salvation by works was their doctrine. The pharisees had a false understanding of what it was to be a disciple. Their religiosity blinded them and sent them to Hell (self deceit).

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

(Is. 5:20-23)

Faith without works is the profile of the un-believer. They go to church, sometimes even tithe, but refuse to do the Word of God on a daily bases. They think a great deal of themselves. They know what needs to change in their lives but the devil continually deceives them by not listening to what the Holy Spirit is telling them. I've known people who have been in Church for many years even in leadership, but have not changed into the image of Christ. Anything we place above God is an idol. God must be first choice in our lives.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me:

(Ex. 20:3-5)

Many false believers can preach, can teach, can pray for the sick, pastor churches, while totally disconnected from Jesus Christ. If a believer prays for a sick person and they get healed that does not validate the spiritual stature of the one who prayed for them! The sick person is healed because the Lord responds to the faith of the one in need, not to the spiritual status of a make believer.

We have all been make believers at one time or another. The working of a miracle does not validate the spirituality of the person who prayed for the one in need. It validates the power of God in demonstrating His Compassion and Grace toward a believing disciple who comes in faith asking for a healing. Because God is faithful and True, His will toward us is yes and amen.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (2 Cor. 1:20)

The casting out of demons is not a measuring tool of a persons personal relationship with Jesus. As a matter of fact it could become a hindrance to them thinking it was their own power who cast out that demon slipping them into pride. When they think the power is their own and think more highly of themselves they become a make believer. It's a scary thing to hear what Jesus told the make believers (Matt. 7:2)

Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

***I Never Knew You** are the most frightening words in the New Testament! That word **Knew** in Greek means to know someone in a deep intimate way. Again Jesus was talking to Christians. In other words, Jesus was telling them, I never had a real relationship with you. You knew a great deal about me (GRAPHE) but, you never got to know me personally. You never invested the time or energy to get to know me as your best friend and companion. You did many things for me and pretended to serve me, but you never showed it by the behavior of your heart. You did just enough to convince people you are a Christian, but your actions were external and not from the heart!*