

Make Your Calling and Election Sure

Samuel H. Nodal

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). This goes for entire nations as well. In simple terms, the person or nation who worships the Lord and follows His will, will be blessed, and the person or nation that rejects the Lord and His will (or is a fake), will be cursed! It's that simple, the Lord cannot be mocked! (Gal. 6:7,8). The Lord is all powerful and GOOD, God must destroy evil or it will continue to spread all over the earth. In Noah's day, the Church was reduced to 8 people.

A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Prov. 22:3) and (Prov. 27:12)

A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit. (Prov. 14:6-8)

Our Faith Has To Be More Than Theology

One can memorize the Bible cover to cover and never meet its Author personally. This kind of faith will not save you. Theology without the Spirit's revelation is religion. The purpose of the Word is to promote understanding and reveal the person of Jesus in your heart not your head. Words are essential because that's how we communicate with God and each other. We communicate and understand each other through words. The Bible means nothing if you do not develop a personal friendship with Christ through the Holy Spirit. Jesus must reveal Himself to you in Spirit and Truth. It's with your heart that you believe, then your mind will follow in agreement. The Holy Spirit resides in your heart (your spirit) not your mind. If you are Born Again God's SPIRIT will quicken your spirit.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead **shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.** (Rom. 8:11)

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

I heard a story about a man who had memorized the entire New Testament. He made his living going to carnivals betting people that they could ask him any verse in the New Testament and he could quote it. Many people challenged him with little known verses and he would quote it. That's how he made his living. But this man was not a Born Again believer, he did not even believe there was a God. You can read the Bible all day long and never meet it's author (Jesus Christ)!

By Faith We Live Unto GOD through His Spirit (SPIRIT to spirit)

“It is the SPIRIT of GOD that gives Spiritual Life!” Faith is like the wind (SPIRIT), you can't see it with your physical eyes but you can feel and see it's effects!

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(Heb. 11:1)

Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; **not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.** (2 Cor. 3:6)

Knowing God is not the same as knowing about God. When you really know God your life will change radically. Jesus will become real to you! Your desire will be to live Holy, worship in Spirit and Truth, obey his Holy Word with all your heart. Yes, the Word is our guide, and is how we understand God, but the Word has no power to transform you into His image. Only the Spirit of God can do that. The Holy Spirit will reveal Jesus and His Word to you.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, **are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.** (2 Cor. 3:18)

Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth,** is come, **he will guide you into all truth:** for **he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak:** and **he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.** (John 16:13,14)

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

(John 14:20)

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, **that we may be also glorified together.** (Rom. 8:16,17)

God Speaks to our spirit Not the soul

*God speaks to our spirit **not the soul**. Unless the soul is trained to receive a True Word from the Spirit which is united to your spirit, it will be subject to deception. All Truth comes from the Word into our spirit by the Holy Spirit which is then processed by the Soul which tells the body what action to take (good or evil). Without the Holy Spirit you can read the Bible all day long and not understand its True meaning!*

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God**. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God**. Which things also we speak, **not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned**. But **he that is spiritual judgeth all things**, yet **he himself is judged of no man**. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But **we have the mind of Christ**. (1 Cor. 2:11-16)

GOD'S Warning About the Great Deception Coming in the End of Days

The Bible warns us over and over again about a tremendous deception coming upon the Earth in the latter days that will deceive all of humanity (except True Believers). Sandra Kennedy one of my favorite pastors preached the best sermon on (Matt. 7:22,23) I've ever heard, and I will turn it into a teaching in this last section:

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!

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 (mature), **thoroughly furnished unto all good works**. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

Knowing this first, **that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation**. **For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost**. (2 Pet. 1:20,21)

*Many scholars and Bible institutions today are discrediting the Bible saying; it is the work of men rather than honoring God for His revealed Love Letter to man. Pastors that have graduated from these un-biblical institutions are now pastoring many false churches. Our old righteous pastors faithful to God are leaving their pulpits and retiring by the droves. Because of the pressure, the afflictions, and the attacks by liberal atheists who do not want to hear the Truth of God. Liberal woke churches are taking over our great churches who were once faithful to God in the past. Many people today are attending churches that are not Born Again and don't even know it. They do not understand what Paul was talking about when he said; (Phil. 3:10) **“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection,”** In other words, they have never attained a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. They can probably quote scripture and know a little history about Him but they don't know Him personally.*

God Gave Us a Severe Warning in (Matt. 7:21-23)

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 to the un-believers (world)! Jesus is addressing the 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; the foolish man built his house 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. Remember also the 5 foolish virgins who had no oil in their lamps when their Bridegroom appeared (Matt. 25).

Notice Jesus Did Not Call Them Liars (they really did those things)

*But there was something about what they were doing that was totally wrong and insulted the Lord (v.22)! 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)

Remember What Jesus Said;

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

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)

*(Matt. 7) - also warned us about false prophets, false teachers, etc... but He went further and warned us about self deception (delusion). 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.*

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: (John 10:27)

What is a True believer one might ask? True disciples are the only ones prepared to meet Jesus (the Rapture)! 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.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

(Matt. 7:16-20)

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 doesn't save people, taking communion doesn't save people, etc... We are saved by giving our hearts to Jesus and accomplishing God's will in our lives. Jesus is the one who determines who goes to heaven and who goes to hell!

Remember What Jesus Said;

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

We learn how to behave correctly in church thinking that 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 scripture from His Judgment 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). Again, the New Testament is written to christians not the world (un-believers). In (Matthew 7) Jesus gives the description of false prophets, false teachers, and false sheep. We can know them by their fruit, their behavior, the way they act. 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.

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)

*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).*

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. “The Pharisee stood and began praying this in regard to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ “**I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**” (Luke 18:10-14) NASB

When you are Born Again by the Spirit of God there must be a willingness to change. Your desire is to be holy, righteous, and just. People will see your humility before God as a testimony of your encounter with Jesus. You are no longer who you were, you are a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17)

You can't just take the title of christian and not change! We are now (present tense) sons of God, and live to please God and become like Jesus. If people don't notice your change, you'd better check your salvation (2 Cor. 13:5)! I am horrified of what I am seeing in some so called christian churches, and the doctrines they are teaching. How stupid and ridiculous can people get. They are calling what is good bad and what is bad good.

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! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. (Is. 5:20-25)

If we have a True relationship with Jesus the evidence is obedience to His Word. There is a change in what we say and do. The Truth in us is what constitutes a real disciple and gets us ready to meet Him (Rapture). The make believer (fake christian) also says he believes in Jesus and is not going to Hell. But the key is, does their everyday life confirm to their profession. They say they believe the Bible but do dirty deals under the table. They lie to themselves and others and do not the will of God. They are not trust worthy in their actions. They blend so well with the world you cannot tell the difference, and more than anything else, they are liars!

But wilt thou know, O vain man, **that faith without works is dead?** (Jam. 2:20)

For as the body without the spirit is dead, **so faith without works is dead also.**

(Jam. 2:26)

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. A True believer knows when they do wrong because the Holy Spirit convicts them. They don't need anybody to tell them. We are now in Heaven (present tense) with Jesus so we're supposed to know the will of the Father.

For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:6) NLT

Not everyone that looks like a christian lives like a christian. 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 prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

*These people were in church, probably pentecostal or charismatic. Definitely not baptist (baptist are dead to the power of God); just kidding, just kidding, don't get angry at me. **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 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!*

“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

*Lawlessness is a deliberate disregard of what is right according to the Word of God. It says, I can trust myself, I don't need God. There is an enormous gulf between the True believer and the make believer (un-believer). Once again, remember these are church attenders (christians). **Some believe and others think they believe!***

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. **But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** (Matt. 8:11,12)

Holiness and the Fear of the Lord has Slipped Away from the Modern Church

*Christians today don't really understand what the Fear of the Lord is and what it means. Jesus calls the make believers **Hypocrites!** We can't pretend to live a holy life if we know we don't. We can't pretend we are right with God if we know that is not True (self deception). Don't risk being told “**I Never Knew You!**” Don't fall into the deception that your good works mean more than the intentions of your Heart!*

What Kind of Witness does the World see in you?

Does your life attract people to God, or does your life keep people away from God? We will all stand before God and give an account of our lives! What will Jesus say about you? Will he say; “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”
(Matt. 25:21)