

Walking Worthy

Counting the Cost

By

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Book 3- Chapter 03 – Study 02

Called and Chosen - Set Apart Through Obedience

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This study is not written to inform you. It is written to reveal where you stand.

Many have heard the call of God. Many have responded to it in some form. Few have understood what it means to be chosen. The call is often treated as the goal, but Scripture shows it is only the beginning.

To be called is to be invited. To be chosen is to be proven.

The difference between the two is not found in what a person hears, but in what they do with what they hear. Many receive the call with agreement, emotion, or desire, but few continue in obedience, transformation, and endurance. The call is extended broadly. The choosing is revealed narrowly.

The problem is not that people have not been called. The problem is that most have mistaken their response for completion. They begin in faith, but do not continue in it. They hear truth, but do not remain in it. They confess, but do not obey. Because of this, many believe they are chosen while still standing among the called.

This study exists to separate what has been merged.

You will not be asked whether you have heard the call. You will be confronted with whether you have answered it fully. Scripture does not measure your beginning. It reveals your continuation. It does not affirm your confession. It exposes your obedience. It does not recognize those who started. It identifies those who endured.

Throughout this study, you will see that the call of God is given in mercy, but the choosing is revealed through faithfulness. You will see that transformation is not optional, that obedience is not secondary, and that endurance is not reserved for a few. These are the marks of those who are chosen.

This is not a study to assume your position. It is a study to examine it.

If you are willing to test your life against Scripture without redefining it, this study will clarify where you stand. If you are not, it will expose what you have avoided.

The call has already gone out.

The only question left is this:

Have you only heard it, or have you become one who is chosen?

THE CALL AND THE CHOSEN

When the Lord calls, not everyone answers, and not everyone who answers is chosen. “Many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14). The call is God’s invitation, but being chosen is His confirmation that you have walked out that invitation through obedience and endurance.

Every person is called first to salvation. The gospel call reaches the ears of all who hear the Word, but only those who repent and believe truly respond. The call is universal, but the response determines the outcome.

Those who answer must then prove faithful. To be called is to be invited to grace; to be chosen is to be proven by obedience. The chosen are those who not only begin in faith but continue in truth until Christ is formed in them.

There is also a second kind of calling that comes only after salvation. Once a person has surrendered and been found faithful, God may appoint them for a greater work in His Kingdom. Some are called to teach, some to shepherd, some to evangelize, and others to serve in unique offices of ministry (Ephesians 4:11–12). But no one receives that higher calling before they have answered the first one. You cannot be called to ministry if you have ignored the call to repentance. The call to salvation is the foundation; the call to service is the building. (See B3-C03-S01 “Counting the Cost of Discipleship.”)

The call of God is mercy, but the choosing is endurance. Many are stirred, few remain. “No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him” (John 6:44). The drawing is grace; the choosing is faithfulness.

THE TRANSFORMED LIFE

Transformation is the visible proof that a person has truly answered the first call; the call to salvation. “Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). Salvation is not emotion; it is transformation.

When the Spirit comes, He does not reform the old nature, He crucifies it. This means identity itself must change. A person cannot remain who they were and claim to belong to Christ. The old life must be put off, and the new life must take its place. Where there is no change in identity, there has been no true transformation. The called may attempt to add Christ to their life, but the chosen surrender their life entirely and become new. “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The old self dies, the new one is born.

Those who are called but never changed remain only hearers. Many remain in a state of hearing and believing, yet never enter into transformation. The Scripture declares that many will seek to enter in and shall not be able (Luke 13:24), not because they did not hear, but because they did not obey. A life unchanged is a life still outside the true response to the call.

Those who are chosen are changed from within. The first call saves the soul; the second call equips the vessel.

Emotional faith will never endure, because feelings change with pressure. The Spirit does not lead by emotion but by conviction. “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool” (Proverbs 28:26).

Those who walk by emotion will follow God only when He agrees with their desires, but those who walk by faith will follow Him even when the path costs them everything. (See B2-C01-S08 “Why Feelings Cannot Be Trusted for Salvation.”)

Transformation proves the first call was answered. Obedience prepares the believer for the second. Only when the vessel is purified through obedience does God reveal higher purpose.

LOVE AND OBEDIENCE, THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHOSEN

Love is the root, obedience is the fruit. Christ said, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15). Love without obedience is deception; obedience without love becomes lifeless religion. True love for God is not emotion but loyalty. “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me” (John 14:21). The chosen prove their love by continuing when others stop.

Obedience is not how we earn salvation; it is how we stay in covenant. Love is the proof that obedience flows from the right heart. When obedience and love meet, they prepare a person for greater service. (See B3-C02-S01 “Love Proven Only Through Obedience.”)

REMEMBRANCE AND ENDURANCE

The chosen never forget who called them. Forgetfulness is the beginning of rebellion. Israel fell not because God failed, but because they forgot His Word. “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6).

Every fall begins with forgetfulness. When remembrance fades, obedience weakens. That is why Scripture says, “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent” (Revelation 2:5).

Endurance proves the sincerity of both callings; salvation and service. Many begin with zeal but do not endure to the end. When the teaching becomes hard, or when the cost becomes real, they turn back, as many disciples did when they could no longer receive the words of Christ (John 6:66). Endurance is what separates the called from the chosen, for only those who continue in faith and obedience to the end shall be saved. “He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13). Paul testified, “I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). (See B2-C03-S07 “Enduring to the End: Salvation Maintained by Faithfulness.”) The chosen are not without struggle, but they are unshakable in identity. Endurance is not optional, it is required for salvation.

“He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved”
(Matthew 24:13). Many begin, but do not finish. They endure for a season, but fall when faced with pressure, correction, or suffering. Even those who walked closely with truth have fallen away when they loved this world more. The chosen are not those who started well, but those who finish the course, keep the faith, and endure through every trial until the end. They know who called them and what they are called for. The first calling is to become; the second is to be sent.

THE TEST OF THE CALL

Christ never hid the cost of discipleship. “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). The cross is not jewelry, it is death to self. The call to salvation requires death to sin; the call to service requires death to self-will. Both are costly, and both must be answered in obedience.

Many are called, but they never counted the cost of obedience. They begin with desire, but abandon the path when following Christ demands sacrifice. As it is written, “whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple,” and again, “whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:27, 33). The chosen are those who counted the cost beforehand and still continued when it required the loss of self, comfort, and attachment to this world. Many start the journey, but like those who turned back or like Demas who loved this present world, they do not finish.

“Which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost?” (Luke 14:28).

The one who counts the cost but still moves forward becomes a vessel God can trust. Those who fail to count it begin with zeal but end in retreat. Demas was called but turned back, loving this world more than Christ (2 Timothy 4:10). The chosen finish what they start. (See B3-C03-S01 “Counting the Cost of Discipleship.”) The first call invites you to follow; the second tests whether you will continue.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CALLED AND THE CHOSEN

When the Lord calls, not everyone answers, and not everyone who answers is chosen. The first call, which is the call to salvation, must be received through full obedience to the gospel, not by words alone. True salvation requires repentance, water baptism for the remission of sins, and the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. These are not separate events spread over time, but a complete response to the call of God. Many believe, yet never complete what God has required. Believing brings a person nearer to salvation, but it does not complete it. The call is not fulfilled until obedience is carried out fully. This is why many are called but not chosen, because they stop at belief and never walk through obedience. Without all three, the first call is void. Acts 2:38 confirms it clearly: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” The confession of the lips must be joined with the obedience of the body and the transformation of the Spirit.

Many believe they have answered the call simply because they confess Christ with their lips, yet remain outside of obedience. Christ warned, “Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father” (Matthew 7:21). Deception causes many to think they are chosen when they have never obeyed. They hear the call, they agree with it, but they do not submit to it. Belief alone brings a person nearer to salvation, but without obedience, it never brings them into it.

A. Faith without obedience cannot survive. Faith that does not obey is dead. Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone (James 2:17). For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also (James 2:26). Salvation begins with belief, but it is perfected through obedience. Baptism and the receiving of the Holy Ghost complete the act of faith that leads to life.

B. Be doers of the Word, not hearers only. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves (James 1:22). Many hear the truth, few act on it. The called hear the message, but the chosen obey it fully. Obedience to the Word includes baptism for remission, prayer, and receiving the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, just as the apostles taught.

C. Good works are the proof of living faith. Good works are not payment for salvation, they are the evidence that faith is alive. They are the fruit that grows from a life rooted in obedience. B3-C02-S02- “Good Works Evidence, Not Earning” explains that good works are the outward proof that faith has taken hold, not the cause of salvation itself. B3-C02-S01- “Love Proven Only Through Obedience” both reveal that love for God is seen in the doing of His commandments.

The called hear the Word, but the chosen obey it. They repent, are baptized in water for the remission of sins, receive the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, and walk in good works that confirm their faith is alive. Without obedience, faith dies. Without action, hearing becomes self-deception. Those who are chosen are those who continue in both faith and obedience to the end. (See Book 2, Chapter 3, Study 2: Baptism God’s Appointed Moment of Remission, and Study 3: The Holy Ghost The Indwelling Gift of the New Covenant for full doctrinal foundation.)

OBEDIENCE AND SEPARATION

When God called Abram, He said, “Get thee out of thy country” (Genesis 12:1). That was his first call; the call to obedience. Later, God called him again to sacrifice Isaac, testing the depth of his surrender. That was his second call, the call to greater purpose. The first call separates you from sin; the second separates you for service. Both require trust and obedience. “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16). Separation is not pride, it is identity. Those who are chosen are not better than others; they are simply faithful in what they heard. Separation marks ownership. “It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever” (Exodus 31:16–17).

TRUTH, REFINEMENT, AND CORRECTION

Truth demands examination. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith” (2 Corinthians 13:5). The chosen are not offended by correction; they are shaped by it.

Doubt, when handled correctly, can become a tool of refinement. It exposes what needs strengthening. “A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:17). (See B2-C01-S09 “When Doubt Is a Call to Examine, Not to Fear.”)

Refinement is how God prepares those who answered the first call to receive the second. “The trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise” (1 Peter 1:7). Fire proves faith, it does not destroy it. Correction is the proof of love. “Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth” (Hebrews 12:6). Those who reject correction reject growth. (See B3-C02-S04 “Truth or Deceit: Testing What You Believe.”)

CONTINUING IN THE TRUE DOCTRINE

The chosen continue steadfastly in the same gospel the apostles preached; repentance, water baptism for the remission of sins, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

The doctrine has never changed, only men have changed it. From the beginning, they preached repentance, baptism, and the receiving of the Holy Ghost, and they continued steadfastly in it (Acts 2:38–42). The chosen are not those who start in truth and later drift into another teaching, but those who remain in the same doctrine without alteration. Many are called into truth, but few remain in it, because endurance in doctrine requires obedience, testing, and separation from error.

“They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship” (Acts 2:42). (See B3-C02-S03 “Continuing in the Apostles’ Doctrine.”)

The first call draws you into covenant; the second commissions you to guard that covenant. “Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3).

THE BATTLE AND TESTING OF ALL THINGS

The greatest battle of the chosen is not with men but with thoughts. “We wrestle not against flesh and blood” (Ephesians 6:12). The enemy attacks the mind because identity governs obedience.

If he can make you forget who you are, he can make you question what you are called to do. This forgetting is the root of many falling away. When a person forgets that they have been called to die to the old life and walk in a new one, they return to what they were delivered from. Scripture declares, “old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17), yet many live as if nothing has changed. A lack of remembrance becomes a lack of faith, and a lack of faith leads to disobedience. The called forget who they are and drift, but the chosen remember and remain. (See B3-C01-S02 “Identity in Christ and the Danger of Spiritual Amnesia.”)

Testing protects truth. “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1). The chosen test

everything by Scripture, because they know that obedience without discernment can lead to error.

THE FINAL CALL

The Spirit still says, “Wake up.” The called hear and delay; the chosen hear and obey.

Paul wrote, “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). Time reveals who truly answered the call. Time exposes whether a person only responded for a moment or remained in obedience. Many strive to enter but are not able, because they do not continue. The difference is not who started, but who endured. The called respond temporarily, but the chosen remain faithfully until the end.

Every act of obedience proves whether you belong to those who began or those who endured.

You were not called to blend in but to stand apart. The first call saves your soul; the second call sends your life. Remember what you have learned, act on what you know, and continue in what you have received. “Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58). (See also B3-C02-S01 “Love Proven Only Through Obedience,” and B2-C03-S07 “Enduring to the End: Salvation Maintained by Faithfulness.”)

Final Consideration

You have now seen what Scripture says, not what is commonly taught, not what is assumed, but what is written. At this point, the issue is no longer understanding, it is response. God does not measure what you agreed with while reading, He measures what you obey after seeing it. If something in this study exposed an area of your life, that was not accidental, that was light, and Scripture is clear that light brings responsibility. What you now know, you are accountable for.

This is where many fail. They read, they agree, they feel conviction, and then they delay. But Scripture does not treat delay as neutral. “To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.” So the question is not whether this study was correct, the question is simple, what will you do with what God has shown you? Will you obey immediately, or will you explain it away? Will you remove what He has exposed, or will you manage it? Will you submit, or will you delay? There is no third option.

God is not asking you to fix everything at once, but He is requiring that you stop defending what He has already revealed. Repent where you must repent, cut off what must be cut off, and obey what you already know. Do not wait for a better moment, do not wait for stronger feelings, do not wait for more clarity. Scripture has already spoken, “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart.” This is that moment.

If the fear of the Lord is present, obedience will follow. If obedience does not follow, fear was never received. The line is clear, and the responsibility is now yours. Choose.

Additional Studies Available

These studies are provided freely so anyone may examine the Scriptures carefully.

All studies follow the numbering system shown below.

Letters are connected to specific study numbers and are meant to be read together with the corresponding study for deeper understanding.

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If you would like guidance while working through these studies, you are welcome to contact me for help and direction at any time. All studies including my time are provided freely for every disciple of Christ.

Do not delay this examination. Open your Bible today and test everything you have been taught.

Do Not Keep This Message to Yourself

If this study has caused you to examine the Scriptures more carefully, do not keep that examination to yourself.

Truth spreads when it is shared.

Consider passing this booklet to someone else who may also need to ask these same questions.

You may:

- Request another booklet and give it to someone you love
- Give this booklet to a friend or family member
- Leave it where another person may discover it
- Share it with someone who sincerely desires to understand salvation according to Scripture

The apostles did not hide the truth. They spoke it openly so that others could hear it and examine it.

You can do the same.

Continue Studying the Scriptures

This booklet is only the beginning.

Additional Bible studies that examine salvation, obedience, and the teachings of Christ and the apostles are available here:

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Take time to search the Scriptures carefully and test everything that you have been taught.

Do not accept or reject anything without examining the Word of God for yourself.

Truth never fears examination.

Test Everything by Scripture

Do not believe this booklet simply because you have read it.

Open your Bible.

Search the Scriptures.

Examine every claim carefully.

The Bereans were called noble because they searched the Scriptures daily to verify whether the things they heard were true.

Follow their example.

Test everything by the Word of God.

NEED HELP?

You were not meant to figure this out alone.

If you have questions, need clarification, or want to go through these studies with someone, reach out.

We will study the Scriptures with you, step by step, so that what you learn is clear, proven, and grounded in truth.

**If what you believe is true, it will stand.
If it is not, it must fall.**

Zion's Roar Holy Spirit Ministry

Proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and calling believers back to the foundation laid by God in Zion, the doctrine of Christ delivered through His apostles.

