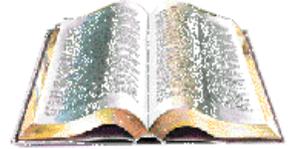


What God Says...



The Elect...

- Roy Ingbre 9/2012

Jesus picked 12 people to follow Him, but He only elected 11 out of the 12, and He did that before the foundation of the world because of what He knew beforehand....

John 17:12: While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Matthew 27:3: Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Ephesians 1:4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

1 Peter 1:2: Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus.....

Rom 8:29 For whom He foreknew, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son....

Did God go through all the people that would ever live and select some to go to heaven and some to go to hell? No, God does not send anyone to hell. People do that to themselves. It's called free choice - making a decision of the will.

God gave mankind a free will to choose whatever path they want to take. And He simply knows ahead of time what decision every single person will or would take when He offer them the opportunity of redemption from their fallen sinful nature to be restored to fellowship with the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. Sadly, most people do not choose that path and God knew every person's decision before they were born. He knows the cuddly little baby that will grow up to reject Him, to become a Hitler, a Stalin or a Saddam Hussein or a Judas or....all those who will receive the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and be born again from above. He knows what every person will decide before they do. It's called foreknowledge (Rom.8:29).

Walmart is interviewing applicants for positions for a new store. Hundreds of people show up and they have to go through a process to see if they qualify. The interviewers have to go through all the applicants to find those whom they want to hire according Walmart's requirements and qualifications needed and subsequent training to do their various tasks in the company.

Now, God had a similar task and when He created mankind He gave them a free will to choose, which resulted in sin entering the human race. Man sinned and then was separated from God. God provided a way for man to get back into fellowship with Him through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. God created mankind to fellowship with and gives everyone an equal opportunity to choose to receive His provision. Those who He knows will do that, God selects to be with Him for eternity.

God of course has an unfair advantage because, unlike Walmart, He knows the end from the beginning. He knew even before the world began, who would receive Him and so His selection process was relatively easy.

Because He knew who would respond to Him before they were even born, those were the ones He selected to work with and perfect for eternal life with Him.

*Romans 8:29: For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.
30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also **called**: and whom he called, them he also **justified**: and whom he justified, them he also **glorified**.*

In other words, God is continually working in those who will and have received Him, to make them complete and ready for the marriage supper of the lamb;

*Revelation 19:9: And he said to me, Write, Blessed are those **who have been called** to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God.*

The rest of the people He is angry with every day;

Psalms 7:11: God judge the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

Jesus says in His prayer to the Father....

*John 17:9 I pray for them: **I pray** not for the world, but **for them which you have given me**; for they are yours.*

And He goes on to say

*John 17:20: And I do not pray for these alone, but for **those also who shall believe** on Me through their word,*

In the foreknowledge of God we play a part in spreading the gospel and do not have the ability to see who will get saved and who will not, so we need to reach out to those whom the Lord put in our paths and on our hearts.

Now, why has God ordained for us to preach the gospel and to make disciples when all that is pre-ordained? Because God has ordained that all that which is involved in growing as a Christian and praying, preaching and showing the love of Christ is all part of the process that God knew beforehand, which will bring people to love Him freely from their heart, and He, who is the only one who has the ability to do that, knew the outcome from before the foundation of the world.

God says that nothing can remove us from His love

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Only ourselves.

We make the decision and no one or nothing else can change that and we also make the decision to **continue** in the faith;

*1John 5:13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may **continue to believe** in the name of the Son of God.*

Is it possible for someone to fall away after they have believed. Well, let's see what God says. Once saved, you can't lose it?

Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God,

6 who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":

*7 eternal life to those who by **patient continuance** in doing good seek for **glory, honor, and immortality**;*

*8 but to those who are **self-seeking and do not obey the truth**, but obey unrighteousness — **indignation and wrath**,*

*9 **tribulation and anguish**, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*

Joh 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "**If you continue** in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

Joh 15:9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **continue** in My love.

Acts 13:43: Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to **continue** in the grace of God.

Acts 14:22: Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to **continue** in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Rom 11:1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 **God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.** Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,

3 "LORD, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS AND TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY SEEK MY LIFE"?

4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I HAVE RESERVED FOR MYSELF SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL."

Rom 11:5 Even so then, at this present time there is **a remnant according to the election of grace.**

Rom 11:18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."

20 Well said. **Because of unbelief they were broken off**, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.

21 **For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.**

22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **if you continue** in His goodness. **Otherwise you also will be cut off.**

23 And they also, **if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in**, for God is able to graft them in again.

Col 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

23 **if indeed you continue** in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

1 Timothy 4:16: Take heed unto yourself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this you shall both save yourself, and them that hear you.

*11 Timothy 3:14: But **continue** in the things which you have learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom you have learned them;*

*1 John 2:24: Let that therefore abide in you, which you have heard from the beginning. If that which you have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, you also shall **continue** in the Son, and in the Father.*

Is it possible to be believe, taste of the heavenly gift and partake of the Holy Spirit and then turn away from God and be lost? God says it's possible, but it is a conscious decision, that someone makes, to do so. As we saw earlier, no one or no thing can separate from the love of God – only a conscious decision by the person themselves.

*Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,
5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,
6 **if they fall away**, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.*

*Luk 8:13 But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, **who believe for a while** and in time of temptation **fall away**.*

Do I believe in eternal security? Absolutely! I am secure as I continue to abide in Him:

*1 John 5:13 These things I have written to **you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may **continue** to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

*1 Jn 1:4 And these things we write to you **that your joy may be full**.*

1 Jn 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

However, if you do not abide in the light....

1 Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

*1 Jn 2:3 **Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.***

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

If we are in the right place, the scriptures above will no doubt bring a renewed sense of the fear of God and that's good.....

*2Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves** from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Rev 14:7 saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

People that preach and believe "once saved always saved" will say of people who back slide and turn away that they were not saved to begin with. One could argue the point that someone who got "saved" really didn't because they turned away from God in the end and really, the end result was that they did not get "saved" (from hell). However, God talks about people who believed for a while, then turned away. There are also many stories where people turned away or backslid (not turned against Christ, but strayed) and went out into a life of sin and then came back to Christ and now are strong believers.

The prodigal son;

*Luke 15:17: And when **he came to himself**, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

18: I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19: And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20: And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

*21: And the son said unto him, **Father, I have sinned against heaven**, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

22: But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:

23: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:

*24: For this **my son was dead, and is alive again**; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

The problem with the "once saved always saved" message is that it can promote a careless attitude and sometimes a lifestyle that is contrary to Christian living. The question then can be asked if such a person is actually born again at all and they are then judged according to what people see. That is something we are not to do, but rather to warn them of impending danger unless they get back on the right track. Only God knows the heart and knows whom he "foreknew". Our responsibility is to be obedient to the Word and preach and teach the whole counsel of God and then Holy Spirit will do the work. We cannot save anybody, we are only to be witnesses to the truth.

We cannot arbitrarily decide who is saved and who is not in the final analysis. God says that it's how you finish that matters and He knew everybody's finish before the world began;

Ecc.11:3if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it shall be.

God knows the end from the beginning.....whom He foreknew.....

Let's look at a few examples:

Esau:

Sold his birthright by a decision of his will and sought to get it back, but could not

Judas:

decided to betray Jesus and was lost

Nicky Cruz

Lived a life of crime, got saved and became an evangelist

70x7 and Beyond: Mystery of the Second Chance - Monty Christensen (Author)

Messed up miserably many times, finally got serious with Jesus, wrote a book about it to evangelize.

A Christian friend of mine divorced his wife, three years later he repented, got right with God, came back and they re-married.

Israelites

Many of them rebelled against God and perished

David

Became an adulterer and murderer, repented and was forgiven and even called a man after God's own heart - before it happened!

Peter

Chosen by Jesus, denied by an oath that he knew Jesus, became a strong leader in the early Church.

Paul

Persecuting the church, became one of the best known apostles

All these people on both sides, God knew beforehand and who would be saved and who would not, because He knew who would respond to Him and receive and return His love.

Whom He foreknew.....

*Rom 8:29 For whom He **foreknew**, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son....*

*Eph_1:4 just as **He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

2Th 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,

2 not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.

3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

.....9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,

10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

13 But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

14 to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,

17 comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

One of the most important scriptures in the Bible is;

1 Cor 11:13 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged..

It's not about picking and choosing, but about us responding to His love for us through the atonement of Jesus Christ.

For more on the subject on judging go to the LIBRARY and click on: "Truth"

www.WhatGodSays.org