

What if I am not  
chosen?



## About the front cover

- The sheep: In John 10:16 the Lord Jesus says: *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*
- The fog: is symbolic for your uncertainty about the doctrine of election, the covering, which blurs the truth of the Gospel and the lack of assurance.
- The sun: is symbolic for the light of the truth found in God's Word (Psalm 119:105). The Lord Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12 and John 12:46). In His light we are able to see the light (Psalm 36:10b).

Maybe you feel like those sheep in the picture that stray in the fog (Ezekiel 34:6). In Ezekiel 34: 11,12,15,16a God promises: *For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick.*

The Lord Jesus wants to add you to His flock. He wants to be your Shepherd too (John 10:11).

In this photograph, the fog is being expelled by the sun. It is our heart's desire that the light of the truth of the Bible will expel your fog of uncertainty (2 Samuel 22:29, Psalm 18:29 en 2 Corinthians 3:16) and you will come to an understanding of the truth of the Gospel (John 8:32 en 2 Corinthians 4:6).

It is our hope and prayer that this Bible study 'What if I am not chosen?' will help you on this journey.

God bless you!

## What if I am not chosen?

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What if I am not chosen? This is not a question we find in the Bible, so you don't have to ponder about it. However, you can be struggling with this question anyway and maybe there are more questions, like: "I do want to be a child of God, but is that for me too?" Maybe you think it is useless to pray if you are not chosen. Or you long to have certainty of faith, but you keep on having doubts and you are afraid to deceive yourself for eternity. You wonder whether you will be lost forever because you don't belong to those who have been chosen. Or you think you need to wait until God will convert you.

## What does the Bible say about repentance?

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Some scriptures in which God calls people to repent (to come to their senses and literally turn away from sin) are:

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
- 2 Chronicles 30:9b *For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.*
- Isaiah 44: 22 *I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.*
- Isaiah 45:22 *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*
- Isaiah 55:6,7 *Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*
- Jeremiah 36:3 *It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.*
- Ezekiel 18:21-22 *But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live.*

- Ezekiel 18:23 *Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?*
- Ezekiel 18:30b *Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.*
- Ezekiel 18:32 *For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*
- Ezekiel 33:11 *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*
- Hosea 14:2 *O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.*
- Joel 2:13 *And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*
- Zechariah 1:3 *Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.*
- Zechariah 1:4b *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings.*
- Matthew 3:2 *And [John] saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
- Matthew 4:17 *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
- Mark 1:15 *And [Jesus] saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
- Luke 15:7 *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*
- Luke 15:10 *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*
- Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*
- Acts 3:19 *Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*
- Acts 17:30 *And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.*

## What does that mean: “repent ye”?

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To repent is: to have a sincere realization of wrongdoing, to return to God and confess your sins just like the prodigal son.

- Luke 15:18-21 *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 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. 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.*

First we see an inner change of the prodigal son's way of thinking (Luke 15:17). He came to repentance. Only then he decided to return to his father and confess his sins (Luke 15:18-20a). When the son was on his way home, his father was already running towards him, moved with inner compassion (Luke 15:20). The son confessed his sins (Luke 15:21). The father forgave all of his son's wrongdoings and gladly restored him to his position as his son (Luke 15:21-24).

You can come to God the same way and confess your sins. God's love for us is so great that He gave His only Son for us, because He does not want anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). He wants to be merciful to you and forgive your sins. There will be joy in heaven when you repent of your sins (Luke 15:7,10).

- Isaiah 30:18a *And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you.*

## But I cannot lead myself to repentance, can I?

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Maybe you think, “I cannot lead myself to repentance; that is something only God can do”, but when God asks you to repent, He is there to help you to do what you cannot do in your own strength. God wants to give you all that is needed to accomplish this.

- John 5:8,9a *Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked.*

This man had been sick for 38 years. He could not get up in his own strength, but when Jesus told him to get up and walk, Jesus gave him the power to do this.

- Mark 3:5 *And when he [Jesus] had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.*

Humanly speaking, this man was not able to stretch out his hand, but because Jesus asked him to do it, he was capable; Jesus made him capable.

The Lord Jesus was sacrificed. He died for the sin. The Lord Jesus offers you His mercy and encourages you to repent, to believe and trust Him. You can accept this gift of grace and stretch out your hands in faith to receive it.

- John 11:43,44a *And when he [Jesus] thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth.*

Even a dead person could do what Jesus asked of him!

If you are still spiritually dead, God calls you to repentance, to surrender your life to Him. The Word of God is full of the resurrection power of Christ. God is calling people out of death into life (John 5:25). You will no longer live for yourself, but you will start living for Him (2 Corinthians 5:15, 1 Peter 4:2).

## **But isn't God the One leading me to repentance?**

When you believe that only those people will be saved who were predestined by God and that everybody else will be lost, it is possible that you become passive or even indifferent (“there is nothing I can do about it anyway; it all depends on God”), or you become very desperate and even fearful (“if I am not chosen, I will never be saved, no matter how often I pray”; “if I'm not chosen, I will end up in hell”). This is a deception of the devil. God doesn't say you have to wait (passively) for Him to convert you; God calls you to (actively) repent.

To repent: this is something you must do (and in hindsight you will recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in this). Rebirth: this is God's work in you. You cannot do this yourself.

Rebirth is the reviving and the renewing of your heart, which is God's work in you.

- Ezekiel 36:26 *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.*
- John 1:12,13 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God.*
- 1 Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

## **But doesn't God have to start all this?**

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First, God works in our hearts and attracts us with His love (Hosea 11:4 and Jeremiah 31:3b). This 'pull' is the preparing work of the Holy Spirit, which makes us conscious of our sins and of the choice we have to make to come to God (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit moves us to repentance.

- John 6:44,45 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.*
- 1 John 4:19 *We love him, because he first loved us.*

God begins, but that does not exclude our responsibility.

The Lord Jesus invites us "come unto Me" and we need to obey and take that step to Him.

- Matthew 11:28 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

God is knocking at the door of our hearts; we must heed His knocking.

- Revelation 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

## Being saved is 100 percent grace and 100 percent personal responsibility

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Do you want to believe in the Lord Jesus and follow Him? Do you want to serve God and obey His Word, or not? Being saved is 100 percent grace and 100 percent personal responsibility.

- Deuteronomy 30:19b *I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.*
- Joshua 24:15 *And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*
- Psalm 84:11 *For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*
- Isaiah 30:15 *For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.*
- Matthew 22:3 *And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.*
- Matthew 23:37b *How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!*
- Acts 2:38a,41a *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized.*
- Romans 6:17 *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*
- Hebrews 3:7,8a *Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*
- Revelation 22:17b *And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

In the Bible we see various examples of people who deliberately chose not to serve God, such as the godless kings. On the other hand there are numerous people in the Bible who clearly showed that they wanted to serve God and be obedient to Him: Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Josiah, Hezekiah, Isaiah, Daniel, the disciples, the converts on the day of Pentecost, the eunuch of Candace, the jailor in Philippi, etc.



## **But I have always been told differently. How do I know what is true?**

The things God says in His Word are more important than the things people say. God's Word is truth (John 8:31,32 and John 17:17). Examine what the Bible says to discover what is the truth, and don't forget to consider the context in which certain Bible verses are given.

- *Isaiah 43:18,19 Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.*
- *Isaiah 43:27b And thy teachers have transgressed against me.*
- *John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*
- *Acts 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*
- *Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*
- *Romans 12:2b But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
- *Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*
- *Galatians 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*
- *1 Thessalonians 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*
- *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*
- *1 John 4:1a Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God.*
- *1 John 5:9-12 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

## What does the Bible say?

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### Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life

- John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Only through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross can we be reconciled with God. The Lord Jesus made the way to God available to us (1 Peter 3:18a). Because of this, it is possible for us to receive forgiveness for our sins and eternal life.

### God is love, and He desires you to be saved

- John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- Romans 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
- Ephesians 2:4,5a *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.*
- 1 John 4:8 *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*
- 1 John 4:9 *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*
- 1 John 4:10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*
- 1 John 4:16 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

### God is not a respecter of persons

The Bible never says that God shows favoritism when it comes to salvation. He shows no partiality to certain people. No person is excluded in advance. However, God hates the sinful behavior of people and the state in which they find themselves without Him, but God just wants them to repent (Ezekiel 33:11, 2 Peter 3:9). He gave His Son to save them (John 3:16). Everyone (no one is excluded) who believes in God and confesses Jesus as Lord will be saved.

- 2 Chronicles 19:7b *For there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking gifts.*
- Acts 15:8,9a *And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*
- Romans 2:11 *For there is no respect of persons with God.*
- Romans 3:22 *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference.*
- Romans 10:12,13 *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

### **God rewards all who seek Him**

- Hebrews 11:6b *For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

God is a Rewarder of those (all of those) who seek Him. So go seek Him, draw near to Him with confidence and He will draw near to you (James 4:8).

- Deuteronomy 4:29 *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*
- 1 Chronicles 28:9c *If thou seek him, he will be found of thee.*
- 2 Chronicles 15:4 *But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.*
- Ezra 8:22b *The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.*
- Psalm 69:32b *And your heart shall live that seek God.*
- Psalm 119:2 *Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*
- Isaiah 45:19b *I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain.*
- Jeremiah 29:13,14a *And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD.*
- Lamentations 3:25 *The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*
- Amos 5:6a *Seek the LORD, and ye shall live.*
- Matthew 7:7,8 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

## **God does what He promises in His Word**

- Numbers 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*
- 2 Corinthians 1:20 *For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24 *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*
- Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised).*

You can trust and appeal to the promises of God in His Word.

## **The Lord Jesus invites you to come to Him**

- Matthew 11:28 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

You can come to the Lord Jesus with all your troubles, all your worries, the burden of your sins and even your questions about your faith. Jesus promises He will give you rest (for your spirit, your soul and your body). You can come to Him just as you are, empty handed.

## **God will not condemn you and neither reject you when you come to Him in sincerity**

The Lord Jesus bore the punishment for the sin, as Substitute for all who come to Him (Isaiah 53:5, 2 Corinthians 5:15,19,21 and 1 John 2:1b,2). Therefore God will not reject you and He will not condemn you when you sincerely repent, ask Him to forgive your sins and truly believe that the Lord Jesus died for your sins. Then He will see in you the righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ.

- 2 Chronicles 30:9b *For the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.*
- John 3:17 *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*
- John 3:18a *He that believeth on him is not condemned.*
- John 6:37b *And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*

## **If we confess our sins, then God forgives all our sins**

- Psalm 32:5 *I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.*
- Psalm 86:5 *For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.*
- Proverbs 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*
- Isaiah 1:18 *Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*
- Isaiah 44:22 *I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.*
- 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

God does demand that we ourselves forgive others (Matthew 6:14,15).

## **The Lord does not entertain evil thoughts about you, but peaceful thoughts**

- Jeremiah 29:11-13 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

## **Whoever believes in Christ is chosen in Him**

- Ephesians 1:4,5 *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: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.*

The Chosen One, who redeems people even from before the foundation of the world is Jesus Christ (Isaiah 42:1, Matthew 12:18 and 1 Peter 2:4,6). He was the Elected One, even before the foundation of the world, to save humanity (2 Timothy 1:9). They who believe in Him, share in God's election. They are chosen in Christ.

## **Hell was originally meant for Satan and his angels, not for people**

- Matthew 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

The above Bible verse says that hell was originally prepared for the devil and his angels. The Bible does not say that hell was originally intended for people.

Throughout the Bible it is shown that it is God's will for all people to be saved. But this does not mean that all people will in fact be saved. Some people will end up in hell because of their own unwillingness and unbelief (Mark 16:16 and Hebrews 3:18,19).

## **God does not want anyone to perish, but all to come to repentance**

- Ezekiel 18:32 *For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.*
- Ezekiel 33:11 *Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*
- 1 Timothy 2:3b,4 *God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*
- 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

In your prayer, you can appeal to these Bible verses.

The above scriptures show God's mercy for sinners, but also His revealed will for us: a call to faith and repentance. God is full of grace and mercy, slow to anger and great in faithfulness (2 Chronicles 30:9b, Psalm 103:8 and Joel 2:13b).

God does not delight in our death, but He wants to save us for eternity. That's why He wants us to turn to Him, confess our sins and in faith accept His Son Jesus Christ.

The above scriptures show clearly that God doesn't want that anyone perishes. It is His will that all people will be saved.

## Whoever believes in the Lord Jesus has everlasting life

Do you believe that the Lord Jesus died for your sins on the cross too? Do you trust Him with all your heart? Then you will have eternal life.

If you were to perish, it is not because you are not elected (this is no excuse), but because you did not believe in the Lord Jesus.

The following Bible verses provide evidence for the fact that people will perish because of their unbelief:

- Mark 16:16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*
- John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*
- John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
- John 3:36a *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.*
- John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
- John 6:40 *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*
- John 11:25,26 *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. *Believest thou this?**
- Acts 16:31 *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*
- Romans 10:9-11 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

## Is the Gospel for everybody?

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Gospel means: 'good news', or 'happy message'. If the Gospel were meant for a limited number of people only, it would not be a happy message for everybody. But the Gospel, which is supposed to be preached to all people (Mark 16:15), is that the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus at the cross can save anyone who believes in Him. This is how generous God's offer of grace is. This offer is not only extended to the elect, but to everybody.

- John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him [it doesn't say: the elect] should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
- John 6:40a *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one [no one is excluded] which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life.*
- John 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*
- Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
- Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.*
- 1 John 2:2 *And he [Jesus Christ] is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world [everybody].*

## Does that mean there is no election?

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If there were no election, no one would be saved. No one chooses for God by himself. But because God has chosen to save people, people are being saved and their salvation is one hundred percent certain.

Election is not meant to be a blockade preventing you from coming to God, but instead it is a gate to salvation. As if you are standing before a gate which reads, "Come to Me, all ye..." Once you have entered through this gate, the other side reads, "I have chosen you".

Election is not your guarantee or a license to accept God's salvation, but because you have accepted God's salvation, this is proof you were elected.

Election is not an unfortunate fate, but, in hindsight, a foundation of comfort, encouragement and assurance for the believer. Election should not be our starting point, but the conclusion.



## **What does this mean: “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated”?**

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- Romans 9:13 *As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*

This scripture is not about the election for salvation, but about the election of Israel. God chose Jacob as a forefather of the people of Israel. The birthright was Jacob's, even though Esau was the oldest son. This scripture does not mean that God literally hated Esau, but rather that He placed him second in rank. We find the same meaning in Luke 14:26. In this verse, Jesus does not mean that a person must hate himself and his family, but that God must be number One in your life, and that you and your family come second.

- Malachi 1:2b,3a *Yet I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau.*

But God says this 1,400 years after Esau's days, not prior to Esau's birth! Esau sold his birthright and took heathen wives, who were displeasing to his parents. The descendants of Esau (the Edomites) were such great enemies of the people Israel, that they even wanted to destroy them. In the book of Malachi, God looks back on all the evils committed by Esau and his descendants and He is angered by it. That is why He says: “I hated Esau”.

Neither of these Bible verses are about the eternal destiny of Jacob and Esau. They don't say that God had rejected Esau before the foundation of the world, predestinating him to perish for eternity.

## **What does it mean that “he hath mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth”?**

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- Romans 9:18 *Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.*

This Bible verse is about Egypt's Pharaoh. Initially it was Pharaoh himself who chose to harden his own heart; five times he refused to let God's people go. Only after these five times it was the Lord who hardened Pharaoh's heart, while He ministered to His people Israel (Exodus 9:12). God knew in advance that Pharaoh would harden his heart, but even so He gave Pharaoh multiple opportunities to make the right choice. Man's bad choice always precedes the hardening of the heart. Also, God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart did not mean that this was the sole reason that Pharaoh would perish for eternity.

## **But doesn't it say that few have been chosen?**

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- Matthew 22:14 *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

The first section of the parable of the Royal wedding (Matthew 22:1-7) is about the Jewish people. The entire nation was invited to follow the Lord Jesus, but many refused the invitation. After this, as many were invited as the servants could find (verses 8-13). The meaning is that the Gentiles were also called by the message of the Gospel. The offer of grace is for everybody. Still this does not mean that everybody will be saved. God's condition is that we must be clothed with Christ. The man who was not wearing a wedding garment was not covered by Christ. He thought he could partake in the wedding banquet on his own terms and therefore he was cast out.

The phrase “few are chosen” does not mean that the king had selected only a few people; on the contrary, the king had invited as many people as possible. But many of the invited guests were unwilling to come or wanted to come only on their own terms. Those who came to the wedding and were wearing wedding garments, those are called “chosen” in this passage. These are relatively few in number, compared to all those who have been called but refuse to come, but it is still a multitude no one can count.

## **But it has to be something that is given to me, right?**

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- John 3:27 *John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.*

Here John is speaking of his ministry. He is saying that he has been appointed to his ministry by God. This verse is not speaking of God's grace.

Indeed, God has to give it to you before you can accept His offer of grace. But ‘accepting’ is not ‘taking’ or ‘stealing’, but: receiving what has been offered to you. God gave His Son, so your sins can be forgiven and you can receive eternal life if you ask Him for forgiveness and believe in Him. He is offering you His grace, as a gift. You can be thankful for this free gift.

When you are given a gift, you must receive it (accept the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus) and take hold of it (believe it is given to you personally). Then, you should not leave the gift on a shelf, but unwrap it and use it for its intended purpose (only by living in a personal relationship with God, you will experience what you believe).

## Chosen for service

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When the Bible speaks of election, it is often in the context of a task or service, not in the context of being elected to be saved. Judas Iscariot, for example, was chosen to be a disciple, but still he was not saved, because he chose to betray Jesus (John 6:70,71).

Election for a task never means that one is chosen at the expense of another, but God chooses a single person or a certain group of people to be a blessing to others. But this never means that those not chosen for this particular task will perish forever. An example is Ananías (Acts 9:10). He was not chosen to be a missionary, but he is saved for eternity.

- Deuteronomy 7:6 *For thou [Israel] art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*
- Deuteronomy 17:15a *Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose: one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee.*
- 1 Samuel 2:28a *And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me?*
- 2 Chronicles 29:11b *for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.*
- Luke 6:13 *And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles.*
- John 6:70,71 *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon; for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.*
- John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
- Acts 9:15 *But the Lord said unto him [Ananías], Go thy way: for he [Paul] is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*
- Acts 15:7 *And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.*
- 1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

## What can I do to be justified?

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We can only be justified by grace, through faith. Not by sufficient knowledge of sin, not by keeping the law, not by doing good works and not by living a pious life. The only requirement for your salvation has been met by the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary. We cannot add anything to this in order to be justified. We can only be justified by believing that the Lord Jesus died on the cross for our sins. This seems simple, but at the same time it can be very difficult to only trust in the Lord Jesus and not add anything to this ourselves.

- Isaiah 55:1 *Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price!*
- Romans 3:24 *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*
- Romans 3:28 *Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.*
- Romans 4:5 *But to him that worketh not, but on believeth him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*
- Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- Galatians 2:16 *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.*
- Galatians 3:11 *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*
- Ephesians 2:8,9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
- Philippians 3:7,8b,9 *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 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.*
- Titus 3:5-7 *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.*
- Revelation 22:17b *And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

## How can I have assurance of my salvation?

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Some people are waiting for a particular feeling or experience before they dare to believe, personally and securely, that they have been saved for eternity. But your feelings are not a determining factor; feelings can even deceive you. When focusing on the notion of election and your feelings, you will always remain insecure (“what if I am not chosen?”). Even if you think you are one of the elect, it is possible to live in uncertainty all the time when you judge yourself by your feelings (“what if I am deceiving myself for eternity? I don't always feel like I'm God's child”). This means you are still lacking the comfort and the joy of your salvation. You are still lacking the certainty of eternal security.

Don't judge yourself by your feelings, but believe and trust in God's reliability and the promises in His Word. If you live in this faith and trust (2 Corinthians 5:7), you will also begin to experience what you believe (John 14:21,23).

Our salvation is not determined by our feelings, experiences or impressions, nor by our knowledge of sin or our piety; the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus at the cross is our solid ground and our faith in Him is the certainty by which we can know we are saved. This certainty is not in (or from) ourselves, but in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Romans 8:38a,39 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, 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.*
- Colossians 2:2 *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ.*
- 2 Timothy 1:12b *For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*
- Hebrews 10:22a,23 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised).*
- Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
- 1 John 5:12,13 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*
- 1 John 5:19a *And we know that we are of God.*

## A short story

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The dense fog rolled in quickly. The man hiking in the mountains couldn't see a thing. Groping around he tried to continue on his path, when suddenly he tripped and fell down. Fortunately he was able to grab hold of the edge of the rocky cliff. There he was, dangling over the abyss. No matter how hard he tried, he was unable to find a place for his feet to stand. Terror gripped his heart. After a while he was no longer able to hold on. His cramping hands had no choice but to let go. Screaming desperately, he plunged into the deep. Flashing through his brain was the thought, 'It is over. I will be dead'.

But he only fell down two feet. All this time, he had been hanging over a plateau in the cliffs. How relieved and surprised he was! If he had known about this plateau all along, there would never have been any reason for all his fears. Not much later the fog dissipated and the man was saved.

Many people who are seeking, some desperately, feel like this. Maybe you are such a seeker yourself. Maybe you don't know how to be saved for eternity. Maybe you feel like you're in a fog and you're holding on to things for no reason. Do you want to let go and trust your life to God? Are you willing to trust that the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus on the cross is sufficient for you to be saved, without adding anything to this yourself? This is the only solid ground, the only certainty by which you can be saved. Then you'll have to let go of everything you thought you could do or add yourself to be saved. That includes some things people may have taught you that are contrary to the Gospel (such as a wrong explanation of election). This may be an enormous struggle in your thinking, but the veil will be taken away that is blurring the truth of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 3:16). Then you will understand the truth and the truth will set you free (John 8:32).

You can let go and 'plunge' into Jesus Christ, the Rock of ages (2 Samuel 22:2,3,47, Psalm 18:2 and Psalm 62:2,7), and you will be saved! There is no need to fall in fear, like the man in the above story, but you can be very sure that the Lord God is trustworthy. He is the best Person to Whom you can surrender and you can be certain and trust in it that He will save you.

When you turn to God and ask Him to forgive your sins, when you believe the Lord Jesus died on the cross for your sins too and when you surrender your life to God, then you can be confident that you are saved for eternity. Then you can be certain: I am chosen!

## In closing

We hope that this booklet will be an encouragement to those who are in despair, thinking they are not chosen. We also hope this brochure will speak to people who assume they cannot, or don't have to do anything and who passively wait until God will convert them. Let this booklet be an incitement to no longer be passive or indifferent.

In this brochure we emphasize that we all have this God given responsibility from Mark 1:15b, *Repent ye, and believe the gospel.*

Because the view on predestination is often a hindrance to come to the Lord Jesus, we want to invite and encourage you to search for what is written in the Bible about this. We hope and pray that this brochure will be a blessing to you and that it will help you discover the truth of the Gospel; *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16).

All Bible quotations of this brochure are taken from the King James Version. The Bible verses are in *Italics*.

This brochure is not written with the intention to be critical or opinionated, but out of love and compassion (2 Corinthians 5:14,20).

This brochure may be copied and distributed freely. It can also be downloaded from the website [www.benikweluitverkoren.nl](http://www.benikweluitverkoren.nl). From this site you can also download the special youth edition 'What if I'm not chosen?' with scriptures from the King James Version.

From the website, mentioned above you can download the Bible study and the youth edition in various languages. This site also features the original Dutch Bible study, 'Ben ik wel uitverkoren?', as well as the special Dutch youth edition, both using Bible verses taken from the Statenvertaling.

It is our prayer that this brochure will be a blessing to you!

