

Life Group Lesson
August 2011

You are No accident, Because God Chose You!

*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.*

Ephesians 1:4

Jeremiah 1:5—Jeremiah 29:11

From time to time, someone says, "My parents didn't plan me. I was an accident no one expected me." People use this as an excuse for not accepting more responsibility in life, claiming that they are accidents who came into the world by mistake and aren't even supposed to be here!

Well, I want to tell you that even though we may have been a surprise to our parents, we were NOT a surprise to God! The Bible teaches that long before you or I were ever conceived in our mothers' wombs, God already knew us and was calling us to be His children with a special purpose to fulfill in this world.

In Psalm 139:15 and 16, David declares that God's eyes were fixed on us not only when we were in the earliest stages of being formed in our mother's womb, but even BEFORE we were conceived. David said concerning himself (and us), "My substance was not hidden from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (for clarity also read from Amplified Bible)

According to David, God knew us when we were nothing more than mere "substance" in the earliest stages of being formed in our mothers' wombs. God was so intricately aware of us that He took note as our arms, hands, fingers, legs, feet, and toes were being formed. In fact, this verse says He even knew us "when as yet there was none of them" in existence! Wow! Think of it! Long before we were conceived, God already knew of us — and by faith He could see us being conceived, formed, and born into this world. This means there isn't a single human being on the earth who was a surprise to God, and that includes YOU!

Those of us who are believers were also saved by no accident. Paul writes, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...." The word "chosen" in Greek is *eklego* — a compound of the words *ek* and *lego*. The word *ek* means *out*, and the word *lego* means *I say*. Together these words literally mean *OUT. I say!* It can also mean to *call out, to select, to elect, or to personally choose*.

In classical Greek writing, this word *eklego* referred to a person or a group of people who were **SELECTED** for a specific purpose. For example, the word *eklego* was used for the selection of men for military to go on a special mission or to do a special task. Finally, it was used for politicians who were *elected* by the general public to hold a public position or to excuse a special job on behalf of the community.

In every case where the word *eklego* is used to portray the election or selection of individuals, it conveys the idea of *the great privilege and honor of being chosen*. It also strongly speaks of *the responsibility placed on those who are chosen to walk, act, and live in a way that honorable to their calling*. Because of the great privilege of being elected to a higher position or selected to perform a special task, those who are "chosen" bear a responsibility to walk and act in accordance with the calling that has been extended to them. They should look upon themselves as chosen, honored, esteemed, and respected — special representatives of the one who elected them!

So when Paul says that God "...hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...," he is saying that God looked out to the horizon of human history — *and He saw us! You and Me!* And when God saw us, His voice echoed forth from Heaven: "*Out, I say!*" *In that flash, our destinies were divinely sealed! We were separated by God from a lost and dying world, and He called us to be His own.*

Just as the word *eklego* in classical Greek times depicted the military selection of young men to leave their homes and come serve in the military, God looked out at the human race and personally **SELECTED, ELECTED AND SPECIALLY CHOSE US.....ME AND YOU** to come away from the world and be permanently enlisted as His sons and daughters! Now as children of the King, we bear the awesome responsibility of walking worthily of the high calling we have received!

Look at when this selection took place. Paul says it occurred "...before the foundation of the world...." The word "foundation" is the Greek word *katabole*, a compound of the words *kata* and *bole*. The word **KATA** means

DOWN, and the word BOLE means to HURL or to THROW. These two words together means to FORCIBLY HURL SOMETHING DOWN, and it refers to the ACT OF CREATION.

Thus, before God ever spoke the earth into existence — before His booming voice ever called out for the first layers of the earth's crust to be put into place — He had already spoken our names! How Amazingly Awesome! He selected and elected us before the very first layers of the earth were created.

In light of these Greek meanings, Ephesians 1:4 could be phrased to read:

"When God saw us, He said, "Out, I say!" In that moment, He separated us from the rest of the world and enlisted us in His service. And think of it! He did all of this before He ever hurled the first layers of the earth's crust into existence.....!"

So if your flesh ever tries to rant and rave that you're not worthy enough to be used or that you're just an accident, you need to take authority over your mind and flesh. Tell your flesh to stop fibbing to you. Then declare, "God chose me, and He planned a great future for me. He wants to use me. I'm not going to listen anymore to this garbage from my lying flesh and unsanctified emotions. I have an awesome destiny! In fact, I'm a significant part of God's plan!

Don't listen to your filthy, stinking, lying, fibbing flesh anymore! God has been waiting for your arrival into His knowledge for a very long time. It's time for you to accept His assignment and make the necessary changes to flow with His plan. He's calling out to us all the time, saying, *"Get up and jump in the race! I want you. I'm calling you to be a part of MY team!"*

There is too much at stake for you to make the mistake of sitting around and feeling sorry for yourself. You'll only begin to experience true significance when you accept the fact that God has chosen you, and when you begin to live up to the glorious calling He has placed on your life! NO matter how large or small the task, no matter how big or tiny the assignment, joy and satisfaction will be yours when you start accomplishing what God brought you into this world to do.

This is what imparts true significance to any person's life. No satisfaction compares with this satisfaction. Those who contribute nothing to life are usually the ones who struggle with a sense of purposelessness.

Even if you think your gifts are small in comparison to others, *you can still use them!*

If you use the gifts God gave you, they will increase. And the more proficient you become at using those gifts, the more valuable you will become to your family, your church, your business, and your friends. ON the other hand, you will cause your life to be inconsequential if you ignore the gifts God gave you and minimize the life assignment He has entrusted to you.

A person's life becomes *pointless* when he or she contributes nothing to the world. Don't let that describe your life! God didn't bring you into the world so you would live a pointless and inconsequential life! He has a purpose for your life. He wants to use you! He wants your to be a significant part of His plan!

Discussion:

- 1. Have you ever been tempted to think that your life was pointless and inconsequential?**
- 2. What happens in your life most often that triggers negative emotions?**
- 3 How can you stop the adverse feelings and the manifested negative emotions**