

## CHOSEN BY GOD

John Kirkpatrick

These days identity theft increases as burglary decreases. It's important to make sure our identity is secure,

Has anyone you know had their identity stolen? What happened?

But what about our spiritual identity? We need to know it and protect it, or Satan will cause us to lose our sense of who we are in God. He doesn't want us to know who we are.

What sort of tricks does he have up his sleeve to trip us up?

It is easy to let other things take over our lives – our job, our other interests, our search for ways to make money or to have a higher position in life.

What do you consider your spiritual identity is?

Ephesians 1.3. What has God given to us and where do they come from?

Name as many of his blessings as you can think of.

Ephesians 1.4. When did he choose you?

Psalm 139.14-16. God knows all about us before we are born – and before the foundation of the earth.

Why has he chosen us, and what are we chosen to do?

He sees what we can become in him.

He sees the finished product – holy, righteous, perfect.

When we look at ourselves and others, we don't see that, we see that we have a long way to go. So should we give up?

..... (an OT illustration of Satan's desire to destroy God's plan, or at least hinder it.)

Judges 13.2-5. Before Samson was born God knew what he could do. Did he do what God had said without any mistakes? Did he live up to his full potential? Did he nevertheless do what God said he would do? Notice that God didn't give up on him, and neither will he give up on you. But – we need to be sure that we constantly are in touch with our God.

What caused Samson to fail to listen to the Spirit? We need to always listen to the Spirit in us, to read God's word, and to be aware of the things that could lead us to forget our mission. What is our mission?

We are more fortunate than Samson was because we have God's word that tells us what to do, and his Holy Spirit within us always.

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Do we consider that we chose God? Who chose first?

Why has God allowed people like Hitler and other killers to live? He knew what they would do – but did he give them a chance to make the right choices?

What would the world be like if we had no choice?

It might be peaceful, but what would we be? Robots?

There are many aspects of God's nature – but two are: He is love, and he is a God of justice/judgment. Both are equally true. There are two sides to many truths – we are free – but we have responsibility to make right choices. God chose us, and we chose him. Can you think of other ways in which God's nature has two aspects.

He chose us to be holy and blameless. Holy means, not just perfect, but set apart, separated, for God. In the Old Testament the tabernacle and its instruments were holy, because they were set apart for God's use only. The priests also were holy, set apart for his work. So we too are holy, as the New Testament tells us, set apart for God's work. What are we to be separated from?

We live in the world, but we also live in a spiritual dimension.

Dominion of Satan

Kingdom of God

Materialistic

Peace

Self will

Right actions

Spiritual blindness

Justice

Bound by sin

Spiritual fruit

Relative truth

Holy Spirit power

Rejection of Christ

Allegiance to Christ

Satan's dominion is eternal loss, God's kingdom is eternal life. Our calling and identity is in God's kingdom.

Colossians 1.13-14

God has rescued us, we must join in the rescue of others. We have a limited time to reach out and bring others into the kingdom,

Ephesians 1.14

What is marked, sealed, guaranteed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in us?

God gives us a guarantee of what will take place. What are we guaranteed to receive?

The seal has three aspects.

1.it is the seal of ownership. We belong to God, we are bought with a price.

2.it is the seal of protection. Jesus' body was sealed in a tomb to keep it safe, but that was man's seal, and it didn't work. God's seal cannot fail.

3.it guarantees that all God's promises will be fulfilled. What has he promised us?

Satan can't break the seal – but sometimes we let it become dulled by our actions, our choices. We need to ask him to refresh it so that God's glory can shine through us,  
God has promised to do this if we ask. Luke 11.13