

Children of GOD

A Study by Franklin

1 John 3:1 See how **GREAT a LOVE the FATHER has bestowed on us**, that we would be called **CHILDREN OF GOD**, and **SUCH WE ARE**.

Hebrews 2:11-13 For **both HE** who sanctifies and **those who ARE being SANCTIFIED** are **ALL FROM ONE**, for which reason **HE** is not ashamed **to call them brethren**, ¹² saying: "**I will declare YOUR NAME to My brethren.13. . . I and the CHILDREN whom GOD has given ME.**

❖ **brethren "FROM THE SAME WOMB"** -> literal meaning of the Greek word. **Jerusalem above is our mother.** Galatians 4:26

The following is a study of the original Greek words to obtain the true and original meanings and to obtain an accurate translation.

Because this study will challenge our thinking, the following statement from the Wall Street Journal November 14, 2009, is important and appropriate to prepare us for this study.

"For the most part, our mind is like a compulsive yes-man who echoes whatever you want to believe. Psychologists call this "confirmation bias."

A recent analysis of psychological studies with nearly 8,000 participants concluded that people are twice as likely to seek information that confirms what they already believe as they are to consider evidence that would challenge those beliefs.

A psychologist of Emory University in Atlanta says: "it's simply easier to focus our attention on data that supports our hypothesis, rather than to seek out evidence that might disprove it."

In all honesty, to study the Scriptures without prejudices, we must say to the above, *"Yes, this is true of me also."*

Personal interjection in Bible translation is an issue that even affects the 1611 KJV as scholars were **forced to omit and change scripture to comply with the King's guidelines** - one of which was that the KJV could not contradict the Bishop's Bible.

Therefore, for the sake of seeking truth and letting the Words of The Bible speak for themselves without being held by a conformational bias, consider the following study.

John 3:3-8 JESUS answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless** one is **born again** (ἀνωθεν - literally: **FROM ABOVE**) he cannot **see** the Kingdom of GOD.

The correct or literal reading is VERY IMPORTANT and is as follows:
 JESUS answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **BORN FROM ABOVE** he cannot **see** the Kingdom of GOD.

Being "**born again**" is spoken of by Peter.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who according to **HIS Great Mercy HAS CAUSED US** to be **BORN AGAIN** (Greek: ἀναγεννήσας English anagennao) to a living hope through the resurrection of JESUS CHRIST from the dead.

HERE "**BORN AGAIN**" is the one Greek word: ἀναγεννήσας
 ἀνα -> pronounced: "**an-ah**" and means **repetition** and
 γεννήσας -> English: gennao pronounced: ghen-nah'-o) and
 means **to give birth**. Therefore: **Give birth again** or **born again**

The word used in **John 3:3 & 7** is a **different word**:
 "γεννήθη ἀνωθεν." -> γεννήθη **to give birth** and ἀνωθεν pronounced: "**an'-o-then**" (ἀνω not ἀνα) a different word meaning: **from above**

To change one letter in a word changes the meaning (See and Sea).

(4) Nicodemus said to HIM, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?"

- Nicodemus was right in that Jesus was talking about “**natural birth.**” But **misunderstood** that JESUS was speaking about the **origin** of a man’s natural birth. Nicodemus’ interpretation does not prove the correct meaning of JESUS’ words, but only his own misunderstanding. Or maybe a hearing problem since it is similar.
- Often in the Scriptures men misunderstood JESUS. **Nicodemus’ misunderstanding** is clearly seen in vs. 10: JESUS answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and **do not understand** these things?"

(5) JESUS answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the SPIRIT** he cannot **ENTER** into the Kingdom of GOD.

- “born of water” speaks of **natural** birth; “and the SPIRIT” speaks of **spiritual** birth. Only this person, with these two births, (1) natural “**from above**” and (2) spiritual “**born of the SPIRIT,**” when he is **BORN AGAIN,** can “**ENTER** the Kingdom of GOD.”
- In verse 3 JESUS is saying that to **perceive** (to comprehend) the Kingdom of GOD a person must be “**born from above**” In verse 5 JESUS is saying to **enter** the Kingdom of GOD a person must be “**born of the SPIRIT**” Born Again or New Birth. This is two separate things that happen at two different times.

(6) That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh at natural or first birth and that which is **born of the SPIRIT** is SPIRIT when Born Again.

- Two separate and distinct births – two separate and distinct events.

(7) Do not be amazed that I said to you, you must be **born “again”** **NO !** THE WORD IS: **ἀνωθεν** – literally: **from above** you must be **BORN FROM ABOVE** is the correct translation.

JESUS is emphasizing that to be “**born of the SPIRIT,**” your first or natural birth (“born of the flesh”) **must be “from above.”**

(8) The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but **do not know WHERE IT COMES FROM** and **where it is going;** so is **everyone** who is **born of the SPIRIT.**

- JESUS is correcting Nicodemus that it is not about being “**born again**” **it is about where you “come from”** man has no control over where the wind comes from. And we cannot control where we come from. We only see what the wind does. Same with us, we do not know who is born from above and who is not until we see the results, their actions, their deeds. **so is everyone who is born of the SPIRIT.** Mt 7:16 **You will know them by their fruit**

(9-10) Nicodemus said to HIM, "How can these things be?" (10) JESUS answered and said to him, Are you a teacher of Israel and do not **understand** these things? Deuteronomy 32:18 clearly states it:

- You neglected the ROCK who **begot you** and forgot the **GOD WHO GAVE YOU BIRTH.**
- **Our citizenship is from Heaven** (Philippians 3:20) One’s citizenship is the nation or state **where you were born.**
- We do not want to be confused like Nicodemus. We should understand these things. Therefore this study.

ἄνω is an adverb of **place** - **ABOVE**

Acts 2:19 **and I will grant wonders in the sky ABOVE** (ἄνω - ano) **and signs on the earth below**

Galatians 4:26 **But the Jerusalem ABOVE** (ἄνω) **is free; she is our mother**

Colosians 3:1 if you have been raised up with CHRIST, keep seeking the things **ABOVE** (ἄνω) where CHRIST is, seated at the right hand of GOD.

John 8:23 And HE was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from **ABOVE** (ἄνω) you are of this world, I am not of this world.

And: **ἀνωθεν** - is translated **from above**

Matthew 27:51 & Mark 15:38 the veil of the temple was torn in two **from top** (ἀνωθεν –**from above**) to bottom.

The meaning is "**from above**" and could be translated that way. Our English way of saying it is: "from the top."

John 3:31 **HE** who comes from **above** (ἀνωθεν) is over all, he who is **of** (εκ) the earth is **from** the earth and speaks of the earth. HE who comes **from** heaven is over all.

- Strong's word #1537 (εκ) ek - a primary preposition denoting **origin**: he whose origin is **of** the earth
- JESUS is making a clear distinction of **origin** -> where a person originates from IS ALL IMPORTANT.

John 19:11 JESUS answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from **above** (ἀνωθεν)

John 19:23 When the soldiers crucified JESUS, they took his clothes, . . . woven in one piece from **top** (ἀνωθεν) to bottom.

James 1:17 Every perfect gift is from **above** (ἀνωθεν)

James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from **above** (άνωθεν)

James 3:17 But the wisdom from **above** (άνωθεν) is first pure

άνωθεν is WRONGLY translated "**again**" **only TWO TIMES**
in **John 3:3 and 3:7**

(1) **John 3:3** JESUS answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born **again** (άνωθεν -> **From Above**) he cannot see the Kingdom of GOD.

(2) **John 3:7** Do not be amazed that I said to you, You must be born **again** (άνωθεν -> **From Above**)

The word for 'again' is: (παλιν - palin) and is used in the New Testament **171 times**.

The word (παλιν) **WAS NOT used in John 3:3 and 3:7**, but the word (άνωθεν) "**from above.**"

If (άνωθεν) is translated with its regular meaning in this passage then in **no place in the New Testament would it be translated "again."**

To translate (άνωθεν) as "again" is an extrapolation or conjecture because of a theological bias or prejudice.

Therefore, for **accuracy** John 3:3 & 7 should be translated as follows:

John 3:3 JESUS answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born from above** he cannot **see** the Kingdom of GOD.

John 3:7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, **You must be born from above.**

Meaning – Our heavenly FATHER caused the **natural birth** of those who later become believers. Being born FROM ABOVE, they eventually perceive (John 3:3), RECEIVE and BELIEVE the things of the Kingdom.

This completely agrees with such statements as:

Ephesians 1:3-4 Blessed be the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who has blessed **us** with every spiritual blessing in heaven in CHRIST, just as **HE CHOSE US** in HIM **before the foundation of the world.**

- Paul is writing to **THE SAINTS** at Ephesus. The “**us**” is **believers. NOT everyone.**
- HIS **CHOOSING US** before the foundation of the world **ORDAINED OUR BIRTH**, and therefore we were “**BORN FROM ABOVE.**”

One possible hindrance to this interpretation is:

John 1:12-13 But as many as **RECEIVED HIM**, “to them” HE gave the right to **become*** (γενεσθαι aorist middle infinitive) **children of GOD**, to those who believe in HIS name, (13) **who were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of GOD.**

It reads as if a person **becomes a child of GOD when THEY “RECEIVE Him.”**

- A child does not choose his father or family. **HE CHOSE US**
Eph.1:4. **You did not choose Me but I chose you** John 15:16

There is another way to understand this:

The Darby Translation: **But as many as received HIM, to them HE gave the right TO BE CHILDREN of GOD, to those that believe in HIS Name**

The best translation is: **"to be"** NOT "BECOME" The Greek word is: γενεσθαι (genesthai)

1. **"to be"**-> **orist tense** -> happened **at a point IN THE PAST.**
 "An action or state seen as **antecedent** (precursor or forerunner) **to the time being spoken of.**" (Wheeler's Greek Syntax Notes) "The time spoken of" is when they **received HIM** so they became **children of GOD BEFORE** THEY RECEIVED HIM. That is – from the time **HE chose us before the foundation of the world.**
2. **"to be"**-> **middle voice** - form of a primary verb **to cause to be** ("gen"- erate), **come into being, BE** "children of GOD" before receiving HIM or believing.

THE QUESTION IS: when did HE give the right **to be** children of GOD?

- It could easily mean **come into being, be children of GOD, from natural birth,** (to cause to be) children of GOD from the time they were conceived – these are **the ones who will later "receive Him,"** these are the ones "who **will believe** on His name".

It has the meaning: **But as many as received HIM, to them HE gave the right to be children of GOD,** (from the

time they were conceived) **to them that believe on His name** (explains **who** “receives Him”).

Those that are “**born from above**” are the ones who believe and receive HIM at some time in their life.

In other words – believers believe because of who their FATHER is. They were “**BORN FROM ABOVE.**”

The NEXT VERSE AFFIRMS and ENFORCES this understanding:

John 1:13 To those who **BELIEVE IN HIS NAME, WHO WERE BORN**, (1) NOT OF BLOOD, (2) NOR OF THE WILL OF THE FLESH, (3) NOR OF THE WILL OF MAN, . . . (4) **BUT OF GOD.**

THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIS NAME, WHO WERE BORN, NOT OF BUT OF GOD.

This is THE ONLY WAY YOU QUALIFY TO BE A CHILD OF GOD. Whoever Gave YOU BIRTH IS YOUR FATHER.

- **not of blood** – That is “**natural birth**”
- **nor of the will of the flesh** → **natural birth** (Rom. 9:8-13, Galatians 4:23,28-29)
- **nor of the will of man** → **natural birth** (Genesis 17:18-19)
- **but of GOD were born** → **natural birth NOT SPIRITUAL BIRTH**, to be true to the context of the passage and translation principals. If the first 3 are speaking of NATURAL BIRTH then number 4 also is speaking of **NATURAL BIRTH.**

For those CHOSEN OF GOD, Our NATURAL BIRTH into this world WAS **OF GOD.**

John states this also in **1 John 5:1**: **Whoever believes** that JESUS is the CHRIST **IS BORN OF GOD**, and whoever loves the FATHER loves **the child BORN of HIM**.

- The verb “**is born**” is in the **Passive Voice** – they did not initiate the action but only **RECEIVED THE ACTION** -> **WERE BORN**. And the **perfect tense** – the action **happened IN THE PAST with on-going, continuous results**. If it happened **in the past** then it is legitimate to translate it: “**was born**” but since it is “**continuous action**” then “**has been born.**”

And this is the way that *Wuest Expanded New Testament* translates it, and the New Revised Standard Version:

1 John 5:1 **Everyone who believes that JESUS is the CHRIST, from GOD HAS BEEN BORN** (in the past) and as a result is **HIS child** (Wuest)

1 John 5:1 **who believes that JESUS is the CHRIST has been born of GOD** (New Revised Standard Version)

Therefore this can certainly mean:

Whoever believes that JESUS is the CHRIST -> their natural birth was “**of GOD**” or “**from above.**” These are the ones that will later **believe** and will continue to believe and love the FATHER and all other children born of HIM.

- It is saying – you can tell **who** is born of GOD because **they are**, or **will** become, **believers**. And like the wind, (John 3:8) they are identified by what they do. They **will love the FATHER** and HIS children.

“Born of GOD” means the “**first**” or “**natural birth**” is **OF GOD**, Just like Isaac: **And you brethren, LIKE ISAAC, are CHILDREN OF PROMISE.** Galatians 4:28 (see also Romans 9:8)

- Isaac’s **natural birth** was “**from above,**” **Promised** by GOD, **Chosen** by GOD, and **Born** of GOD.

John 3:9-10 Nicodemus said to HIM, "How can these things be?" (10) JESUS answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?"

Because of Isaac, and other passages Nicodemus should have understood. Deuteronomy 32:18 You neglected The ROCK who begot you, and forgot the **GOD who gave you birth.**

Romans 4:16 For this reason it is by Faith, in order that it may be in accordance with GRACE, so that **the promise** will be **GUARANTEED to all the descendants** (σπερματι - spermati - **seed**) not only to those who are of the Law, but **also** to those who are **of the faith of Abraham**, who is the father of **us all** (believers)

Romans 9:6-8 But it is not as though the WORD of GOD has failed. For they **ARE NOT ALL “OF”** (ἐξ) Israel who are descended from Israel; (7) nor are they **all** children because they are Abraham's **descendants** (σπερμα - seed), but: through Isaac your **descendants** (σπερμα - seed), will be named.

ἐξ -> a primary preposition denoting **origin**, “of”

(8) That is, it **is not** the **children of the flesh** who are children of GOD Meaning: natural birth (of the flesh) does not qualify a person to become a child of GOD but the **children of the promise** are regarded as **descendants** (seed). Those **HE chose** before the foundation of the world . . . in love HE **predestined** us to be placed as sons to HIMSELF, according to the kind intention of His will. Ephesians 1:4-5

Galatians 4:22-28 For it is written that Abraham had **two sons**, one by the **bondwoman** and one by the **free woman**. (23) But the son by the bondwoman was born **according to the flesh**, and the son by the free woman through **the promise**. (24) This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be **slaves**; she is Hagar. . . . (26) But the **Jerusalem ABOVE is free; SHE IS OUR MOTHER.**

So, **not only does it depend** on Abraham being one's father (Romans 4:16) **but also who your mother is** - **Jerusalem above** (άνω), being "**born from above.**"

(28) AND YOU BRETHREN, LIKE ISAAC, ARE CHILDREN OF PROMISE.

- The Greek word "brethren" is (αδελφους) literal meaning: "**from the same womb.**" Therefore when JESUS says "brothers" He is referring to those who are born **from the same womb**. So, what womb? Who is our Mother?

Galatians 4:26 **But the Jerusalem above is free; SHE IS OUR MOTHER.**

AND GOD IS OUR FATHER: John 20:17 go to **My brethren** and say to them, I ascend to **My FATHER AND YOUR FATHER**, and My GOD and your GOD.

JESUS said this **BEFORE they were "born again"** which happened in verse 22 of John 20.

GOD was their **Father** because they were "**born from above.**"

Our **Mother** is from **Above** - Our **FATHER** is from **ABOVE** - **Jesus** is from **Above**. And HIS Children are from **ABOVE**.

John 8:19 So they were saying to HIM, "Where is Your Father?" JESUS answered, "**You know neither Me nor My FATHER**; if you knew ME, you would know MY FATHER also.

(21) Then HE said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and **WILL** die in your sin; where I am going, **YOU CANNOT COME**.

- How can JESUS be so emphatic? Because HE knows from where they were born, as He says in verse 23:

(23) And HE was saying to them, "You are **from** (εἰκ) **below**, I am **from** (εκ) **above** (άνω); you are **of** (εἰκ) this world, I am not **of** (εἰκ) this world.

- ek (εἰκ); a primary preposition **denoting origin** (the point from where action or motion proceeds), from, out of (of place, time, or cause)

(33) They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants . . . "

(37-47) I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill ME, because **MY Word has no place in you**. (38) I speak the things which I have seen with **My FATHER**; therefore you also do the things which you heard from **YOUR father**. (39) They answered and said to Him, **Abraham is our father**. JESUS said to them, "**If you are Abraham's children**, do the deeds of Abraham. (40) But as it is, you are seeking to **kill ME**, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from GOD; **this, Abraham did not do**.

- HE is saying, "Abraham did not try to kill me." HE is indicating that HE, JESUS was the one speaking to Abraham in Genesis 18! **Thus declaring HIS Deity**.

(41) You are doing the deeds of **YOUR FATHER**. They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." (42) JESUS said to them, "**If GOD were your Father, you would love ME**, for I

proceeded forth and **have come from GOD**, for I have not even come on MY own initiative, but **HE sent ME**. (43) **Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.** (perceive the things of the Kingdom. John 3:3) (44) **YOU ARE OF (εἰς) YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL**, and you want to do the desires of **your father. He was a murderer from the beginning.**

- Just as Cain was: we should love one another; not as Cain, who was **of (εἰς) the evil one** and **slew** his brother. 1 John 3:11-12
- The LORD's curse on the serpent in the garden indicates the serpent will have "seed" (Genesis 3:14) **The LORD GOD said to the serpent, . . . (15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.** Indicating two people groups from different origins.
- Other verses that also reveal those of their father, "the evil one."

Matthew 13:38 **the field is the world; and the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one.**

John 6:70 **JESUS** answered them, Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet **one of you is a devil?** Speaking of Judas, and later said: John 17:12 **While I was with them, I was keeping them in YOUR NAME which YOU have given ME; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled**

- Son speaks of a mature one, belonging to -> "Perdition," meaning utter destruction, eternal damnation, hell.

Acts 13:10 **You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the LORD?**

(John 8:44 continued) and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is **a liar** and the father of lies. (45) But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. (46) Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? (47) He who is **of** (ἐκ) **GOD hears** the words of GOD; for **this reason** you **do not hear** them, because **YOU ARE NOT OF** (ἐκ) **GOD**.

- ek (ἐκ); a primary preposition **denoting origin** (the point from where action or motion proceeds), from, out of (of place, time, or cause)

Our Father is from **above** – our Mother is from **above** – and we were born from **above** – that is: the LORD saw to it that we were born.

And you brethren, LIKE ISAAC, are CHILDREN OF PROMISE.” Galatians 4:28

JESUS is saying – there are two types of people in this world:

- ❖ Those born of the flesh and those born of God

Romans 9:8 It is **NOT** the children of the flesh who are **children of GOD**, but the **children of the promise are regarded as descendants** (seed)

- ❖ Those born “from **above**” and those born “from **below**”
- ❖ Those whose Father is the LORD GOD and those whose father IS NOT the LORD GOD.

John 10:14 . . I **know** My own - And to others - I **NEVER** knew you (Mt. 7:23)

1 John 3:8 -10 The one who practices sin is **of the devil** . . . No one who is **born of GOD** will continue to sin, because **GOD's seed** remains in him; and he cannot go on sinning, (because at some point he will believe) because he has been **born of GOD**. (10) This is how we know who the **children of GOD** are and who the **children of the devil** are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother. There are those who believe, or will later come to believe, and there are those who never will, because of where they are FROM. Those born "FROM ABOVE" were NEVER FROM or OF THE "EVIL ONE," **WE ONLY LIVED AMONG THEM**. And this is why the gospel is preached to everyone – those born "from above" will at some point believe.

Ephesians 2:3 **AMONG them** we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by **NATURE** (sinful disposition, sinful character) children of wrath, even as the rest.

Another passage which seems to challenge "born from above" is:

Galatians 3:26 For you are all **sons** (mature ones) of **GOD through faith in CHRIST JESUS**.

- To some this verse appears to say that a person becomes a **child** of GOD by or through faith when they believe. The text clearly says "**sons**" - a **mature one** - when they believe, because from that point forward the **Holy Spirit** is **in** them giving them maturity or understanding in the things of GOD. Before, that they were a

"**child**" of God **born from above** and understood very little if any Spiritual truths.

- We should also look at the context:

Galatians 3:22-26 But the Scripture has shut up **everyone** under sin, so that **the promise by faith** in JESUS CHRIST might be **given to those who believe**. (23) But **before FAITH "CAME"**, we were **kept in custody** under the law, **being shut up to the faith** which was **later to be revealed**.

- Those that are HIS, "**born from above**," were "**kept**," "**shut up**" (NASU), "**locked up**" (NIV) "**to the faith which was later to be revealed**."
- In other words, those PREDESTINED to believe, those CHOSEN by GOD, those BORN FROM ABOVE, **are the ones** who **become believers**.

(24) Therefore the Law has become **OUR** tutor to lead us to CHRIST, so that we may be **justified by faith**. (25) But now that **FAITH "HAS COME" WE** are no longer under a tutor. (26) For you are all **SONS** (υιοί - huios) of GOD **through faith** in CHRIST JESUS. (huios - a primary word; a "son")

Therefore **this verse does not negate being born from above**. We were HIS **Children from, or even before, natural birth** and **when we were born again we became SONS**, **mature**, understanding and responsible for our actions.

Ephesians 1:4-5 **HE chose us** in HIM before the foundation of the world WE WERE HIS CHILDREN. . . In love **HE predestined us** to be placed as **sons** (literal translation) WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN

through JESUS CHRIST to HIMSELF, according to the kind intention of HIS will.

- The letter was written to “**the saints at Ephesus**” therefore the “**us**” refers to “**the saints**” **not all mankind**. (See the Notes on Adoption)

Therefore my conclusion is:

In John 3:1-12: Jesus is clearly speaking of and reveals the truth that to believe, a person must first be “BORN FROM ABOVE.” And HE is not talking about being “born again.”

Two other passage which seems to challenge this position are:

2 Peter 3:9 The LORD is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward **you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

- is patient toward **you** Peter is writing and speaking to **believers**
- not wishing for **any to perish** any of **you** believers, but
- for **all to come** – all of you believers. And IF GOD WISHES OR WILLS IT -> IT WILL BE.

Isaiah 46:10-11 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, **MY purpose WILL BE ESTABLISHED, and I WILL ACCOMPLISH ALL MY GOOD PLEASURE . . . Truly I have spoken; truly I WILL BRING IT TO PASS. I HAVE PLANNED IT, SURELY I WILL DO IT.**

1 Timothy 2:4 who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- This could be like a tour guide on a bus standing up and saying “I want **all of you** to be safe.” It is spoken to a select group, only to those on the bus.
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Faith is a gift from the LORD

Hebrews 12:2 *fixing our eyes on* **JESUS, the AUTHOR and PERFECTER of FAITH**

HE is also the **AUTHOR and PERFECTER** of our SALVATION Hebrews 2:10

Author – two Greek words: to commence, begin & to lead or bring. **JESUS, the author** from whom **Faith** and **Salvation** comes, begins and originates. and is **perfected** by the LORD. **HE WILL NOT FAIL.** Isaiah 46:9-10; 53:10 *HE WILL SEE HIS OFFSPRING;* 55:11

Perfecter – From a Greek word meaning to complete, to perfect.

Luke 22:32 *I have prayed for you, that* **your faith may not fail;**

- ❖ Continuing, enduring Faith is by and from the LORD.

Galatians 3:23 *But* **before FAITH CAME,** we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to **the faith which was later to be REVEALED.**

- **Faith came to us.** It does not originate in us or from us.

Matthew 16:15-17 *who do you say that I am?* ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, You are the CHRIST, the SON of the living GOD. ¹⁷ JESUS said, *Blessed are you, because* **flesh and blood did not REVEAL this to you, but My FATHER who is in heaven.**

- Knowing this is why Peter wrote the following:

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of JESUS CHRIST, **to those who have RECEIVED a faith** of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, JESUS CHRIST:

Romans 12:3-4 **I say to every man among you . . . GOD has allotted to each a measure of faith.** He is speaking to believers. See Vs.1 **brothers**

Philippians 1:29 For **to you it HAS BEEN GRANTED** for CHRIST' sake, **not only to BELIEVE** in HIM, but also to suffer for His sake

Acts 3:16 And on **the basis of faith in His Name**, the name of **JESUS** which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and **the faith which comes *through HIM** has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

*Greek (δι') dia (dee-ah'); a primary preposition denoting the **channel of an act. Faith comes to us through JESUS.** Faith begins with HIM and given to us.

1 Peter 1:21 who ***through HIM are believers in GOD . . . so that your faith and hope** are in GOD. (*through or by – channel of action)

John 3:27 **A man can receive nothing** unless **it has been given him** from heaven

Ephesians 2:8 **For by GRACE** (GOD's free gift) you have been **SAVED** through **FAITH; and THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES**, it is **the GIFT** of GOD

- making it clear that **salvation is NOT of ourselves.** Therefore **faith cannot be "of ourselves"** since salvation comes by or through faith. Otherwise salvation would depend upon us.

- And to clarify this, the Holy Spirit added “and **that** not of yourselves” clearly referring **to the noun that precedes it, “faith,”** which also **is not** of ourselves but “**the gift of GOD.**”

Romans 4:16-17 For this reason it is **by faith, in order that** it may be **in accordance with GRACE** [if faith originates within us then it is not according to grace -> a free gift] **so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants** (literally: seeds. We are “of” that chosen lineage) **not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all**

Acts 16:14-15 A woman named Lydia . . . a worshiper of GOD, was listening; and **The LORD opened her heart** to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; **for not all have faith.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13 . . . GOD has **chosen you** from the beginning **for salvation** through (two things) (1) sanctification by the SPIRIT **and** (2) **faith** in the truth.

- Sanctification is by the SPIRIT. The word “and” connects sanctification and faith together with the meaning that **faith is also by the Spirit and not originating from man.**
- Jonah 2:9 **Salvation is of the LORD.**

James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not GOD **choose** the poor of this world **to be rich in faith** and heirs of the Kingdom

1 Corinthians 1:30 But **by HIS DOING you are in CHRIST JESUS,** who became to us wisdom from GOD, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption

Romans 12:3 For through the **grace given** to me as **GOD has allotted to each a measure of faith.**

Jude 3 . . . contend earnestly for the **faith** which was once for all **handed down to the saints.**

Faith comes by HEARING:

Romans 10:16-17 However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, **who has believed** our report?" ¹⁷ So **faith comes from hearing**, and hearing by the Word of CHRIST.

For Example:

Acts 3:16 And on the basis of **faith in His name**, the name of JESUS which has strengthened this man; and the **faith which comes through** (di') **HIM** has given him this perfect health

(di') because of, or by. The channel of action

Galatians 3:5 HE who provides you with the SPIRIT and works miracles among you, does it by **the hearing with faith**

And HEARING is GIVEN BY THE LORD:

Deuteronomy 29:4 Yet to this day **the LORD has not GIVEN YOU a heart to know, nor eyes to see, nor ears to hear.**

Mark 4:9-12 And He was saying, **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.** (Indicating that not all have ears to hear) ¹⁰ His followers, along with the twelve, were asking Him about the parables. ¹¹ And He was saying to them, **TO YOU HAS BEEN GIVEN** the mystery of the kingdom of GOD, but **those who are OUTSIDE** get everything in parables, ¹² so that while seeing, they may see and not perceive, and **WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND**, otherwise they might return and be forgiven." (Isaiah 6:9f)

Luke 8:8 Other fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great. As He said these things, He would call out, **He who has ears to hear, let him hear.** (Indicating that not all have ears to hear)

John 8:43-47 **Why** do you not understand what I am saying? It is because **you CANNOT HEAR MY WORD.** ⁴⁴ You are **of** your father the devil, . . . ⁴⁵ But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. ⁴⁷ **He who is of God HEARS the words of God;** for this reason **YOU DO NOT HEAR because you are not OF God."**

John 10:26-28 **YOU DO NOT BELIEVE BECAUSE you ARE NOT OF MY SHEEP.** ²⁷ **My sheep HEAR MY VOICE,** and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and **they will never perish.**

- Clearly indicating that there are sheep that belong to another.

Romans 5:5 the **love of GOD** has been poured out within our hearts through the HOLY SPIRIT who was given to us.

- The LORD poured HIS Love into our hearts

Galatians 5:6 For in CHRIST JESUS . . **faith working through love.**

- **Faith is not of, or out of, ourselves** it begins with the LORD **allotting to each** (of HIS children) **a measure of faith.** (Romans 12:3) and as HIS Love is poured into our hearts our **Faith springs up and grows** out of and because of that Love. The more we learn of all He has done for us the more our **love grows** and then our **faith grows.** But it all begins with the LORD GOD, our FATHER pouring His Love into our hearts.

Ephesians 1:3-8 Blessed be the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who **has blessed us** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as **HE chose us** in HIM before the foundation of the world, that we would be **holy** and **blameless** before Him. **In love** 5 He **predestined us** to be placed as sons through JESUS CHRIST to HIMSELF, according to the kind intention of HIS will, 6 **TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE**, which HE **freely bestowed on us** in the Beloved. 7 In HIM **we have redemption** through **HIS BLOOD**, the **forgiveness** of our trespasses, according to **THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE 8 WHICH HE LAVISHED ON US.**

Ephesians 2:4-10 But GOD, being rich in **MERCY**, because of **HIS GREAT LOVE** with which **HE LOVED US**, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **MADE US ALIVE** together with CHRIST. **BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED**, 6 and **RAISED US UP** WITH HIM, and **SEATED US** with HIM in the heavenly places in **CHRIST JESUS**, 7 **SO THAT** in the ages to come **HE MIGHT SHOW THE SURPASSING RICHES OF HIS GRACE IN KINDNESS TOWARD US IN CHRIST JESUS.** 8 For by **GRACE** you have been saved through **faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is **THE GIFT OF GOD**; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

AMEN AMEN AMEN