

Children of GOD

A Study by Franklin

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now **we are children of God** . . .

- “now” – adverb of transition or emphasis, not that the action just began. (from Strong’s Greek/Hebrew definitions)
- “children” - from a root word meaning to produce from seed

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)

The following is a study of the original Greek words in an attempt 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 within 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, being stretched, and for giving an alternate translation serious consideration without being held by a confirmation 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** or from the beginning) he cannot **see** (ἰδεῖν - see or **perceive**) the kingdom of God." (**not enter** but **see**)

(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.
- 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**" can "**enter** the kingdom of God."
- In verse 3 Jesus is saying a person must be "**born from above**" to **perceive** (come to recognize, understand) the Kingdom of God. In verse 5 Jesus is saying to **enter** the Kingdom of God a person must be "**born of the Spirit**." This is two separate things that happen at two different times.

(6) That which is **born of the flesh** is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit** is spirit.

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

(7) Do not be amazed that I said to you, you must be **born again** (ἀνωθεν – literally: **from above**)

- 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,”** like the wind – man cannot do anything about it and cannot tell from where it comes from – it’s control is not with man but **“from above,”** so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

(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?"

- We do not want to be confused like Nicodemus. We should understand these things. Therefore this study.

ἄνω - 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.

ἄνωθεν - adverb of place

1. location, **from above**:

Matthew 27:51 & Mark 15:38 the veil of the temple was torn in two **from top** (ἄνωθεν –from above) **to bottom**. The meaning is “from above” and could be translated that way. Our English way of saying it is: “from top.”

John 3:31 He who comes from **above** (ἄνωθεν) 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 ek - a primary preposition denoting **origin**
- Jesus is making a clear distinction of **origin** – where a person originates from.

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

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

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

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

2. In respect to time – (a) **from the beginning:**

Luke 1:3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully **from the beginning**, (άνωθεν)

Acts 26:5 knew me from the beginning . . . (άνωθεν)

Galatians 4:9 you turn back **again** (παλιν) to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved ***all over again** (παλιν άνωθεν).

- A literal translation would be: "**again as from the beginning.**"

3. **άνωθεν** is translated "**again**" **only TWO TIMES** in the New Testament and both are in this passage - John 3:3 & 7 - and both are **questionable**.

(1) **John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born **again** 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**.

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

The word (παλιν) **WAS NOT** used in this verse, but the word (άνωθεν)

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.

Therefore, I believe there is a very strong and legitimate case for translating John 3:3 & 7 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 those to be born into this world 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 on his name."**

The best translation is: "to **be**"- the Greek work is: γενεσθαι (genesthai) **aorist 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)

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 or enforces this understanding:

John 1:13 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**.

- **not of blood** – speaks of "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, to be true to the context of the passage and translation principals.

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, out from **God HAS BEEN BORN** (in the past) and as a result is His child
 1 John 5:1 who believes that Jesus is the Christ **has been born** of God

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 others, Nicodemus should have understood.

There are other passages which enforce this understanding:

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**. Those He chose before the foundation of the world . . . in love He predestined us to adoption 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 work "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** (ἐκ) **below**, I am **from** (ἐκ) **above** (ἄνω); you are **of** (ἐκ) this world, I am not **of** (ἐκ) this world.

- ek (ἐκ); 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! **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** (ἐκ) **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** (ἐκ) **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 (εἰς) God hears** the words of God; for **this reason** you **do not hear** them, because **you ARE NOT of (εἰς) God.**"

- ek (εἰς); 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.**
- 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 in the things of God. Before that they were a "**child**" of God born from above.
- We should also look at the context:

Galatians 3:22-23 **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** or that:

Ephesians 1:4-5 **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world . . . In love **He predestined us to adoption** as **sons** 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
- **for all to come** – all of you believers

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.

Faith is a gift from the LORD

Hebrews 12:2 **fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Author – two Greek words: to commence, begin & to lead or bring. **Jesus, the author** from whom Faith comes, begins and originates. and is perfected by the LORD.

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's 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; through

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)

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,"** also is not of ourselves but **"the gift of God."**

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**.

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:

Isaiah 55:11 So will **My word** be which goes forth from **My mouth**; It will not return to Me empty, without **accomplishing what I desire**, and without **succeeding in the matter** for which I sent it.

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 the result of, or comes from, the Love He poured into our hearts.
- So Faith is not of, or out of, ourselves it begins with the LORD pouring His Love into our hearts and Faith springs up and grows out 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.

The traditional understanding of being "born again" is spoken of by Peter in: 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 to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Here, "born again" is the Greek word: ἀναγεννησας or in English (anagennao).

ἀνα – Strong's word #303 as a prefix means repetition, therefore: "again."

γεννησας - means to procreate, to bring forth children. Therefore: "born again"

The above is a **totally different word** from that used in **John 3:3 & 7** where the Greek is: γεννηθήναι ἀνωθεν NOT ἀνα !!!

ἀνωθεν – Strong's word #473 above, or from the beginning.

NOT ἀνα #303 as used here in 1 Peter 1:3 "again"

1 Peter 1:23 for you have been **born again** (ἀναγεγεννημένοι) not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.

- The verb "born again" is in the Perfect Tense (ongoing continuous action) and Passive Voice (received the action of being born again).
- The action of being born again happened when the person **heard** and received by believing the "**seed**" which is **the Word of God**.

The Will of the LORD will be accomplished:

Luke 10:22 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and **anyone to whom the Son WILLS to reveal Him**

John 6:39 **This is THE WILL OF HIM** who sent Me, that **of all that He has given Me I LOSE NOTHING**, but raise it up on the last day.

John 18:9 **to FULFILL THE WORD which He spoke**, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.

Romans 9:11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that **GOD'S PURPOSE** according to **HIS CHOICE would stand**, not because of works but because of Him who calls

Ephesians 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined** according to **His purpose** who **WORKS ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS WILL**

Colossians 1:26-28 that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been **manifested to His saints**, (27) **to whom GOD WILLED** to make **known** what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

James 1:18 In the **EXERCISE OF HIS WILL He brought us forth** by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

1 Peter 4:6 For the gospel has for this purpose been preached even to those who are dead, that though they are judged in the flesh as men, **they may live** in the spirit **ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD**.

Jude 24 Now to **Him** who is able to **keep you** from stumbling, and **TO MAKE YOU STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS GLORY blameless** . . .

This teaching is taught throughout the Scriptures including the teachings of Jesus. See the passages below:

Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has **chosen you** to be a people for **His own possession** out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth

Deuteronomy 14:2 For you are a holy people to the LORD your God, and the LORD has **chosen you** to be a people for **His own possession** out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Psalms 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, **the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.**

Psalms 65:4 How blessed is **the one whom You choose** and bring near to You to dwell in Your courts.

Psalms 105:42-44 For He remembered His holy word with Abraham His servant; And He brought forth His people with joy, **His chosen ones** with a joyful shout. He gave them also the lands of the nations, that they might take possession of the fruit of the peoples' labor

Psalms 135:4 For the LORD has **chosen Jacob** for Himself, **Israel for His own possession.**

Proverbs 16:4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even **the wicked** for the day of evil.

Isaiah 4:3 It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy — **everyone who is recorded for life** in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 53:6 But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us **all** to fall on Him.

Isaiah 53:8 or the transgression of **my people**

Isaiah 53:10 He will see **His offspring**

Jeremiah 24:7 **I will give them a heart to know Me**, for I am the LORD; **and they will be My people**, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

Matthew 7:22-23 **I never knew you**, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.

Matthew 11:27 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **anyone** to whom the **Son wills to reveal Him.**

Matthew 13:11 Jesus answered them, "**To you it has been granted to know** the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, **but to them** it has not been granted.

Matthew 13:24-25 Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed **good seed** in his field. (25) "But while his men were sleeping, his **enemy came and sowed tares** among the wheat, and went away. (30) 'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First **gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.**" (note: the tares NEVER become wheat and wheat NEVER become tares)

Matthew 13:37-43 and the field is the world; and as for the **good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom**; and the tares are the **sons of the evil one**;

Matthew 15:13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father **did not plant** shall be uprooted.

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

Matthew:24:22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the **elect** those days will be cut short.

Matthew:24:24 For false Christ's and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the **elect**.

Matthew 24:31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together **His elect** from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

Matthew 25:11-13, 32 Truly I say to you, **I do not know you** (32) He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd **separates the sheep from the goats**.

Mark 4:11-12 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, 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."

Luke 1:68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for **His people**,

Luke 8:10 And He said, **To you** it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, **but to the rest** it is in parables, so that seeing **they may not see**, and hearing **they may not understand**.

Luke 10:22 All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son **wills to reveal Him**."

Luke 16:31 But he said to him, If **THEY do not listen** to Moses and the Prophets, **they will not be persuaded** even if someone rises from the dead.

(if a person does not have belief or faith in them to begin with, miracles are of no avail)

John 5:21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives **life to whom He wishes**.

John 6:37 **ALL that the Father GIVES ME will come to Me**, and the one who comes to Me I **will certainly not cast out**. (all that He gives, selects, chooses, will come. His will, will be accomplished)

John 6:39 This is **THE WILL** of Him who sent Me, that of **all that He has given Me I lose nothing**, but raise it up on the last day. (no chosen one will be lost. His will stands sure)

John 6:40 For this is **THE WILL OF MY FATHER**, that everyone who beholds the Son and **believes** in Him **will have eternal life**, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:44 **NO ONE CAN COME** to Me **unless** the Father who sent Me **draws him**; and **I will** raise him up on the last day.

John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, '**AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.**' **Everyone who has heard** and learned from the Father, comes to Me. (the "ALL" is limited to "Everyone who has heard and learned")

John 6:65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that **NO ONE CAN COME** to Me **unless IT HAS BEEN GRANTED** him from the Father."

John 8:38-47 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from **your father**." 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. "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. "You are doing the deeds **OF your father**." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." 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. "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because **you cannot hear My word**. "**You are OF your father the devil**, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, 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. "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? "**He who is OF God hears** the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because **YOU ARE NOT OF GOD**."

- "of" [Greek: ek (ἐκ)]; a primary preposition **denoting origin**, from, out of

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and **I know My own**

John 10:25-28 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. (26) "But **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

John 11:52 and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one **the children of God** who are scattered abroad.

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved **His own** who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 14:17 the Spirit of truth, whom **the world cannot receive**, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

John 15:16 You did not choose Me but **I chose you**,

John 17:2 even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that **to all whom You have given Him**, He may give eternal life.

John 17:6 I have manifested Your name to the men **whom You gave Me** out of the world; **they were Yours** and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

John 17:9 I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom **You have given Me**; for **they are Yours**;

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.

John 17:16 **They are not of the world**, even as I am not of the world.

John 18:9 Of those whom You have given Me **I lost not one**.

John 18:37 . . . For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. **Everyone** who is **OF the truth HEARS** My voice. Cp. John 8:47; 10:4

John 20:24-48 (27) Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

(He reveals Himself and sees that His chosen ones believe)

Acts 10:40-41 God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, **not to all the people**, but to witnesses who were **chosen beforehand by God**, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and **as many as had been APPOINTED** to eternal life believed.

Acts 18:10 I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for **I have many people in this city**." (many, not all)

Romans 1:7 to **all who are beloved of God** in Rome, called saints

The "all" is limited. It is not all without exception, but all of the election.

Romans 8:28-30,33 . . . to those who are **called** according to His purpose. ²⁹ For **those** whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; ³⁰ and **these** whom He predestined, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**. . . . (33) Who will bring a charge against **God's elect**? God is the one who justifies;

Romans 9:6-8 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For **they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel**; (7) **nor are they all children** . . . (8) the **children of the promise** are regarded as descendants. . . .

Romans 9:11 for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that **God's purpose** according to **His choice** would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

Romans 9:13 Just as it is written, "**JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED**."

Romans 9:18 So then **He has mercy on whom He desires**, and **He hardens whom He desires**.

Romans 9:21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump **one vessel for honorable use and another for common use**?

Romans 9:22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience **vessels of wrath prepared for destruction**?

Romans 9:23-24 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon **vessels of mercy**, which **He prepared beforehand for glory**, even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Romans 11:5 In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time **a remnant according to God's gracious choice**.

Romans 11:7 What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but **those who were chosen** obtained it, and the rest were hardened;

Romans 15:5 Now may the **God who gives perseverance** and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

1 Corinthians 1:8 who will also **confirm you to the end, blameless** in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:21-31; (26) But the Jerusalem above is free; **she is our mother..** (28) And **you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise**.

Ephesians 1:4-5 He **chose us** in Him **before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He **predestined** us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,

Ephesians 1:11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been **predestined** according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that **He who began** a good work in you **will perfect it** until the day of Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:26-28 the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been **manifested to His saints**, (27) **to whom God willed** to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 3:12 So, as those who have been **chosen of God**, holy and beloved,

1 Thessalonians 1:4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, **His choice of you**;

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you** from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

2 Timothy 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are **chosen**, so that **they also may obtain** the **salvation** which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "**The Lord knows those who are His**," and, " Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."

Titus 1:1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those **chosen of God** and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness,

Hebrews 2:13 Behold, I and **the children whom God has given me**.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to **save forever** those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, **those who have been called** may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

James 1:18 In the **exercise of His will He brought us forth** by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.

1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are **chosen**

1 John 3:10 By this **the children of God** and the **children of the devil** are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:12 not as Cain, who was **of the evil one** and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.

1 John 4:4 **You are of God, little children**, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 4:6 **We are of God**. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come, and **has given us understanding so that we may know Him** who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased** for God with Your blood men ***FROM** every tribe and tongue and people and nation. *(chosen from or out of and not all)

Revelation 17:8 whose **name** has not been **written in the book of life from the foundation of the world**

Revelation 19:9 Then he said to me, "Write, ' Blessed are those who are **invited** to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name **was not found written in the book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:27 only those whose **names are written in the Lamb's book of life**