



1

The Good Gift of Choice

Genesis 1:28-29 whole earth and every plant given
 Exodus 3:8 a land flowing with milk and honey
 Psalm 146:16 satisfies the desires of every living thing
 Luke 6:38 pressed down, shaken together, running over
 Ephesians 3:20-21 able to do more than we ask or imagine
 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 varieties of gifts and service and activities
 Joshua 24:15 choose whom you will serve
 Deuteronomy 30:19 choose life (and not death)
 Luke 10:42 Mary has chosen the better part



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2

Any Color You Like As Long As It's Black

Genesis 3:16-19 pain and problems have multiplied
 Genesis 6:5 every inclination is sinful
 Psalm 51:5 sinful from the time my mother conceived me
 Isaiah 64:6 all our righteous acts are polluted
 Mark 7:21-22 the heart harbors a whole range of evils
 John 8:34 everyone who sins is a slave
 John 15:5 apart from Me you can do nothing
 Romans 7:19 I do not do the good I want
 Ephesians 2:1-3 dead in trespasses and sins



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3

Epidemic of Abandonment

autonomy, independence, individuality →
 comparing, competing, control, conflict →
 confusion, deception, doubt →
 isolation, loneliness, betrayal →
 anxiety, depression, desperation →
 viewing and using death as solution to difficulty and suffering →
 every one of us as vulnerable as unborn or incapacitated
 mistreated, rejected, threatened, and trapped



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God Chose You Into Existence

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Psalms 139:13 For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.



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God Chose You Into Existence

Jeremiah 1:5 Before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Psalms 22:10 On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.



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6

God Chose You Into Existence

You are not accident.
 You are not afterthought.
 You are not joke.
 You are not mistake.

You are special!
His work of creating proclaims it!
 Better than freedom of choice is freedom from choice.



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God Chose You with Forgiveness

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.



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8

God Chose You with Forgiveness

Romans 5:18-19 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

2 Corinthians 5:19 In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them.



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9

God Chose You with Forgiveness

You are not coincidence.

You are not side effect.

You are not forsaken.

You are not forgotten.

You are precious!

His labor of redeeming proclaims it!

Better than the choice you do is the choice you are.



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10

God Chose You for Making a Difference

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



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God Chose You for Making a Difference

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.



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12

God Chose You for Making a Difference

You are not irritant.
 You are not annoyance.
 You are not hand-me-down.
 You are not half-hearted.

You are priceless!
 His activity of calling pronounces it!
 Better than choosing is chosen.



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13

God Chose You in Infertility

Rejected by God? Abandoned by nature?
 Chosen to affirm sorrow and embody trust!

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!



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God Chose You in Infertility

1 Samuel 1:5, 10 But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb...She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.

Mark 10:29-30 Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.



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God Chose You in Surprise Pregnancy

Rejected by future? Abandoned by community?
Chosen to celebrate new life and care for a child!

Matthew 1:20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.



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16

God Chose You in Surprise Pregnancy

Luke 1:41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 16:21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.



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17

God Chose You in Sexuality

Rejected by delight? Abandoned by intimacy?

Chosen to testify to faithfulness and fellowship!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.



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18

God Chose You in Sexuality

Romans 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Matthew 19:5-6 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.



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God Chose You in Impairments and Pain

Rejected by comfort? Abandoned by equality?

Chosen to display endurance and hope!

John 9:2-3 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.



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God Chose You in Impairments and Pain

Isaiah 43:1-2 Thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you...when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

2 Corinthians 4:11, 17 We who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh...this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory.



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God Chose You in Speaking Truth in Love

Rejected by culture? Abandoned by peace?

Chosen to sow gentleness and relentlessness!

Galatians 6:1-2 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.



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God Chose You in Speaking Truth in Love

1 Peter 3:15 In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Matthew 10:19-20 When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.



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God Chose You in Guilt and Grief

Rejected by self? Abandoned by God?

Chosen to receive and experience forgiveness!

Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.



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God Chose You in Guilt and Grief

John 8:10-11 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

1 Timothy 1:15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.



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God Chose You in Terminal Diagnosis

Rejected by world? Abandoned by life?

Chosen to involve others and serve neighbors!

Romans 14:7-8 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.



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God Chose You in Terminal Diagnosis

1 Corinthians 12:26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

Philippians 1:23-25 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith.



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God Chose You!

Questions & Comments?
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