

Introduction: Jesus has called you – each and every one of you to follow Him. He has not just called you to a building on Sunday morning. He has not called you to be religious. He has not just called you to try and better yourself or be a good person. He has called you to follow His lead. To Grow in Him so He can Work through you!

So the question this morning is: Are you Growing? And if so, are you Working?

Text: **John 15:16 (NLT)** “You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using My name.”

Outline:

I. Chosen & Saved!

A. God chose you – Just the way you were! You didn’t have to “get things right”. You did not have to stop sinning before you came. You just needed to realize that you WERE a Sinner – Lost in your sins – and that you were in NEED of a SAVIOR. Die like you were in your sins and you would enter eternal judgment and punishment for your sins. HELL.
- You don’t just make a decision – you don’t just try Jesus – you don’t just become religious – you don’t turn over a new leaf – you don’t try to be a better person – you don’t chose Jesus, God chose you! **Ephesian 1:4**

B. Transformed! **Romans 12:2** Don’t copy the behavior and customs of (or “Do not be conformed to...” this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn (or grow) to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

II. Freed & Delivered!

A. Our Baggage – We come to Christ, we are born again, we come into the church still carrying our past & our memories of who we were with us. We must realize that we need to die to ourselves: **Galatians 2:20; Luke 9:23**

→ God knows if Grace Family Fellowship is ready to receive growth. If the people feel that the Pastor must do all the work...He will not bless this church with growth.

→ If God feels like the Christians here are more likely to try and do ministry in their own strength instead of rely on His Holy Spirit! He will not

bless this church with Growth! Because you will just give up! Feel like you can't do it! But it is not only God that chooses you! It is God who makes you Ready!

B. Made Ready by God: God does not just Chose you – He makes you ready! Those Jesus called out of the world to be His disciples followed Jesus for 3+ years, however, in the beginning they did not receive any authority – didn't preach, didn't perform miracles, didn't heal any sick– they weren't ready. **Luke 9:54-55** "When James and John saw this *(the people rejecting Jesus)*, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up *(like Elijah did)*?" ⁵⁵ But Jesus turned and rebuked them. They had to mature, grow, and become more like Jesus.

→ We can't respond in the Kingdom the way we would respond in the world. We Need to Grow! We need Christians, other than just the Preacher/Pastor, able to teach and pour into other's lives!

→ It is not God's will for us to just get saved and sit on that salvation! He desires us to Grow – even to the point of teaching others. **Hebrew 5:12** Jesus did not just want to GO and do all the work! He wanted His followers to Grow, Mature, be Filled with God's Holy Spirit and realize that they had been appointed to bear much fruit!

III. Restored – Fulfilled!

A. Restored! Everything that the enemy has ever stole from you! Restored!

→ Confidence!

→ Anointing! Remember Jesus said: I appointed you! God desires to use us, IN CHRIST, to accomplish His Work!

→ Power! (READ) **Mark 9:14-25**

B. Fulfilled! God desires to fulfill you! And you will be fulfilled when you delight in the Lord – Psalm 37:4...

→ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. – Psalm 51:10

Acts 1:24 They prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know all hearts [their thoughts, motives, desires], show us which one of these men You have chosen..."

John 14:12-14 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!

Jesus knows that it is when we are with the Father, that we are ultimately fulfilled!