

Chosen, Appointed, and Fruitful

A Bible Study on John 15:16

Key Scripture — John 15:16 (KJV)

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

Introduction: You Were Chosen on Purpose

John 15:16 is a powerful statement about **identity, calling, purpose, productivity, and prayer**. Jesus reminds His disciples that their relationship with Him did not begin merely with their decision to follow Him. **He chose them.**

But Jesus does not stop at being chosen. He reveals a progression:

Chosen → Appointed → Sent → Fruitful → Lasting Impact → Answered Prayer

Being chosen by God is not simply about receiving a title or enjoying His favor. **God chooses us with purpose in mind.**

1. “You Have Not Chosen Me, But I Have Chosen You”

Our calling begins with **God’s initiative**, not ours.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that they were not following Him simply because they had discovered something wonderful. He had intentionally called them.

Supporting Scriptures

Ephesians 1:4

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world...”

1 Peter 2:9

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...”

2 Timothy 1:9

God “hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace...”

Key Truth

God chose you before you understood what He was choosing you for.

This means your calling is not based solely on:

- Your talent
- Your education
- Your background
- Your popularity
- Your accomplishments
- Other people’s approval

God’s choice originates in **His purpose and grace**.

Reflection

Am I living from the confidence that God chose me, or am I still waiting for people to validate me?

2. “And Ordained You”

The word translated “**ordained**” carries the idea of being **appointed, placed, or assigned**.

Jesus was essentially saying:

“I chose you, and I placed you where I wanted you for a purpose.”

There is a difference between being **chosen** and being **appointed**.

Chosen speaks to identity.

Appointed speaks to assignment.

Supporting Scriptures

Jeremiah 1:5

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee... I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

1 Corinthians 12:18

“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.”

Key Truth

God does not only choose people—**He positions people.**

Some places God puts you may not initially make sense. Some assignments may feel uncomfortable. But divine placement is often connected to divine purpose.

Do not abandon your **appointed place** simply because it becomes difficult.

3. “That Ye Should Go”

Jesus did not say:

“I chose you so that you could sit.”

He said:

“I chose you...that ye should GO.”

Calling requires movement.

Faith eventually requires action.

Supporting Scriptures

Matthew 28:19

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”

Mark 16:15

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

James 2:17

“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

Abraham had to **go**.

Moses had to **go**.

Esther had to approach the king.

Peter had to step out of the boat.

Paul had to travel to the nations.

The disciples had to leave familiar places.

Spiritual Principle

You cannot fulfill a “GO” assignment while permanently remaining in a “STAY” mentality.

Sometimes “go” means geographical movement.

Sometimes it means:

- Start the ministry.
- Write the book.
- Make the phone call.
- Serve the community.
- Share your testimony.
- Forgive someone.
- Mentor someone.
- Apply for the opportunity.
- Obey the instruction God has already given you.

The question becomes:

What has God already told me to do that I have not yet moved on?

4. “And Bring Forth Fruit”

God did not choose us simply to be busy. He chose us to be **fruitful**.

There is a difference between **activity and fruitfulness**.

You can be busy without being productive in the Kingdom.

Jesus establishes this throughout John 15.

John 15:4

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself...”

John 15:5

“He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit...”

The secret to fruitfulness is not merely working harder.

It is **abiding deeper**.

What Kind of Fruit Should We Produce?

A. Fruit of Character

Galatians 5:22–23

The fruit of the Spirit includes:

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Before God is concerned with the size of our platform, He is concerned with the condition of our character.

B. Fruit of Righteousness

Philippians 1:11

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ...”

Our lives should increasingly reflect Christ.

C. Fruit Through Good Works

Colossians 1:10

“...being fruitful in every good work...”

Our faith should produce visible evidence.

D. Fruit Through Reaching Others

Proverbs 11:30

“...he that winneth souls is wise.”

A fruitful Christian life should ultimately help point other people toward God.

Important Principle

Fruit is evidence that something is alive.

You do not have to convince people that an apple tree is an apple tree when apples are hanging from it.

Likewise, spiritual fruit provides evidence of spiritual life.

5. Fruit Requires Connection to the Vine

John 15:16 cannot be separated from the earlier verses.

Jesus says:

John 15:5

“I am the vine, ye are the branches...”

Then He makes an extraordinary statement:

“...without me ye can do nothing.”

Our effectiveness comes from our connection to Christ.

A branch separated from the vine may still look alive temporarily, but eventually it dries up because its source has been disconnected.

Likewise, ministry cannot replace relationship with God.

Church attendance cannot replace relationship.

Titles cannot replace relationship.

Gifts cannot replace relationship.

Spiritual Formula

Connection → Nourishment → Growth → Fruit

The deeper our connection to Christ, the greater our capacity to produce what He desires.

6. Fruitfulness Requires Pruning

One of the uncomfortable truths of John 15 is that fruitful people still experience pruning.

John 15:2

“...every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

Notice:

God does not only prune unproductive things.

He prunes fruitful things so they can become even more fruitful.

Pruning may involve God removing:

- Relationships
- Habits
- Distractions
- Wrong thinking
- Unhealthy attachments
- Pride
- Comfort zones
- Opportunities that have completed their purpose

Hebrews 12:11

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous...”

Pruning can hurt while still being productive.

Sometimes what feels like **loss** is actually God's preparation for **greater fruitfulness**.

Reflection

Ask:

“Lord, what are You trying to remove from my life so that I can produce more fruit?”

7. “That Your Fruit Should Remain”

Jesus does not merely want fruit.

He wants **fruit that remains**.

This means our lives should produce something that survives beyond a moment.

Temporary success impresses people.

Lasting fruit impacts generations.

Psalms 1:3

“And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season...”

Psalms 92:13–14

“Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish... They shall still bring forth fruit in old age...”

2 Timothy 2:2

Paul tells Timothy to commit what he had learned to faithful people who would then teach others.

Notice the multiplication:

Paul → Timothy → Faithful People → Others

That is fruit that remains.

Ask Yourself

If I stopped doing what I am doing today, **what would continue because I was here?**

Who is stronger because I disciplined them?

Who knows Christ because I witnessed to them?

Who discovered their calling because I encouraged them?

What ministry, teaching, business, family legacy, or Kingdom work will continue beyond me?

That is **remaining fruit**.

8. Fruitfulness Glorifies God

The ultimate purpose of fruitfulness is not personal recognition.

It is God's glory.

John 15:8

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit...”

Jesus did not say:

“Your Father is glorified when everyone knows your name.”

He said the Father is glorified when **you bear much fruit**.

Our prayer should therefore become:

“God, make my life productive enough that people can see evidence of You through me.”

Matthew 5:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

The fruit may appear in our lives, but **the glory belongs to God.**

9. “Whatsoever Ye Shall Ask of the Father in My Name”

John 15:16 ends with prayer:

“...whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

This does not mean God gives us everything we desire simply because we attach Jesus’ name to the prayer.

Jesus connects prayer to **abiding, obedience, purpose, and fruitfulness.**

Earlier He says:

John 15:7

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will...”

Abiding changes what we desire.

The closer we become to Christ, the more our prayers begin to align with His heart.

1 John 5:14

“...if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us.”

James 4:3

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss...”

Spiritual Principle

Powerful prayer flows from alignment with God’s purpose.

Instead of only asking:

“God, bless what I want to do,”

mature prayer asks:

“God, show me what You are doing, and let me participate in it.”

10. The Progression of John 15:16

John 15:16 gives us a powerful Kingdom progression:

1. CHOSEN

God selected me.

Ephesians 1:4



2. APPOINTED

God assigned me.

Jeremiah 1:5



3. SENT

God expects movement and obedience.

Matthew 28:19



4. FRUITFUL

My life should produce evidence of Christ.

John 15:5



5. REMAINING FRUIT

My obedience should have lasting impact.

John 15:16

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6. ALIGNED PRAYER

My desires increasingly agree with God's will.

John 15:7; 1 John 5:14

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7. GOD IS GLORIFIED

The ultimate purpose is His glory.

John 15:8

The Difference Between Being Chosen and Being Fruitful

One of the greatest lessons from this passage is:

Being chosen does not automatically mean being fruitful.

God chooses.

God appoints.

God provides grace.

God gives gifts.

God opens doors.

But we must respond through:

Abiding + Obedience + Discipline + Faithfulness + Action

2 Peter 1:10

“...give diligence to make your calling and election sure...”

1 Corinthians 4:2

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

The evidence that we value being chosen is how faithfully we steward the assignment.

Five Questions for Personal Examination

1. CHOSEN — Do I know who I am?

Am I secure in God's choice, or am I constantly seeking human validation?

2. APPOINTED — Do I know my assignment?

What has God specifically placed in my hands?

3. GO — Am I obeying?

What instruction from God have I delayed?

4. FRUIT — What is my life producing?

Is my character, ministry, family, leadership, and service showing evidence of spiritual growth?

5. REMAIN — What will outlive me?

Am I simply accomplishing things, or am I building something that advances God's Kingdom beyond me?

Supporting Scriptures for Further Study

- **John 15:1–17** — Jesus, the True Vine
- **Ephesians 1:3–5** — Chosen in Christ
- **Ephesians 2:10** — Created for good works
- **Jeremiah 1:4–10** — Known and appointed by God
- **1 Peter 2:9** — A chosen generation
- **Galatians 5:22–23** — Fruit of the Spirit
- **Colossians 1:9–10** — Fruitful in every good work
- **Psalms 1:1–3** — A fruitful, planted life
- **Psalms 92:12–15** — Fruitfulness throughout life
- **Matthew 7:16–20** — Known by your fruit
- **Matthew 28:18–20** — Called to go
- **2 Timothy 2:2** — Multiplication and lasting fruit
- **1 Corinthians 4:1–2** — Faithfulness in stewardship
- **1 John 5:14–15** — Prayer according to God's will

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean personally to know that Christ says, “**I have chosen you**”?
2. What is the difference between being **chosen** and being **appointed**?
3. What has God placed in your hands during this season?
4. What does “go” look like practically in your life right now?
5. Are you currently **busy**, or are you truly **fruitful**?
6. What fruit of the Spirit needs greater development in your life?
7. What might God currently be pruning from your life?
8. What are you producing that has the potential to **remain after you are gone**?
9. How does abiding in Christ affect your prayer life?
10. If someone examined the fruit of your life, what evidence would they see that you belong to Christ?

Closing Challenge: Chosen for More Than a Title

John 15:16 reminds us:

You were chosen—but not merely to be called chosen.

You were appointed—but not merely to hold a position.

You were sent—but not merely to be busy.

You were commanded to bear fruit—but not merely temporary fruit.

You were called to produce fruit that remains.

Therefore, the question is not simply:

“Am I chosen?”

The deeper question is:

“What am I producing because God chose me?”

God’s choice gives us **identity**.

God’s appointment gives us **purpose**.

God’s command to go requires **obedience**.

Our abiding produces **fruit**.

Our faithfulness creates **legacy**.

And through it all, **God receives the glory.**

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for choosing us in Christ and calling us according to Your purpose. Help us not to become comfortable simply knowing that we are chosen. Teach us to understand our assignments and give us courage to go wherever You send us. Keep us connected to Jesus, the True Vine, so that our lives produce fruit that reflects Your character and advances Your Kingdom. Prune everything in us that hinders greater fruitfulness. Let our lives produce fruit that remains—fruit that impacts our families, communities, ministries, and generations yet to come. Align our desires and prayers with Your will so that what we ask flows from hearts that abide in You. May everything produced through our lives ultimately bring glory to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.