



Elevation Family
Ministries
February 2024

Chosen Before the Creation of the World



Being chosen is the basis for being the beloved. It is a lifelong struggle to claim that chosenness, but also a lifelong joy.

When we know we are chosen, we know we have been seen by God as a special person. God has noticed us in our uniqueness and has expressed a desire to know us, and to love us.

Our preciousness, uniqueness, and individuality are given to us by the one who has chosen us with an everlasting love, a love that existed from all eternity and will last through all eternity.

You are who you are for a reason.
You're part of an intricate plan.
You're a precious and perfect unique design,
Called God's special woman or man.

You look like you look for a reason.
Our God made no mistake.
He knit you together within the womb,
You're just what he wanted to make.

The parents you had were the ones He chose,
And no matter how you may feel,
They were custom-designed with God's plan in
mind,
And they bear the Master's seal.

No, that trauma you faced was not easy.
And God wept that it hurt you so;
But it was allowed to shape your heart
So that into his likeness you'd grow.

You are who you are for a reason,
You've been formed by the Master's rod.
You are who you are, beloved,
Because there is a God!"

Poem By Russell Keifer



We are chosen by God, precious in His eyes, and each of us have a unique role to play in God's story.

If we lose touch of our chosenness, we expose ourselves to the temptation of self-rejection, and that temptation undermines the possibility of ever growing as the beloved.

We need to celebrate our chosenness constantly. Gratitude is the most fruitful way of deepening our consciousness that we are not an "accident," but a divine choice.

"Chosen" is the first of four foundations of our identity as the beloved daughters and sons of God based on work by Henri Nouwen. Next month, we will examine what it means to be "blessed."

BEN



THE CHOSEN OF GOD



I clearly recall my first encounter with Ben more than three years ago. Ben had been bullied for most of his school life and when I asked him why he wanted to come to Elevation, he said, "There are no bullies here." This adverse childhood experience led to Ben's self-rejection. Nouwen wrote, "Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the "Beloved."

We have marveled at the transformation that has taken place in Ben's heart as he has learned to claim hurts as part of his chosenness. He has learned that God wept over the pain he endured at such a Young age, but that His hand of protection was over him the entire time. Within Ben's baptism testimony he said, "I was not able to find direction and purpose growing up and felt as though I never belonged anywhere. When I found the community at Elevation where I felt I belonged, I learned it came more naturally to place Christ at the center of my choices. I now want to help others from similar backgrounds as me. I want others to see what God has been doing in my life." Ben has learned to hold tight to Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."



Ben with his grandmother.



Ben passing out cards to local nursing home residents.

Funding the Journey

Our goal is for financial constraints to not be a barrier to finding hope and healing in Christ.

With your financial support, we can do just that.

You may donate online at elevationfamilyministries.org or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.