

[Faith, Hope & Love_Part7](#)

We are continuing our study on the Kingdom of God through its building blocks: faith, hope, and love. As we have been studying the first of these building blocks—faith—we have dived deeply into the names of our God knowing that *there is much power in the name when accompanied by faith*. And with a clear understanding of the name *we will know what it means to believe on the Lord and be saved*.

Last week we studied a very difficult name: **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**—the Lord who Sanctifies You. We learned that “sanctification” captures the idea that God surveyed the realm of humanity and personally hand-picked you to be His own; hence, you have been chosen and set apart from all others who have not been chosen. We are not yet moving from this name because I want you to grasp what a big deal it is to be chosen of God. **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**; for some, this is a hard truth to swallow and one laced with accusations of exclusivity and intolerance. But regardless of the feelings and sentiments of some, the truth is that our Lord is the one who sanctifies: He chooses, He marks, He seals, and He ensures that all things work together for good such that the “chosen” might be conformed into the image of the Son (**Romans 8:28-30**).

With that said, still in some strange and undeniable way, your response to having been chosen is a part of being chosen. God choose you, but you still need to respond to His call which demands a response of faith. No matter where you turn in the Bible you cannot escape the baffling intersection between God’s choosing and man’s need to actively respond to having been chosen. This can be quickly demonstrated in a handful of verses. In **Matthew 11:28** Jesus makes the invitation: “Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden.” It is an invite for any to come.

Then He adds in **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.” And in **John 6:44** Jesus says, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.” He reiterates this point in **John 6:65** when He says, “No one can come to me unless it has been granted from the Father.” These passages clearly point out God’s choosing of the **Beloved** and the reality that the chosen make the decision to come to Jesus. There is choosing and there is coming, and **Revelation 3:4-5** gives us more insight on the “coming” part of this interaction.

In **Revelation 3:4-5**, Jesus says that He will not erase from the Lambs Book of Life, those who now—in their present—overcome and continue to overcome (*present active participle*), and refuse to defile themselves with the garments of the world—which in context of the church of Sardis, was all manner of religious church activity. Rather, those who overcome will be clothed in white and Jesus will confess their names before His Father and before His angels. Thus, man has to choose to respond to God and make a *present active* decision of faith, and continue to make that decision of faith, to “overcome” and not soil their garments in the filth of religion. This is what it means to come to Jesus; and those who do will experience their eternal reward. Thus, God chooses and it is our job to respond to that decision by actions of true Biblical faith: which as we know is to practically bet our lives on the name. And those who make this faith decision are recognizable for they hear the Word of God and they follow after His voice and His voice alone.

John 8:47

He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.

John 10:1-5

I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice.

John 10:25-29

Jesus replied, "I have already told you, and you don't believe me. The proof is the work I do in my Father's name. But you don't believe me because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

These are key indicators of the chosen: they hear and they follow. This is also why Jesus said in ***Matthew 7:21***, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven." Many who are "called" will "call on the name of the Lord" but only the chosen will bet their lives on the name, and in so doing actually do the will of the

Father. "For this is the will of the Father, that all who see His Son and believe in Him will have eternal life" (**John 6:40**). And as we studied, belief is not an intellectual ascension nor is it an emotional reaction to what you see. It is not even a religious commitment based on what you see. You can say "Lord, Lord" your whole life and do all manner of religious activity and still not be one of the chosen. To "see" and "believe" is when a person responds to God (what they see) and makes a full-on commitment to the truth revealed in the name. And this commitment is demonstrated in a life where one chooses what they say and do by that truth. In other words, the chosen of God choose God in return; and since "believe" in **John 6:40** is a *present active participle*, they keep choosing God. This is true faith.

Honestly, I cannot tell you how many "Christians" who say "Lord, Lord" have fought me over this issue of faith and faith alone. They want to believe that they are ok with God because they said the sinner's prayer and are busy doing all sorts of Christian things for God (just like those in the church at Sardis). But that is simply a delusion. **Romans 1:16-17** explains that the Good News of Jesus Christ tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

As we discussed last week, your response to having been chosen plays out in the quality of your day-in-and-day-out-life. Sadly, we are not automatically conformed into the image of the Son, but the Lord works all things out for this purpose. Thus, He explains to us that we will either experience His life and power in the Spirit of God or we will experience spiritual death as we choose to love our flesh more than Jesus. For instance, if you do even a casual read of **Galatians 5:19-23** you will see that there are only two categories of fruit produced from our lives (two and no more) and they are in total contrast to one another: the fruits of the flesh or the

fruit of the Spirit. It is clear from this passage that there are no other types of produce (just the two) and there is no other source of produce (just the two). The Spirit produces fruit that is consistent with His character and nature. Similarly, the flesh produces fruits consistent with its nature. Therefore, you must not be fooled into thinking that you are “good” and ok with God just because you are not doing anything that you consider to be “bad.” **Jehovah Tisdkenu** (the Lord our Righteousness) would completely disagree with you. Either you are producing the fruits of your flesh or He is producing in you the fruit of the Spirit. It is one or the other. DO NOT BE FOOLED and DO NOT BE DECEIVED!

Faith is the defining factor between these two experiences. If you are willing to bet your life on the fact that you are chosen and therefore choose to live as one who belongs to the Kingdom of God (and not the kingdom of this world), doing only what your King desires, you will experience the power of His grace in and through your life and He will produce in you the glorious “good” fruit of His love. If not, you won’t; it is a very simple equation. The Lord’s “sanctified” ones will live by faith, and He takes no pleasure in any one who turns back (**Hebrews 10:38**). And the fruit of faith is tangible and actually not that hard to differentiate for nothing which is produced from our flesh can be compared to God’s divine *agape* love. Our flesh can produce all manner of religious behavior, but it cannot replicate a love that truly considers others—including the body—more important than oneself.

We are still studying **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** because I believe the Lord wants us to fully understand the difference between those who are “sanctified” and those who are “called,” keeping in mind that many are called and few are chosen. This is in effect a follow on to our study on Faith, Hope & Love Part 3 where we discussed

those in the religion of Christianity who will apostatize in the last days and literally fall away from the place where they (and others) thought they belonged.

From the broadest perspective, there are only two groups of humanity: those chosen (the **Beloved**) and those not chosen. The not chosen however fall into two categories: 1) the many who have been “called” (whose names can be erased from the Lambs book of life—**Revelation 3:5**); and 2) those who have always belonged to the evil one whose names were never written in the Lambs book of life (**Revelation 13:8; Romans 9:1-24**). The difference between the “called” and those who have always belonged to the evil one is that the “called” will have a chance to reject the Antichrist, not take the mark of His name, and endure through the end of the Tribulation in hope of entering into the Millennial Kingdom which will be ruled by Christ and His **Beloved**. It is a long path and one you don’t want to make. Whereas, those who have belonged to the evil one will die with the evil one.

Our focus therefore is not going to be on those whose names were never written in the Lambs Book of Life. The Lord is clear that they are mere tools to help in our process of being conformed into the image of the Son (**Romans 9**). They are used by God to come against us to teach us how to trust in the name. Our focus will be on the distinction between the “chosen” and the “called.” From the perspective of our earthly minds, this can be very confusing and these two groups can look very similar if not identical. We need spiritual eyes to discern the difference because we have been set apart by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** to find the chosen and call them out of the darkness into the light that they may turn from the dominion of Satan to God (**Acts 26:18**). Or to literally wake them up from the dead, so to speak, as explained in **Ephesians 5:14**. That is our job here at Pathway. Our job is to be a light to guide the chosen to their Shepherd so they can follow and receive forgiveness

of sins and inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Jesus (**Acts 26:18**). And here is the thing; the chosen will follow.

The Lord has imaged for us this distinction between those who are “chosen” and those who are “called” in various visions using the imagery of two children. It is actually quite fascinating.

01/03/13: I see a little boy...one who is "marked." He is here in Boulder, with us. We have some sort of training camp for kids. I see a group of children who are also going through this training. It reminds me of a school, with a playground, classrooms, teachers, and curriculum.

01/24/13: Regarding the marked child: *"It has not been conceived yet."*

07/02/13: I see an abandon castle built into the side of a large cliff. The area is beautiful. A rote canyon with trickles of water streaming down from just below the castle walls. There are lots of trees. The rocks and greenery look like that you would find in Colorado or the eastern slope of the cascades in Washington. I can tell this castle was once grand and filled with life. But now it is desolate and over grown by trees and shrubs. I ask The Lord what this place is? Will you show me what it looked like in all its glory? And he did. It was magnificent. Waterfalls gushed from below the walls in the cliffs and a water wheel was pumping water into the castle. There were flowers and people on the roof tops and balconies. I saw what appeared to be demonic creatures fly overhead, but they could not see the castle below. It was not visible to them. I asked The Lord: "What

happened to this castle and to these people?" What I saw was a baby in a basket with massive spiritual warfare going on around it.

09/18/13: The baby or child is the tribulation church. It is not a real baby. It is not conceived yet, but will be conceived and then born.

Having not understood the image of this child, the Lord faithfully communicated, as He always does. This first child, this marked child, is the church that will endure the first half of the tribulation. This child is chosen by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** and will live during some terrible times. The spiritual warfare of this child's life will be more intense than anything we can imagine. This child is coming. Then with regard to the other child:

7/15/13: Someone was born today. The number is 540.

I believe this child is a picture of the apostate church. This church has been born, unlike the tribulation church that is yet to be born. The Lord gave us a clue as to how to interpret this number "540" a couple of days before on 07/13/13. He also gave me an interpretation. He said:

07/13/13: There are 7 and 77 (or 7x77) others like you who have not bowed before Chemosh, and who have not laid their weapons down. You work alongside them, though you do not know who they are. Pray for them.

Chemosh was an old Moabite god and his name means the Destroyer. And we know that the beast (the demonic spirit who possesses the man we call the antichrist) is named the Destroyer (**Revelation 9:1-11; 11:7**). In these last days, Chemosh literally returns from the dead (**Revelation 13:3, 14**). Surprisingly, **Revelation 13:16-18** makes it clear that people are even now giving themselves to the Destroyer and are even now being marked on the forehead and right hand with his mark—the mark of the beast. Unlike the popular fiction of our day, the Bible teaches that this marking is a spiritual marking and it is happening now. In the Greek, the beast “causing people to be marked” is rendered in the *present active indicative*. In other words, it is happening now and that is a statement of fact. **1 John 4:3** supports this in saying that the spirit of the antichrist who is coming is now already in the world. But these 7 sets of 77 have not taken this mark. As we know, 7 is the Biblical number of completion and 3 is the number of perfection and there are three 7's. So God has completed a perfect gathering of people, who we work alongside, but **WE DO NOT** know who they are.

07/21/13: I see the baby number 540 in a cradle. It has bright green eyes that look evil.

If you do the math, 7 sets of 77 = 539. This is the spiritual number of those who have not bowed to the beast. Did you notice that the number of this second child is 540? It is very close to 539 but misses it by just one. Thus, I believe this is a picture of the apostate church that looks very close to the perfect and completed gathering but is most definitely not the same. It misses it by one, but that one digit makes all

the difference in the world. From what the Lord has shown us, the apostate church is born and alive and I believe we will see the effects of this apostasy invade the lives of those we would never have thought would hold to its lies. But it has been determined, this apostate church, like a child, has been born and it will soon grow into maturity; and we must be ready. Like the church in Sardis, this apostate church was warned and told to wake up before it was too late for they are dead and dying; but they refused and for them the Lord will come as a thief in the night.

The coming apostasy is all very much like what Jesus experienced when He came to Israel—to His chosen people. As we studied, Israel at that time was a very religious country, they removed their idolatry, and were—at least in form and function—worshippers of Yahweh. But their hearts were far from God; they loved themselves and their religion more than they did God. As a result, they did not recognize their day of visitation and they rejected the Messiah. Therefore, God judged them and destroyed their religion and replaced it with a new covenant for those who are “sanctified.” In this new covenant God promised that He would put His law into the minds of His chosen ones and write His law on their hearts, that they would be His people and He would be their God (*Hebrews 8:10*). In so doing, He made the first covenant obsolete (In other words, 540 can never be 539).

07/27/13: I see 540 as a young man. He’s walking through wheat fields putting fire to them.

Once again we see that 540 is not only different than 539, but is also actively engaged in attacking 539, imaged in the wheat, which is a common Biblical symbol for the chosen people of God. Jesus has told us that a time is coming when those

who kill us will think they are doing a service for God. They will actually believe they are doing God's will; and this delusion happens because they have never known the Father nor the Son (**John 16:1-3**). Are you getting the picture imaged in these two children? One is a church of apostasy who thinks they are good with God and the other is the perfect collection of those actually chosen. The apostate church will persecute the chosen all the while believing they are the "good" ones who are serving and honoring God. They live in deep delusion.

07/18/13: I see the numbers 77 over really rough seas. The water is grey and churning. I try and see how the number 7 plays into this picture, but it is off to the left. Though I see the number 7, it is transparent and seems to be disassociated with the 77.

07/28/13: I see the number 77 over rough waters, the 7 are far off to one side.

During this time of trouble, one set of the 7 will be off to the side and protected—as if they are invisible or transparent to those who are doing harm—while the 77 will suffer persecution, imaged in the rough seas. This is consistent with what we studied in **Revelation 11:1-6, 12:7-17, 13:5-10** and **14:12** in the way the witnesses of God will be supernaturally protected during the first half of the tribulation while others who are chosen will be persecuted and killed. Take comfort; it is also consistent with the words God spoke over our body while addressing this coming war between the apostate church and the chosen.

07/14/13: There are huge warrior angels that are being stationed outside of our building. They are part of the protection for the war to come. I see millions upon millions coming for miles ... We have so many angels assigned to serve us.

The good news, actually the great news, is that perhaps the reason the 7 is off to the side and somewhat invisible is because the Lord has promised us protection from the war. Millions upon millions of angels have come to help us and protect us. How amazing is that. We do not need to fear; we must not fear. We are chosen!

07/25/13: I hear the beat of a war drum. “You hear this as a reminder of the urgency of the time. Do not fret, but be busy in pursuit of the work I lay in front of you.

The war is coming and this child—540—will soon be a young man and will set fire to the fields of wheat. The Lord wants us to hear this drumbeat although we are not to be distracted by it. He wants us to be aware that the time is urgent. Therefore, do not be intimidated and do not be afraid, but know that the war of the apostate church against the chosen is just around the corner.

09/18/13: Steve, your prayers for clarity and understanding are and will always be answered because He delights in you. This is what He declares: “Compare Matthew 7 with Matthew 15.”

We are going to compare parts of **Matthew 7** with **Matthew 15** to get the full understanding of the “chosen” compared to the “called.” But before I jump into

that I want you to notice something—a message in a message that could only come from our Genius God. The original message about 540 said:

7/15/13: Someone was born today. The number is 540.

The date was actually a message within the message: **07/15** followed up over 2 months later with compare **Matthew 7** with **Matthew 15**. How double amazing is that. As we get into these passages, I want you to not miss sight of the point: there is a 540 that looks so close to 539 but is not. The 540 will look like true worshipers, they will have the following (the many), they will have the churches, they will govern the religion, but they will not truly know the Father nor the Son. They will have done plenty of religion but will never have practiced active, active belief. They will know the name, call on the name, have raised their hand and said the prayer, but they will not truly believe in the name. We must not get confused here. We cannot confuse religious activity (even reading the Bible, praying, teaching, doing missions, serving the poor, being good neighbors and so on) with doing the will of the Father. It looks close since the 539 do many of the same things, but it is not 539. And no matter how hard they try, they are still 540.

Both **Matthew 15** and **Matthew 7** speak to the delusion of the “called.” For instance, in **Matthew 15**, Jesus was talking to the religious leaders of His day, the pastors and ministers of our day. These leaders challenged Jesus because His disciples did not follow the rules the way they did. Jesus proceeded to offend these leaders by saying they invalidate the word of God for the sake of their tradition. In other words, they believed there was a way to do church and to be good church people, but they had entirely missed the point. Then Jesus said:

Matthew 15:8-9

These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.

Speaking of God, speaking for God, and the heart felt worship of God does not equal being one who is chosen of God. This is evidenced in the way the “called” teach man-made ideas as commands of God. If you ever truly stare at the rules, the man-made ideas, to which most churches hold, they are rules that are based on fear. They are based on controlling or curbing some manner of sin. Since the “called” don’t understand the point of new life which can only be found through the narrow pathway of death, they try and control people from being “bad.” This creates a culture of lies, deception, secrets, and amounts to worship that is a farce.

Matthew 7:13-14

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.

Can you imagine: only a few ever find this gateway; it is a very difficult road. The other road is far easier: raise your hand, pray, serve in church, tithe, and generally be “good” and don’t do any “bad” sins; and if you do, then by all means hide it. That is all it takes. Many choose this way; but that is not to be our concern. **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** says:

Matthew 15:12-14

Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?" Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch."

Matthew 7:6

Don't waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don't throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.

This is so hard. Jesus does not care that He offended them. He said don't waste your time on them; ignore them. The Father did not choose them and they will be uprooted. They are unholy and if you try and convince them of the truth they will just turn and attack you. I, we, have experienced this over and over from so many Christians. That is why God is causing us to define and refine our message such that we are on the hunt for the "chosen" who need to be brought out of darkness into the light. We are not to be casting what is holy—the truth about God and what it means to actually believe in God—before those who are not. They will fall into the ditch and we are to let them; we are to stay manically focused on the task which God has assigned to us. Believe me, I have spent far too much time chasing the "called" trying so hard to convince them of the truth, wanting so much for them to believe. Sadly, it only resulted in people hating me and hurting me.

We are to be careful; it is so easy to be caught off guard by the 540 who looks so close to the 539. They are not the same and we are to discern the difference. Jesus does not want us being attacked because we are deceived or unwilling to honestly

look at the fruit of people's lives. Keep in mind, Jesus was not afraid of offending the 540 of His day. He spoke the truth about the fruit that came from their life and we must do the same.

Matthew 7:15-20

Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.

Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

You can identify people by their actions; although, this is tricky. Clearly acting like an innocent sheep, teaching, prophesying, casting out demons, healing or the working of miracles, all in the name of Jesus does not equal God ordained actions. Jesus has even warned us on **07/25/13**: "You will see miraculous miracles. Do not be fooled by false miracles, silk screens and smoke." Signs and wonders are not the

actions which the Lord wants us to examine. Similarly, having positions of authority within a church or a religious institution does not equal being “chosen.” The fruit that must be examined is the difference between the fruit of the Spirit, which is God’s divine *agape* love, and the fruits of the flesh. If a person produces from their life the type of love which truly considers others (and the body) more important than themselves, they will make their practical decisions based not on their wants, their rights, their needs, their desires, their dreams, their demands, and so on, but by what is important to the whole, to the others with whom God has them in relationship. This is in stark contrast to one who lives for themselves.

The point is that the impressive religious deeds of the “called” are not equivalent to the actions of the “chosen.” Do not be fooled! That is why we must be busy doing what God has assigned to us and that is to find the “chosen,” even if that means offending the “called;” and they will be offended. Mark my word.

In **Matthew 15:21-28** we see that Jesus went to find the “chosen.” He actually left the territory of Israel and went to Tyre and Sidon where a woman with a demon possessed child came to Him for the healing of His daughter. And even though Jesus points out that He was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel (notice He did not say the “house of Israel” but the lost sheep—a.k.a. the “chosen” from the house of Israel), she bowed before Him and cried, “Lord, help me.” She knew that only the Lord could truly heal her daughter. Jesus remarked how her faith was great and He granted her what she desired. This story is given to emphasize this issue of faith.

Whereas in the subsequent verses, in **Matthew 15:29-31**, we see Jesus healing the multitude, and in **32-38** we see Jesus feeding the multitude. The act looks the same. The people came to God to receive from Him something they wanted and Jesus graciously gave it. We are told the multitude even glorified the God of Israel.

But we know that this same multitude abandoned Him and turned against Him. Thus, we cannot be confused into thinking that just because God is good and gracious to the many—the “called” that they are the chosen even when they worship Him and praise Him for His goodness. The chosen come to Jesus, as do the “called,” but the chosen come by faith, believing He is the Lord; whereas, the others just receive from Him His goodness. The point is that we must not be caught off guard just because Jesus graciously does amazing things for the 540. What He does is a testament to His graciousness and not their faith. Remember, the rain falls on both the righteous and the evil (**Matthew 5:45**).

Matthew 7:24-27

Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.

To listen and to follow is to exercise believing faith and is evidence of one who is “chosen” by **Jehovah Mekoddishkem**. The Lord wants you to understand the greatness of being chosen. Dwell on the distinction between the chosen and the called and then choose to live that distinction. This name is powerful when it is accompanied by faith. Own this name for the war is coming.

Let's Pray.