

**THE GREATEST GIFT HE
DIDN'T HAVE TO GIVE!**

James 1:18

Of his own will
begat he us
with the word of truth,
that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his
creatures.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

James 1:18 **Of his own will** begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and **for thy pleasure** they are and were created.

Questions:

1. Do you know God didn't have to do anything for us?

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure** they are and were created.

**Nothing weird here...
God wasn't compelled
He didn't find us special... collectively OR
individually**

**God chose to save us
God chose to bless us**

As Paul confirms:

Romans 5:6 For **when we were yet without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Romans 5:10 For if, **when we were enemies**, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Mercy ~ grace

Mercy: God NOT giving us what we deserve!

Grace: God giving us what we DON'T deserve!

Romans 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Romans 11:6 And **if by grace, then** is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But **if it be of works, then** is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that **not** of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Ephesians 2:9 **Not** of works, **lest any man should boast.**

Romans 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded.

By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

Romans 4:2 For if Abraham were justified by works, **he hath whereof to glory**; but not before God.

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us **with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

2. Have you heard the word of truth?

James 1:18 Of his own will begat he us **with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, **by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The Gospel | good news is:

- **Truth**
- **God's truth**
- **Absolute truth**
- **Not made-up "truth"**
- **Not perspectivalism – you do you AND I'll do me!**
- **Not standpoint theory – speak YOUR truth**

➤ **TRUE TRUTH**

➤ **True to reality**

➤ **True for everyone, everyplace, and for all times**

➤ **True for eternity**

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 8:30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

John 8:36 **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

John 10:28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 10:29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

Acts 13:38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

Acts 13:39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**. And let him that is athirst **come**. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.

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3. Have you considered your status as firstfruits?

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Leviticus 23:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, **then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest:**

Leviticus 23:11 And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted for you: on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it.

Leviticus 23:12 And ye shall offer that day when ye wave the sheaf **an he lamb without blemish of the first year** for a burnt offering unto the LORD.