



The Chosen - December 2021

The greatest story ever told is of Jesus' birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection. He was born in a stable, raised by outcast parents in the middle of nowhere, and His followers were poor and mostly uneducated. Yet His life and death set in motion that greatest movement in human history. Within three centuries, it had overtaken the secular Roman Empire. This is one of the great proofs of Christianity. How Jesus and his band of followers rose from the middle of nowhere to lead the largest religion of earth.

This is Jesus' upside-down approach to our world. It is the way of His grace. We live in a world where the biggest, best, and brightest succeed, while the littlest, last, and least get trampled. But Jesus disrupts and interrupts our quest for power and our lust for significance. The ways of our world are rebuked by the inverted way of Jesus. Because of this, Christianity has from its beginning prized weakness and rebuffed strength.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, 2 Corinthians 12:9

God has the tendency to impact eternity by choosing, places, times, and people who on the surface are not all that extraordinary. Have you experienced this in your life? How?

What did Paul mean when he wrote: *"But Jesus said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

We do not operate out of self-sufficiency, but out of total dependency on Christ and in need of being empowered by the Spirit. How have you felt this in your life?

Have you ever considered that God has chosen you- not because of your strengths but because of your weaknesses?

Closing Thought: Martin Luther wrote, "It is certain that man must utterly despair of his own ability before he is prepared to receive the grace of Christ."

