

Foreknowledge of God

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If there is anywhere in the Bible that shows the order of election, the one place you will see is in the following.

Romans 8:28-30

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29) For whom He **fore knew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren; 30) and whom He predestined, these He also **called**; and whom He called, these He also **justified**; and whom He justified, these He also **glorified**.

Here we see the precise order of election. I have made it bold and underlined the important doctrinal words and let me give a brief explanation.

1. **Foreknew** - Foreknew has to do with foreknowledge. What do you mean by the foreknowledge of God. Let me give the popular answer. What the majority of churches believe today.

God, from the foundation of the world foreknew all men's believing or not believing. And according to this, His foreknowledge, He chose or elected all obedient believers, as such to salvation. God looks into the future and see who will chose God, on a foreseen act of man and on the basis of man choosing God, God in return had chosen man before the foundation of the world. This is conditional election as election depends upon man and not from God. But this was not what the majority believed during the time of Protestant reformation.

Amazing Grace that saved an obedient faithful person like me! NO. NO. That saved a wretched, wicked person like me

This is a heretical doctrine that has crept into the pulpits and many are deceived by this kind of teaching. This kind of teaching did not begin recently but had lot of influence from Finney and the others.

1. He set his favor upon us, not everyone but on some.

2. **Predestined** - Our English word predestination comes from the Latin word *praedestino*. The word *prae* in Latin means before and the word *destino* in Latin means determine or destine. Destined to be saved. God appointed before hand to be saved. Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.
3. We were born into this world in sin. By nature we were the children of wrath just like the other unbelievers. (Eph 2:3)
4. **Called** – Salvation came here on earth, in our time. You heard the gospel, the words of God and there was that God’s holy calling for salvation.
5. **Justified** - The word justification has to do with justice, that one day we have to face the justice of God. We all have to stand before the Judge of the universe, as we are accountable to our Creator. How can we stand before a just God? We need to be justified. When God called you, he justified you, he legally made you righteous before him.
6. **Glorified** - Everlasting happiness: but eternal glory is here meant, which is what the apostle had been speaking in context. We will inherit the eternal glory. Read Matthew 25:31-34

All have sinned and we have fallen short of the glory of God but now God removed that sin, made us righteous before him and one day we are brought to his glory.

Ro 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Col 3:4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

'For' indicates that verses 29-30 are the foundation for verse 28. They give reasons why we can

KNOW all things will work together for those who are called according to God's purpose.

In these few verses, we see the great doctrines of election and predestination and effectual calling and justification and glorification

The Greek word for foreknowledge is *proginosko*. The medical word *prognosis* is connected to this word. The prognosis predicts the outcome of a disease based on diagnosis. This word does not appear in the Old Testament but appears seven times in the New Testament, and it relates to God's foreknowledge. What do you mean by foreknowledge? In our English language foreknowledge means to have knowledge before it happens.

Biblical meaning

The biblical meaning of foreknowledge is never used in connection with action of the person but to the person. The word foreknowledge does not appear in the Old Testament, but when the word, "know" is used in connection with God, it means to "choose" or "set favor upon" or "acknowledge" It is those whom he chose or set his favor upon. Here are some texts to show this meaning.

The word foreknowledge means not a general knowledge but a special intimate knowledge of His people.

Genesis 4:1 state: "**And Adam knew Eve his wife...**" Adam having a special love and affection only for his wife.

Ex 33:17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Moses did not have to introduce himself to God, but God knew him by name, God knew the person Moses and set his love upon Moses before the foundation of the world. Why because Moses was better than anyone, no. Moses was a sinner like anyone else, he was a murderer, he deserved the wrath of God like anyone else but instead he found grace in Gods sight.

God knew all the people of the earth, but to the chosen ones, he had a special affection for them, he was intimate with them, not because they were good, but because of his mercy and grace.

Jeremiah 1:5 states: "Before I formed thee in the belly **I knew thee**; and before thou camest out of the womb I **sanctified** thee, and I **ordained** thee a prophet unto the nations." Notice how closely the words knew, sanctified, and ordained are related to one another.

God has a special love for Jeremiah before he was born. He was set apart to serve God from the womb. It was Gods goodness, grace and mercy toward Jeremiah, so Jeremiah cannot boast of his ministry as God sanctified and ordained him before he was born.

The Word foreknowledge appears only a few times in the New Testament, and it is never used in connection with action of the person but to the person. God did not elect you because he foresaw of your repenting and believing. It is true that God knew that some would repent and believe on him, but that is not what the scripture is referring to Gods foreknowledge. God knew the persons who will be saved. He is not looking to the actions of the people in salvation. Let us look some scripture on foreknowledge and it will be very clear to you that the word foreknowledge refers to the persons and not to their works or actions.

Acts 2:23 "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Paul is not speaking of Gods foreknowledge of the action of crucifixion, but the person of Jesus Christ: "HIM (Christ) being delivered")

Romans 11:2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. (foreknew are the people and not referring to their actions on what they did)

1 Peter 1:2

1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia,

2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us.

Who are elected according to the foreknowledge of the Father? The previous verse tells us, strangers scattered. **Again, it is referring to persons and not to their foreseen acts.**

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and **know my sheep**, and am known of mine.

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

If I say I chose God because of my obedience of faith, let me ask you the question, the people who got saved during Jesus time were, harlots, thieves, tax collectors, and murderers. What kind of faith did they have? How about you?

Romans 8:29 **"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."** (Whom he foreknew referring to persons and not referring to their actions on what they did) The Greek word for foreknowledge is *proginosko*. The medical word prognosis is connected to this word. Prognosis is a prediction concerning the future course of disease, based on diagnosis.

Read **Romans 8:28-30**

In these few verses, we see the order of election, we see the great doctrines of election and predestination and effectual calling and justification and glorification