

Dear Brother Faull,



I had a Bible College student call me today with a question. He was in a class dealing with the book of Acts. He said the professor really didn't look at the following verse. He felt like the professor skipped over it so he called me. It is dealing with **Acts 13:48** *When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord;*

and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. (NASB 95) The question was if this supports pre-destination or the elect. I looked at the word "appointed"(5021) in context and some of its other uses. The best answer I came up with that Jesus came first for the Jew then the Gentile (**Romans 1:16**). My thought was they were initially "appointed" or "ordained (KJV)" behind the Jews. I wanted to get your thoughts on the subject before I responded to this young man. Thanks for your time!

ANSWER:

Those who had been appointed or ordained to eternal life are those mentioned in **John 1:12**." But as many as received him to them gave He the authority or power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name, which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man but God."

How are we elected? "Seeing you have purified your souls **in obeying the truth** through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently, being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, BY THE WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth forever." **Peter 1:22-23**. When did this occur? "Then they that gladly received the word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." **Acts 2:41** "God chose us IN HIM before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having PREDESTINATED US UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN by Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of His Glory of His

grace, WHEREIN HE HAS MADE US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED. **Ephesians 1:4-6**

So before the foundation of the world God chose to save and accept whoever would believe in His Son. Those that believe have the authority to become His Sons and be added to the elect. It is not that we are elected to believe but we believe and were baptized into Christ who makes us accepted to God's glory. Imagine a schoolteacher laying out her plans for a speaker at the PTA meeting. Who shall I let speak on behalf of the students? She decides on a plan that no one knows but her. She says, "I will have the kids number off from 1 to 4. Then I will have all the 1's be on one team, 2's on another etc." Then she tells each of the four teams to pick a captain. Then she has team 1 play team 4 and team 2 to play team 3 in a game. Then there is a playoff of the 2 winners of the first round and team 4 wins the championship. She then tells the captain of that team, Billy Jones, that he has been chosen or elected or appointed or selected or ordained to speak at the PTA.

Why? Because she had decided the night before that the captain of the winning team in the tourney would do the speaking. Did she handpick Billy? No. Was he the Elect? Yes. She had foreordained the captain of the winning team was to speak. It happened to be Billy.

Did God choose George Faull? Is He a part of the elect? Was He ordained to eternal life? Yes. Why? Because I heard the word of truth, I gladly received it. I was baptized into Christ. Therefore, I was given the authority to become His son. He has made me accepted in Christ by His grace. All the promises of God are in Christ. I am in Him so there is no condemnation. I am in Him and so I am a new creature. I am one of the elect.

I was not made so by who is my blood father, or by man's will, nor by being born of the flesh but I was born of the Spirit. That happened when I purified my soul by obeying the truth through the Spirit. I was born again, not of man but by the Word of God that beget me. The Word of God is the seed, or semen, of God and hearing the Word produces faith for faith cometh by hearing the Word of God. When that faith is active and obedient He gives me His Spirit. **Acts 5:32** If a man does not have the Spirit of God he is none of His. Read **Romans 8:14-17**