



IT'S A TEAM EFFORT – Pt. 3

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John 15:16 NKJV - You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Jesus informed His disciples that they were chosen to be on His team.

He also gave them a mission / shared the vision for the team - to bear fruit.

Bishop Norman defined bearing fruit as doing the work of the Kingdom and allowing the Kingdom to work in us. Every member of the team is expected to be productive.

NFL Draft - Team Formation

- * NFL Draft - an annual event in which players are chosen from numerous colleges by various professional football teams.
- * NFL Draft can be a life changing event that provides generational wealth for many young athletes.
- * NFL Draft can change the status of someone's life.
- * Players are drafted based upon the consultation of the owners, managers, and coaches of a team.
- * Players are drafted based on who best fits the team and is best suited to help their team be successful and win a championship.

Salvation - Team Formation of the Body of Christ

We were born again and drafted by Almighty God to become a part of His team, the Body of Christ worldwide and locally.

Ephesians 1:4-5 NLT - 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Our status changed from being lost in sin and separated from God to the superstar status of children of the Most High God.

We are kings and priests unto God.

We are His disciples and ambassadors in the Earth.



I Peter 2:9-10 NLT - 9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. 10 "Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy."

Our salvation can prove to be an event that brings about a generational change in our life, the lives of our family, and many others as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them and they are born again.

(God has provided salvation through Jesus Christ, but he uses you to share the opportunity for salvation.)

We become wealthy spiritually immediately and we now have the ability and the opportunity to become wealthy in our soul, body, finances, relationships,the opportunities are limitless!

*(Like the NFL players, the draft got them on the team, but the success of their career is determined by what they do while on the team. Salvation got you on God's team but your success on the team is determined by how you allow God to work in you and through you. **Philippians 2:13**)*

Salvation is not simply divine life insurance, nor is it your fire escape plan. In fact, the reason God saved you is not just to give you a ticket to Heaven.

(If salvation was only about getting you to Heaven, then the moment you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, God should have let you die so that you could go to Heaven. His job would have been complete and there would be no reason for you to hang around here in the Earth just breathing air and taking up space. But we understand that God's plan for your salvation encompasses much more.)

If we are only focused on getting to Heaven, we have a selfish mindset regarding the purpose of salvation that's not Christlike.

Philippians 2:3-8 AMP - 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit [through factional motives, or strife], but with [an attitude of] humility [being neither arrogant nor self-righteous], regard others as more important than yourselves. 4 Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

(Don't do things out of your own desire for "advancement" or "promotion" which is selfish ambition but have a good ambition to glorify God by serving Him with everything we have and by having a concern for the needs and concerns of others.)

5 Have this same attitude in yourselves which was in Christ Jesus [look to Him as your example in selfless humility], *(It is something that we have choice about. I Corinthians 2:16 - we have the mind of Christ.)*

6 who, although He existed in the form and unchanging essence of God [as One with Him, possessing the fullness of all the divine attributes—the entire nature of deity], did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped or asserted [as if He did not already possess it, or was afraid of losing it]; *(The Lord's possession of divine essence did not cease to be when He came to earth to assume human form. Jesus was equal with the Father. He had it, and chose not to cling to it.)*

7 but emptied Himself [without renouncing or diminishing His deity, but only temporarily giving up the outward expression of divine equality and His rightful dignity] by assuming the form of a bond-servant,



and being made in the likeness of men [He became completely human but was without sin, being fully God and fully man]. *(Jesus did not divest Himself of any of the attributes of deity such as omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence. No deity was subtracted (though he did renounce some of the rights of deity); rather humanity was added to His nature. Jesus emptied Himself into the form of a bondservant (one who gives himself up wholly to another's will), not merely the form of a man.)* **8 After He was found in [terms of His] outward appearance as a man [for a divinely-appointed time], He humbled Himself [still further] by becoming obedient [to the Father] to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

(When God sits enthroned in heaven, there is no one He obeys. Jesus had to leave heaven and become a man in order to become obedient. Obedience is required of those who are in a position below God.)

Our lives should be lived with the selflessness Jesus exemplified - WWJD?

Jesus was selfless in that He was willing to give up His position in Heaven, suffer rejection, pain, humiliation and death to fulfill His mission in providing salvation for mankind.

Are you selfless regarding your God given assignment or is your assignment centered around your availability, your convenience. Some of us can't even endure being offended, inconvenienced. It's all about us instead of others.

Salvation includes you, but it's not all about you. Salvation is about what God wants to do through you.

Philippians 2:13 NLT - For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 NIV - for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

God choose you for a specific purpose with the expectation that you would succeed in the purpose He designed for you.

Philippians 1:6 NIV - 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God gave us the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**) - to go into all the world and preach the gospel - because He intended for us to do it and because it is possible for us to do.