

Sunday, March 3, 2019
Failure is Not an Option: Faith in Christ Alone
Sermon by Pastor Zach Prosser

Care Group Discussion Guide Celebration Church

There are four basic truths about living as a born-again believer.

1. You have a new nature: God's nature

- Being a new creation means being new in both kind and quality: a new species and character (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- "The believer is created anew; his heart is not merely set right, but a new heart is given him. He is the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Though the same as a man, he is changed in his character and conduct" (Matthew Henry).

2. You have a new identity: chosen and appointed

- You are chosen by God to bear fruit for His kingdom (John 15:16).
- The word *chosen* means "to be called out or put forth from among others." Joseph was chosen as a beloved son and given a coat of many colors (Genesis 37:3).
- The word *appointed* means "to establish, abide, set forth or put into place." It celebrates a deliberate and designed transition from an original state of flux to a stationary permanence.
- The Spirit of God is upon those who are chosen and appointed (Matthew 12:18).
- Laying down our lives for God is where we find our appointments as believers (John 10:17). We are changed from mere existence to existing with a deliberate purpose, sustained by the Holy Spirit.

3. You have a new order: God's Word

- The Word of God has a continual life-giving nature, and it is incapable of failing (Isaiah 55:10-11).
- Just as water has different states (solid, liquid, and vapor), the word of God is the same no matter the expression of it (the written word, spoken word, or living word).
- Saturate the seed of God with the word of God. Don't pour poison on your seed.

4. You have a new lifestyle: holiness

- We are called to be holy in order to fulfill God's purposes (2 Timothy 1:9).
- God gives us the power to live holy lives (Ephesians 3:20-21).

- Make provision for God's anointing, not your flesh (Romans 13:14).
- Failure only enters the equation when we make provision for it.