

FINDING YOUR



Destiny

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Seven Steps to Destiny

One of the most challenging tasks facing young adults today is finding their true purpose in life. So many voices are crying for our attention, and everyone around us has their own opinion of what goals we should set for ourselves. The pressure to succeed can be intense, and of course there's the ever-present concern over finances. Many of us enter the adult world and are content just to find a job, a spouse, and have some kids. These are very worthy pursuits, and can be a destiny in them selves. For instance, some women may feel a calling to be an awesome wife and mother, and raise children in a godly home. Some feel called to enter the business world and earn finances with which to finance the work of God.

But many people get a gnawing feeling on the inside - a kind of dull ache, and the ever-present question:

Why am I on this earth? Am I fulfilling my destiny? ...Is this all there is to life?

Do you want to know for sure that you're on the path to true fulfillment in life? The answer is found in **KNOWING GOD**. Your Creator knows you, and He made you for a reason.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, *plans to give you hope and a future*. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jer

emiah 29:11, 12

The Bible makes it clear that God has a **purpose and destiny for every person**. To find this purpose and plan, however, you must get to know your Creator. To find out more about **how to become a Christian**, [click here](#). Once you've become a Christian, then what? Well, in order to make this teaching more practical and easy to follow, here are:

Seven Steps to Destiny

1. **Become a man/woman of prayer, Bible study, and worship**

- Prayer brings intimacy with God. The closer your fellowship with the Lord, the more you'll sense God's heart and desire for your life. You are then more receptive to His specific direction concerning your destiny.
- In Jeremiah 29:11, God declares His great plans for your life. The next sentence declares our need for prayer, and that we will find Him when *we seek Him with all of our heart!* This scripture is obviously linking the fulfillment of our God-given purpose to our need for prayer and deep fellowship with the Lord.
- Daily prayer, worshipping God and Bible study causes spiritual growth, which is essential to fulfilling your destiny.
- God begins putting desires in your heart for His plan for your life as you seek His face.
- It's also important to regularly attend **church**, and fellowship with the Body of Christ.

2. **Become a person of disciplined obedience.** We cannot hope to succeed in fulfilling our destiny without living a disciplined and obedient life. We personally have realized that in order to fulfill our callings in ministry, we have had to make some difficult choices. Sometimes the Lord asks us to pray and read the Bible when we'd rather be watching a good movie. We spend hours in preparation before

ministry engagements, when sometimes we'd rather just relax. We have had to make some sacrifices of money and time. Although living for God is fun and exciting, we must be willing to meet His challenges by disciplining our body and mind, and this is not always easy. Paul talks about this, comparing Christians to well-trained athletes.

- Paul said, "Everyone who competes in the games goes into **strict training**. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." I Corinthians 9:25-27

In Hebrews 12, we are commanded to throw off everything that hinders us, whether it is sin or something that holds us back in our walk with God. It could be an addiction, a bad habit, or an unhealthy relationship that is slowing us down in our race to destiny. It could be our unbelief or undisciplined lifestyle. But whatever it is, we are called to throw it aside!

- "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us *throw off everything that hinders* and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:1-4

3. Fulfill your **greatest destiny**, which is to be a **lover and worshipper of God**. Some people get so caught up in finding the specific destiny for their lives that they miss the most important calling we will ever have, and a calling that we all have in common! I believe that if every Christian would fulfill their highest calling, this world would be totally transformed. The Westminster Catechism says it well:

- "The chief end of man is to love God and enjoy Him forever." Live for God, enjoy Him and revel in His presence. To love, worship, honor and glorify Him is our **awesome calling!**

Jesus was asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" This is what he said:

- Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **Love your neighbor** as yourself." Matthew 22:37.

Do these things first, and you'll be well on your way to fulfilling your destiny in life.

4. **Get to know yourself**. Many people make important life decisions without really stopping to ask themselves: "What do I really enjoy? What do I want out of life?" Before you decide your life's path, remember that you are not responsible to follow your parent's or friends' plan for your life. These are choices only you can make!

- Become self-reflective. Take some time to look inward and get to know you're self.
- Sit down with a piece of paper and just write down things you like to do, and things you're passionate about What really turns you on?

- Get involved in your church and in community service, and see what things you're gifted at and enjoy. If you're going to college, take some classes just to expand your horizons. God wants to lead you, but He wants you to get involved with some things and **take some risks**.

5. **Become emotionally healthy.** Do you find yourself falling into a cycle of failure in some area of your life - for example, in your work or relationships? This could signify that you need some emotional healing. This is an important aspect of succeeding in life, because emotional hurts and wounds can leave you crippled with fear, and afraid to take risks of any kind. Here are some ways to get started:

- Christian counseling
- Teachings by **Joyce Meyer** - she has hundreds of teachings on various aspects of emotional and spiritual maturity, and her testimony is amazing! Her ministry has really helped us in certain aspects of our lives and growth. Visit her website at www.jmministries.org
- Some **books** that have really helped us: *Boundaries* by Cloud and Townsend, *Changes that Heal* by Cloud, and *The Search for Significance* by Mcgee. These can be found in any Christian bookstore or online.

Through these processes, you'll begin to see more clearly your destiny. Have FAITH and believe that God will show you the way! Then...

6. **START DOING IT!** As you gain more and more **confidence** in God's calling for your life, take steps towards your destiny. They may be small steps at first, but that's OK. *Believe you can do it* and GO FOR IT!! Also, keep in mind:

- Expect God to provide for what He has planned for you. For example, many times the Lord has led us to do a missions outreach, and as we have stepped out to obey, He has always been faithful to provide the finances and prayer support. Sometimes God is just waiting for you to take a step forward, and He will meet you there with everything you need.
- Be careful to wait for God's timing and direction as you set out towards your life's goals.
- Be sure to keep the other areas of your life in balance - get enough rest, and take care of your body. Keep in mind that we're in this race to win, but it is a race of **endurance**, so you don't want to burn out from overwork.
- Be a lifetime student. Study and learn about a variety of subjects, especially ones related to your destiny.

7. As Churchill said in a famous speech, "**Never give up! Never give up! Never give up!**" You can be sure that you will face challenges in your quest for God's best. Don't let anything stop you. The enemy will resist you, and even your friends and family may not always understand. Many times these scriptures have strengthened us:

- So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to **persevere** so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Hebrews 10:35
- Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9
- Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops **perseverance**. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

In closing, it is our prayer that the Lord will speak to you through this teaching, and that you will be strengthened in your walk with the Lord.

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Introduction: The Wonder of Being Human

One day last week I when Noël and I were praying together, I found myself thanking God for the wonder of being a human. We have the astonishing capacity to see and hear and feel, and then to think about all this amazing reality, and then to form judgments about it all and know right and wrong and good and bad and beautiful and ugly, and then to feel profound emotions of love and hate and joy and discouragement and wonder and hope and gratitude, and then to reason and plan our lives in ways that accomplish things. And best of all is to find all these wonderful human capacities caught up in knowing and loving and serving the greatest Being in the universe—our Maker and our Savior and our God. It was one of those rare moments—like a brief brush with eternity.

One of the great benefits of having a dog is the increased awareness that I am not one. I look at our dog, Sable, and think for a moment that she is kind and forgiving and humble and patient and loving and warm and gentle and happy and peaceful. Then I realize she's a dog! She does not know or reason or feel or judge like I do. She does not prize anything because of its true worth—its relation to God. She doesn't know where she came from. She doesn't reflect on her identity and wonder who she is or what it means ultimately in God's scheme of things to be a dog. She doesn't think about why she's here and doesn't know where she's going.

She is a wonder, and can call forth amazing affection. But she is not a human created in the image of God. And as I think about her, I am amazed at my own humanity. And at the incredible wonders of the humans I live with.

Inexpressible Horror or Spectacular Glory

To be alive as a human being with indescribable mysteries at every turn, and to have in front of us an eternal destiny of spectacular glory or inexpressible horror is a weight that can either press you down with fear and trembling or bear you up with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Whether it does the one or the other depends in large measure on whether you know the answer to the big basic human questions or not. Who are you? How did you get that identity? What are you here for? No dog or turtle or fish or squirrel or bird or dolphin or chimpanzee ever lost one night's sleep pondering those questions. Only humans ask these questions. Only humans kill themselves and kill others when they don't get true and satisfying answers to these questions.

Not often do we find such resoundingly clear answers to all three questions in such a small space as we do in this text this morning. Who am I? How did I get this identity? What's it for—Why am I here?

So let's take a deep breath this morning and go back to the beginning as it were—or go down to the rock bottom foundational questions of life, and listen to the Word of God, and wonder and stand in awe of what he has to say about these three things.

Who Are You?

Keep in mind that Peter is identifying Christians. This is who you are if you are a Christian. This is how you got your identity as a Christian. This is what you are here for as a Christian.

First, he gives five ways of describing your identity, answering the question of who you are.

1. You Are a Chosen Race

Verse 9: "You are a chosen race."

I know that this is a corporate identity, he's talking about the church—the true Israel. But the implication is individual, because this race is not racial. The chosen race is not black or white or red or yellow or brown. The chosen race is a new people from all the peoples—all the colors and cultures—who are now aliens and strangers among in the world. See verse 11, "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers . . ."

What gives us our identity is not color or culture. But chose. Christians are not the white race; they are the chosen race. Christians are not the black race; they are the chosen race. We are the black chosen and the white chosen and the yellow chosen and the red chosen. Out from all the races we have been chosen—one at a time, not on the basis of belonging to any group.

That's why this amazing phrase is individually crucial for you; you are part of the "chosen race" because the race is made up of individuals who were chosen—from all the races. So your first identity is that you are chosen. God chose you. Not because of your race—or for any other qualification—God chose you. Who am I? I am chosen. I do not know why. It was nothing in me of value above other humans. I did not earn it or merit it, or meet any conditions to get it. It happened before I was born. I stand in awe of it. I tremble with joy at it. I bow and accept it. I long to be faithful to its purpose. I am chosen.

2. You Are Pitied

Verse 10b: “. . . you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

I choose the word "pitied" because the word for mercy in Greek here is a verb and the closest word we have in English like "merced" is "pitied." It's not a bad translation. When God chose us, he then saw us in our sin and guilt and condemnation and he pitied us. We are not just chosen. We are pitied. We are the not just the objects of his choice, but the objects of his mercy.

I am chosen and I am pitied—or you could say I am "graced." I am "loved." God did not just choose me and stand aloof. He chose me and then drew near in mercy to help me and save me. My identity is fundamentally this: I have been shown mercy. I am a "merced" person. I get my identity not first from my actions, but from being acted upon—with pity. I am a pitied one.

3. You Are God's Possession

This is expressed twice. Verse 9: "You are . . . a people for God's own possession." Verse 10a: "You once were not a people, but now you are the people of God."

You are chosen by God; you are pitied by God; and the effect of that pity—that mercy—is that God takes you to be his own possession. Now God owns everything. So in one sense everyone is God's possession. So this must mean something special. And, of course, it does. You are God's inheritance. You are the ones he aims to spend eternity with. When God says (in 2 Corinthians 6:16), "I will be their God and they will be my people [my possession]," what he means is that "I will dwell in them and walk among them."

You are chosen; you are pitied; you are God's possession—the ones he will walk among and reveal himself to in a personal relation forever.

4. You Are Holy

Verse 9: "You are a . . . holy nation."

You have been chosen and pitied and possessed by God; and therefore you are not merely part of the world anymore. You are set apart for God. You exist for God. And since God is holy, you are holy. You share his character, because he chose you, pitied you, possessed you. You are holy. If you do not act in a holy way, you act out of character. You contradict your essence as a Christian. For your identity is holiness to the Lord: you are holy.

And finally,

5. You Are a Royal Priest

Verse 9: "You are a . . . royal priesthood."

You are chosen by God and pitied by God and possessed by God and holy like God and royal priests to God. The point here is first that you have immediate access to God—you don't need another human priest as a mediator. God himself provided the one Mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ. You have direct access to God, through God. And, second, you have an exalted, active role in God's presence. You are not chosen, pitied, possessed, and holy just to fritter away your time doing nothing. You are called now to minister in the presence of God. All your life is priestly service. You are never out of God's presence. You are never in a neutral zone. You are always in the court of the temple. And your life is either a spiritual service of worship (Romans 12:1–2), or it is out of character.

So you can see that your identity—the question, "Who are you?"—leads directly to the question, "What are you here for?" Your identity leads to your destiny. You are chosen, pitied, possessed, and holy—all for a purpose—to minister as priests. And the heart of that ministry Peter describes for us very clearly.

How Did You Get This Identity?

But before we answer the question what we are here for, let's pause just a moment and answer the middle question: How did I get this identity?

The answer is almost too obvious. We got our identity from God. In fact our identity is our relation to God. We are chosen by GOD. We are pitied by GOD. We are possessed by GOD. We are set apart as holy by GOD. We are invested as royal priests by GOD.

Peter says this in a summary statement at the end of verse 9. He refers to God like this: "Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." The light we live in his the light of our being chosen and pitied and possessed and holy and priestly. And the way we got there is that God called us. He called us out of darkness into this marvelous light.

So the answer to the question: How did we get this identity is that God gave it to us. He gave it to us by virtue of his irresistible call. (I know that we were chosen by God before we were called by God. So it might look like I'm not saying it quite right. But what I mean is that the experience of walking in the light of being chosen—the experience of that identity—is the effect of God's sovereign call.)

God gave us the identity we have.

What Are You Here For?

What we saw was that our identity led directly to our destiny: we are chosen, pitied, possessed, and holy all for the sake of being a royal priesthood. But Peter is more specific when he tells us the precise reason for our existence. He says in verse 9: b that we exist for this reason: "that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." This is the full-time destiny of a royal priest—to make the glories of the king known.

Our Identity and Its Purpose

There is a lot of discussion in our day of self-concept or self-identity. How do we view ourselves? It is an important question. And what I hope you hear this morning is that the specifically biblical angle on this question is that Christian selfhood is not defined in terms of who we are in and of ourselves. It's defined in terms of what God does to us and the relationship he creates with us and the destiny he appoints for us. In other words as a Christian you cannot talk about your identity without talking about the action of God on you, the relationship of God with you, and the purpose of God for you. The biblical understanding of human self-identity is radically God-centered.

Who am I? Who are you? You are a God-chosen one, a God-pitied one, a God-possessed one, a God-sanctified one. The very language of our identity in this text necessitates that God be included as the one who acts. Our identity is not an end in itself, but for the sake of priestly service, which Peter defines as proclaiming the Excellencies of the One who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

God made us who we are so that we might proclaim the excellence of his freedom in choosing us. The excellence of his grace in pitying us. The Excellencies of his authority and power in possessing us. The Excellencies of his worth and purity in making us holy.

In other words he has given us our identity in order that his identity might be proclaimed through us. God made us who we are so we could make known who he is. Our identity is for the sake of making known his identity. The meaning of our identity is that the excellence of God be seen in us.

Therefore being a Christian and making the greatness of God known are almost identical. We can do it in church services with preaching and singing and praying and reading. We can do it in our small groups as

we tell each other what God has been for us, or what we need him to be for us. We can do it at work as we tell people what we love about God and why we think he is great. And we can do it in a thousand different ways of love that suit our situation and personality.

The Story of Doug Nichols

For example, I'll close with this wonderful story of how Doug Nichols, the International Director of Action International Ministries, made the excellencies of God known in a tuberculosis sanitarium in India in 1967—he was a missionary with Operation Mobilization and got TB. He was in the sanitarium for several months. He tried to give tracts and copies of the gospel of John away, but no one would take them. They didn't like him and assumed he was a rich American.

At one point for several nights he would wake up coughing at 2 AM. He noticed a little old emaciated man trying to get out of bed. The man couldn't stand up, and began to whimper. He lay back into bed. In the morning the stench in the ward was terrible and everyone was angry at the old man for not containing himself. The nurse who cleaned up even smacked the old man for making such a mess.

The next night the very same thing happened. Doug woke up coughing with his own terrible sickness and weakness. He saw the old man try again to get out of bed. Again he couldn't stand, and began to cry softly. Doug got out of bed went over to the old man. The man cowered with fear. But Doug picked him up with both arms and carried him to the bathroom which was just a hole in the floor, and then brought him back. The man kissed him on the cheek as he put him down in bed.

At 4 AM another patient woke Doug with a steaming cup of tea and made motions that said he wanted a copy of the booklet—the gospel of John. Through that whole day people kept coming to him and asking for his booklets even though he could not speak their language.

In other words one way to declare the Excellencies of God is to act them out. When we act out the Excellencies of God, people will hear them with even greater eagerness. Which is just another way of saying that our identity—who we are—is for the sake of God? God made us who we are to show the world who he is.

1. God **loves you** and offers a wonderful **plan** for your life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Whoever puts his trust in God's Son will not be lost but will have life that lasts forever. For God did not send His Son into the world to say it is guilty. He sent His Son so the world might be saved from the punishment of sin by Him"

~ *St John 3:16-17*

2. Man is **sinful** and **separated** from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

"For all men have sinned and have missed the greatness of God"

~ *Romans 3:23*

3. Jesus Christ is God's **only** provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

"But God showed His love to us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"
~ *Romans 5:8*

4.

We must individually **receive** Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

"For by His loving-favor you have been saved from the punishment of sin through faith. It is not by anything you have done. It is a gift from God. It is not given to you because you worked for it.
If you could work for it, you would be proud"
~ *Ephesians 2:8,9*

God has appointed a destiny for you. He created you for that purpose. You were designed for it. Your life experiences and all the things that influence you are moving you in a certain direction that you are meant to go. Life would be meaningless without things working that way. It is true that the meaning of life is the meaning we give to it. But it is also true that the meaning of life is inherent in the existence of the universe and our destiny which God created it with. It is all a matter of aligning our thoughts with the thoughts of God in order to experience the perfect meaning of everything.

Some say we have power to create our own reality, that through belief and intent we can and should specify our personal future. And yet experience shows reality is already predicated upon a design more elegant than anything we can specify through our temporal desires. Cosmic ordering doesn't always work because what you believe or hope for doesn't always happen and you do not always get what you expect to get.

Others therefore say we should go with the flow and accept what comes. And yet experience shows that while some things are destined, more mundane things are left to choice. Abandoning the responsibility to choose invites the influence of other powers to decide over your life with often unpleasant consequences. Some part of the future is alterable and another is not.

There is destiny and there is free will. They coexist. Destiny is a straight line. Free will is like an oscillating wave above and below that line. You are not forced to live your destiny but you are tethered to it. You can imagine that time has you hooked on a fishing line. You can swim left or right, ahead or back away but you ultimately are getting reeled in. With that in mind, focus on the fact that ultimately you will live out at least some of your destiny. Now think about destiny as a process not a destination. Your destiny is an unfolding story that shapes who you become.

The bigger things in life we cannot change. The smaller things we can. Life is a river whose flow we cannot reverse, yet we have freedom to navigate within that flow. Near the shore we move slowly and roughly, near the center we move quickly and smoothly. We can humbly accept the bigger things and still actively direct the smaller things.

How do you know your destiny? By knowing your desire. Your desires were divinely placed within you. Your destiny is a natural extension of you being. You were designed for your destiny. When you look into your true feelings, you will find that your destiny feels right with you and feels right for you. Your destiny is where your heart is truly moving you towards. Follow your heart and you will realize your destiny.

Even though you have been given a destiny, was created and designed for it, you can still choose whether to follow it or not. We cannot choose our destiny which we were created with, but we can choose our destiny by accepting or denying it. Even if we do not choose to follow our destiny, we will still fulfill it to a certain extent because divine influence arranges circumstances to happen in such a way that our choices and actions still result in the fulfillment of our purpose. The difference is that we may not have been able to enjoy every single one of the blessings that we could have experienced if we had chosen to do what we were meant to do.

No one gets to choose his destiny but everyone gets to choose his fate. You get to choose whether your ending is good or bad, and whether your experience is good or bad. Everyone's destiny is always good. Choosing to follow your life's purpose will always bring you to a place of glory, happiness and perfection. As long as you are moving in that direction, watch the universe bless you with all the things you need in order to fulfill your dreams.

There is only one place where destiny can be changed. That place is at Calvary where Jesus Christ was crucified for our sins that all who believe in him as savior will be born of God. Their destiny will no longer be the same for it will be in Christ. Everyone's destiny is good in this world but not everyone's destiny will be good in the world to come. The effect of salvation is upon all people but only those who make the choice of believing in the Son of God in this world will secure eternal life, both in this world and for the world to come. Only when your destiny is found in Christ will it be a perfect destiny.

DESTINY **and** **PREDESTINATION**

(Psalms 33:8-22 NKJV) Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. {9} For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. {10} The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. {11} The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations. {12} Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance. {13} The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. {14} From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; {15} He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. {16} No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. {17} A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. {18} Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy, {19} To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine. {20} Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. {21} For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. {22} Let your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we hope in you.

(Psalms 37:23-24 NKJV) The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. {24} Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.

(Psalms 65:4 NKJV) Blessed is the man you choose, and cause to approach You, That he may dwell in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, Of Your holy temple.

(Jeremiah 1:5 NKJV) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

(Matthew 11:25-26 NKJV) At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven

and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. {26} "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in your sight.

(Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

(Luke 8:10 NKJV) And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

(Luke 10:20-21 NKJV) "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." {21} In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in your sight.

(John 6:37-40 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. {38} "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. {39} "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. {40} "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

(John 6:44-45 NKJV) "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. {45} "It is written in the prophets, 'and they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

(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.

(John 15:19 NKJV) "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

(John 17:9 NKJV) "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom you have given Me, for they are Yours.

(Acts 2:38-39 NKJV) Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. {39} "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

(Acts 13:48 NKJV) Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

(Acts 17:24-28 NKJV) "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. {25} "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. {26} "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, {27} "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; {28} "for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

(Romans 8:26-39 NKJV) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. {27} Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. {28} And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. {29} For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. {30} Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. {31} What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? {32} He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? {33} Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. {34} Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. {35} Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {36} As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." {37} Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. {38} For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, {39} nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 9:13-26 NKJV) As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." {14} What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! {15} For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." {16} So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. {17} For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." {18} Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. {19} You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" {20} But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?" {21} Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? {22} What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, {23} and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, {24} even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? {25} As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." {26} "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."

(Romans 11:5-6 NKJV) Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. {6} And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

(Romans 11:29-36 NKJV) For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. {30} For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, {31} even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. {32} For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. {33} Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! {34} "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" {35} "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" {36} For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

(1 Corinthians 1:26-31 NKJV) For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. {27} But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; {28} and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, {29} that no flesh should glory in His presence. {30} But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; {31} that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

(Ephesians 1:2-14 NKJV) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. {3} Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, {4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, {5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. {7} In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace {8} which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, {9} having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, {10} that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him. {11} In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, {12} that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. {13} In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, {14} who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

(Colossians 3:12-15 NKJV) Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; {13} bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. {14} But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. {15} And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

(James 1:17-18 NKJV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. {18} Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

(1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; {10} who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

(Revelation 13:6-8 NKJV) Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. {7} It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. {8} All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.