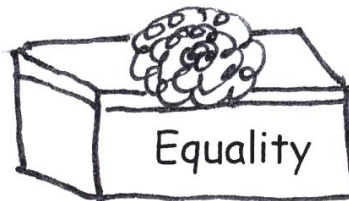
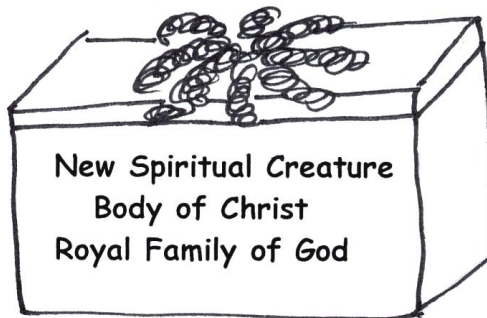
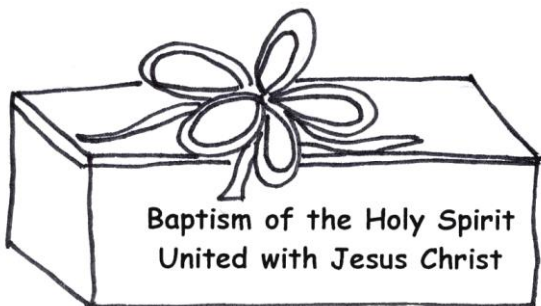


With The New Nature  
Comes New Things  
Part 2

12-16-09 - Equal Privilege and Equal Opportunity

What fantastic gifts God has for believers in the Church Age! They are the only gifts that truly make us happy!! We've already talked about the baptism of the Holy Spirit which unites us with the Lord Jesus Christ and makes us part of the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit makes us new spiritual creatures and puts us in the royal family of God. Awesome! We've talked about God's predesigned plan and the personal sense of destiny he has for members of the royal family. Outstanding! We've mentioned the portfolio of invisible assets God has given us. Magnificent!\* Now we are going to talk about the equality God gives believers. Remarkable!

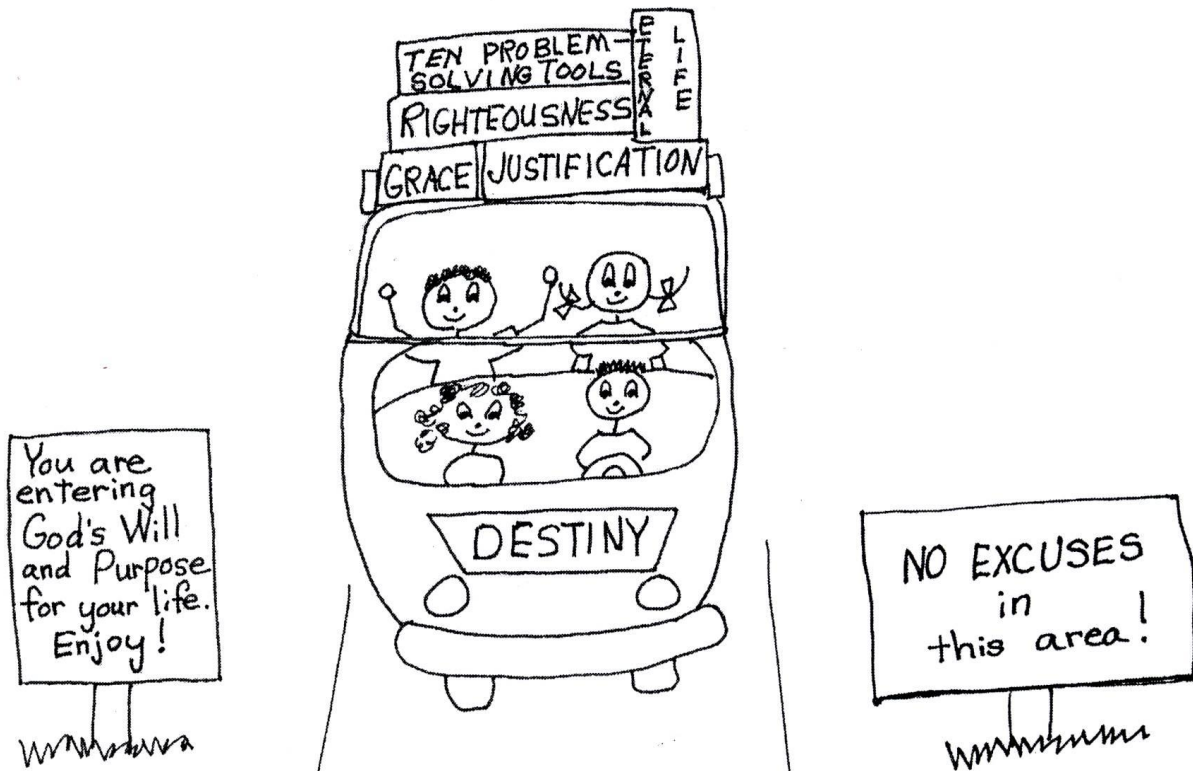
\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read, *Newness of Life In Christ, More About the Newness of Life in Christ* and *With the New Nature Comes New Things*.



2 Corinthians 5:17  
Therefore if anyone is in Christ [Church Age believer], he is a new creature; the old things passed away [lost their power]; behold, new things have come.

**Equal: Possessing the same privileges or rights.** God has given every Church Age believer the same privileges or rights. He has also given them the same opportunities or times to use those privileges. It doesn't matter if they are male or female, rich or poor, high intelligence or low intelligence. They all have equal privileges and equal opportunities!\*

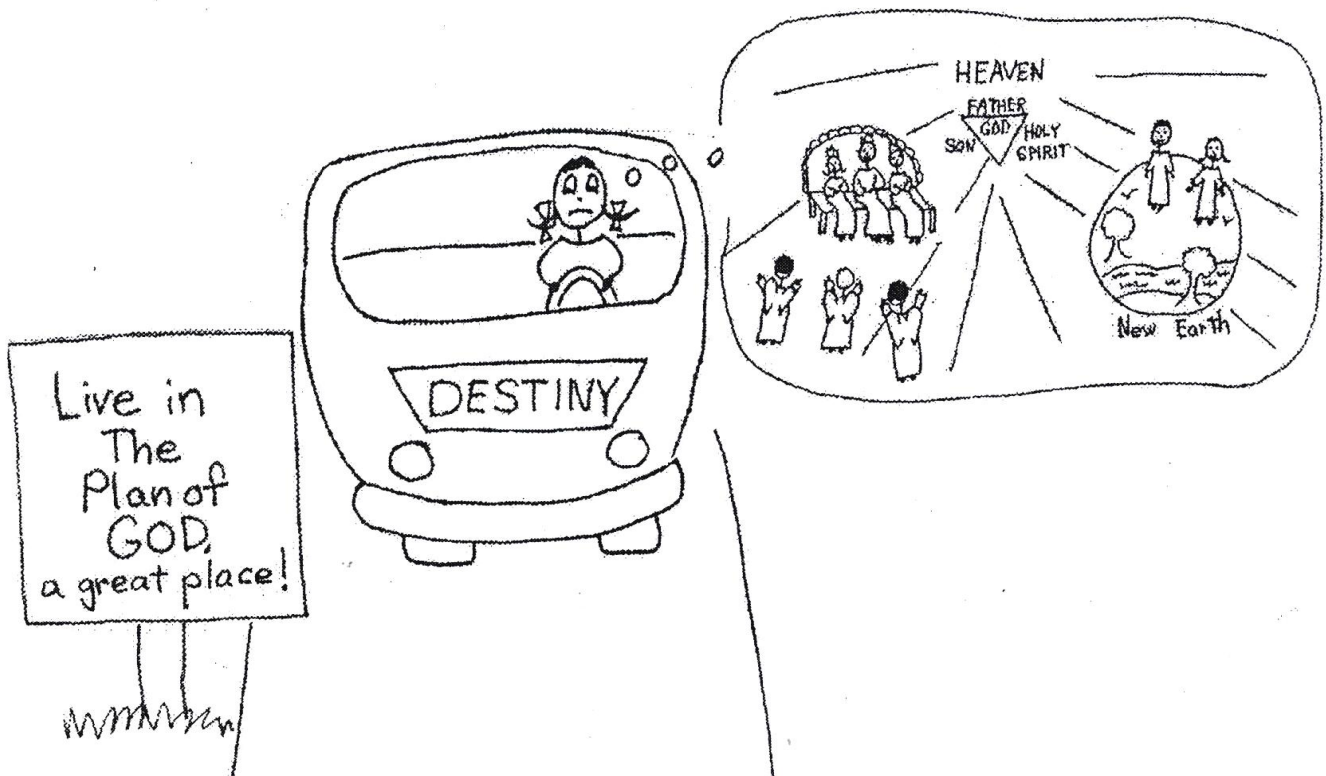
\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *No Excuses*.



1 Peter 1:3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life [the natural life] and godliness [the spiritual life], through the true knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and excellence [goodness].

Billions of years ago God willed His highest and best for us. When we believed in Jesus Christ as our Savior, we were called or elected to those privileges of His highest and best. Under predestination, God has provided a predesigned plan for the believer to live in so he can have God's highest and best.\* Nothing but the best from God!

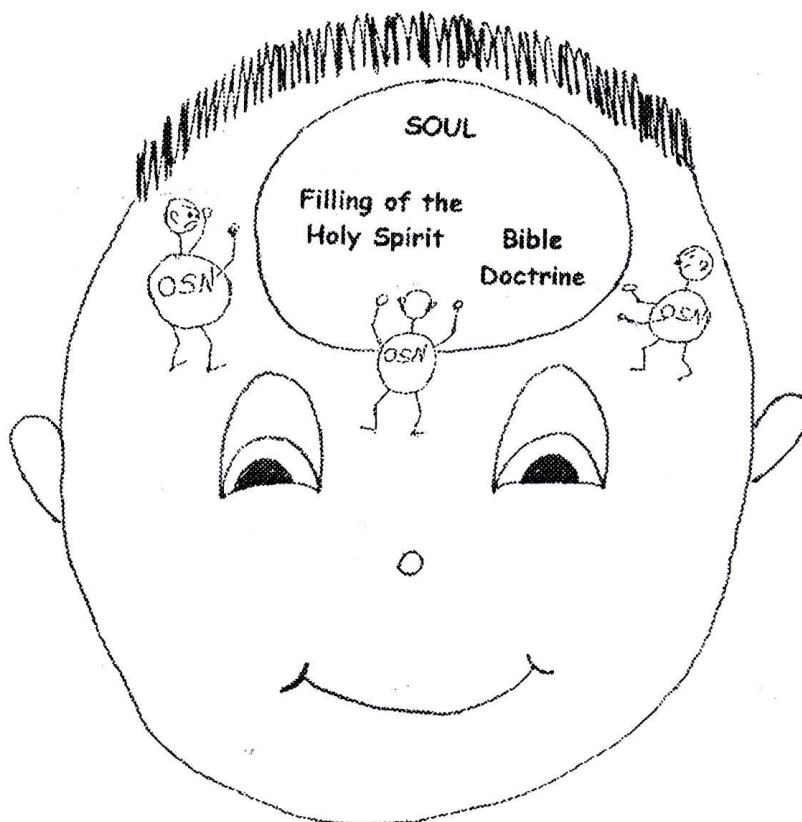
\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *Predesigned Plan of God*.



2 Timothy 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose [predesigned plan] and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity....

To receive God's highest and best and live in His plan we have to be filled with the Holy Spirit\*. We also must learn, believe and use Bible doctrine. The choice is ours and it depends on our thinking. Are we using our own thinking or the thinking of Jesus Christ? Are we depending on God or on ourselves? Our lives depend on how much knowledge we have of our Lord Jesus Christ. Knowledge of Him moves us in the right direction in our spiritual lives! Let the Lord keep us moving forward!

\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *PSD #2 Filling of the Holy Spirit*.

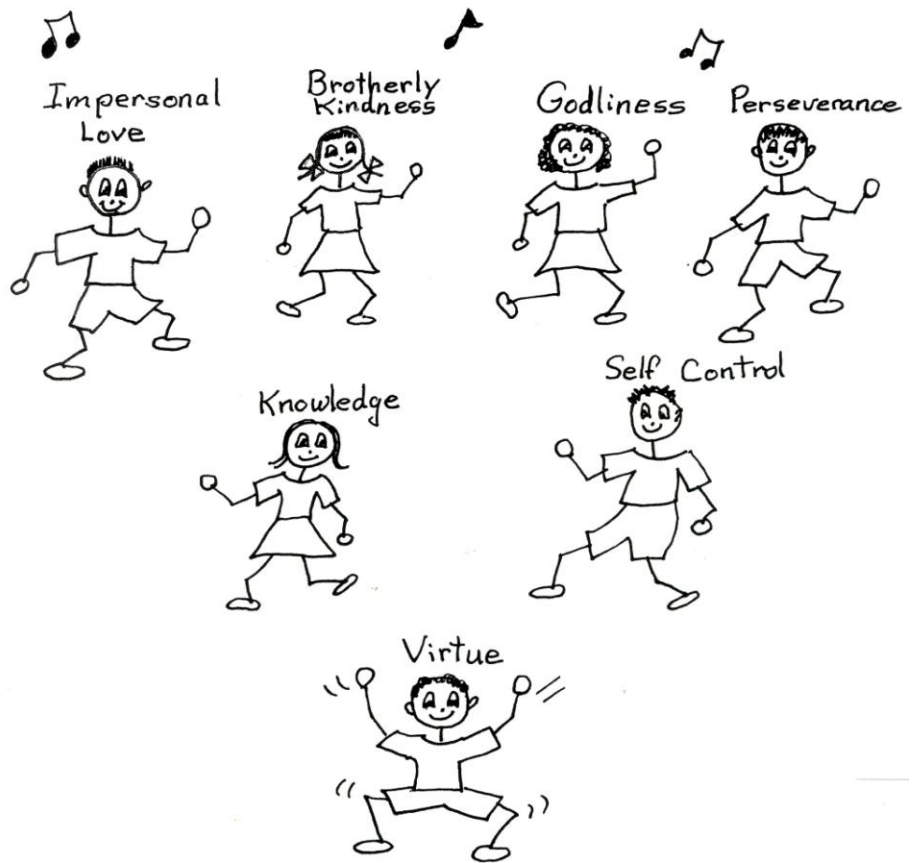


Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh [the old sin nature].

When we let the Lord motivate us or move us in the right direction we will develop qualities God wants us to have.\* Some of these qualities are: virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly love and impersonal love. These qualities will make us useful in the plan of God and help us to produce the fruit of the Spirit.\*\* This will all be done through the power of the Holy Spirit and learning, believing and using Bible Doctrine. We'll be learning about God's highest and best for us! Let's organize our lives so we can keep learning!

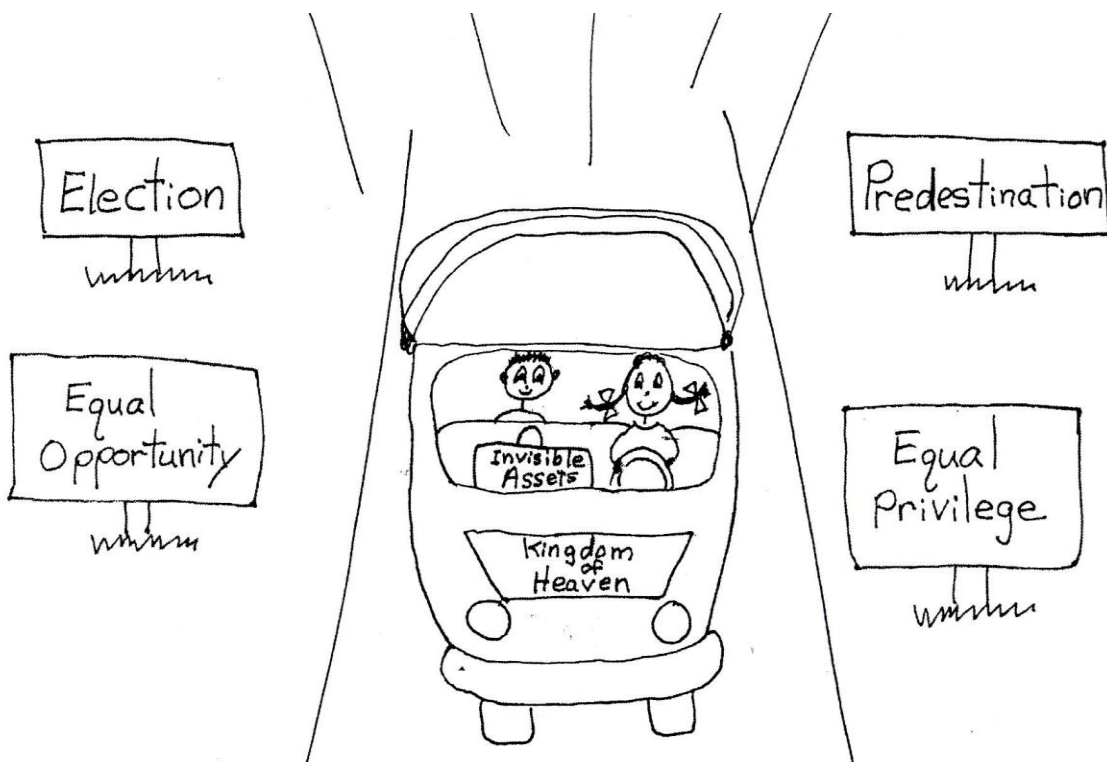
\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *A Chorus of Seven*.

\*\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read booklets under the heading "Fruit of the Spirit".



2 Peter 1:8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing [ready for action], they render you [cause you to be] neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Believers all start out with an equal amount of faith, equal privilege and equal opportunity. However, we have the freedom to use or not to use these gifts. The choice is always ours. In His grace, God has given us everything. This means we don't earn it or deserve it!\* When we depend on God's grace we depend on the character and nature of God.\*\* God wants us to focus on Him. That is why He gives us everything we need and promises to take care of **all** of our needs! Let's make use of our privileges and opportunities! \*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *It's Not About You Or Me*. \*\*Read *Our God Is An Awesome God*.

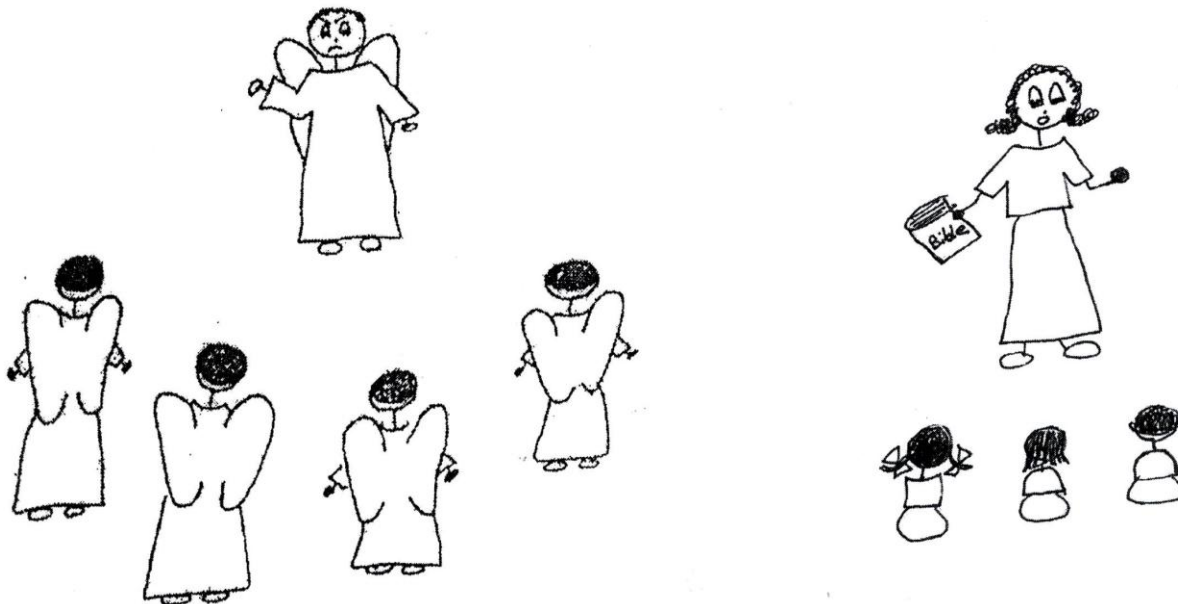


2 Peter 1:1-3  
 Simon Peter a bond-servant [slave] and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace [prosperity]

be multiplied to you in [by means of] the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness [spiritual life], through the true knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and excellence [goodness].

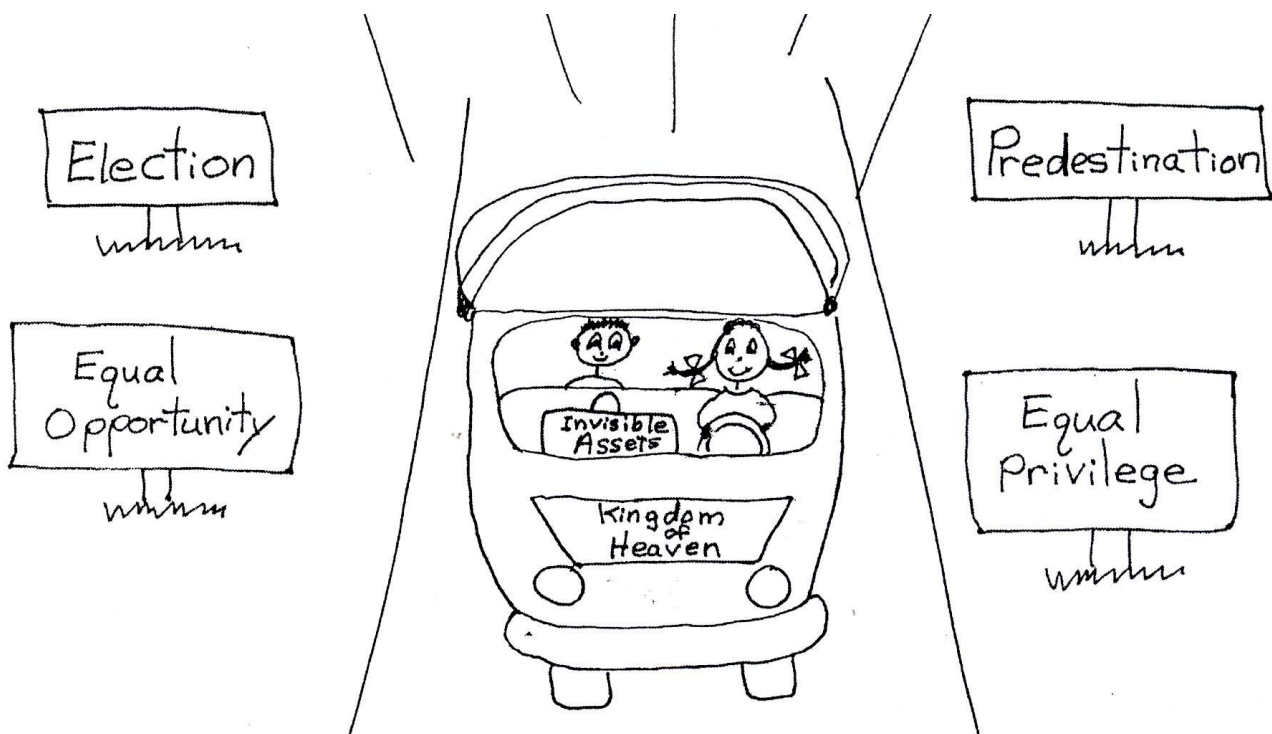
Satan wants to blind us to God's grace and His nature. To do this he tries to get us to be arrogant or self-centered. He has our old sin natures and the cosmic system working for him. He wants us to be occupied with thinking about ourselves and not occupied with thinking about the Lord Jesus Christ. He also wants to blind us to the truth by getting us to hate Bible doctrine. With Satan, our old sin natures and the cosmic system hating the thinking of Jesus Christ, we have a lot trying to pull us away from God. We **need** to be filled with the Holy Spirit and learn, believe and use Bible doctrine daily. We **need** to know that we have the love, grace and mercy of God\*.

\*Go to [allaboardgodstrain.org](http://allaboardgodstrain.org) and read *God Comforts Us Through His Mercy and Grace*.



John 8:44b He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

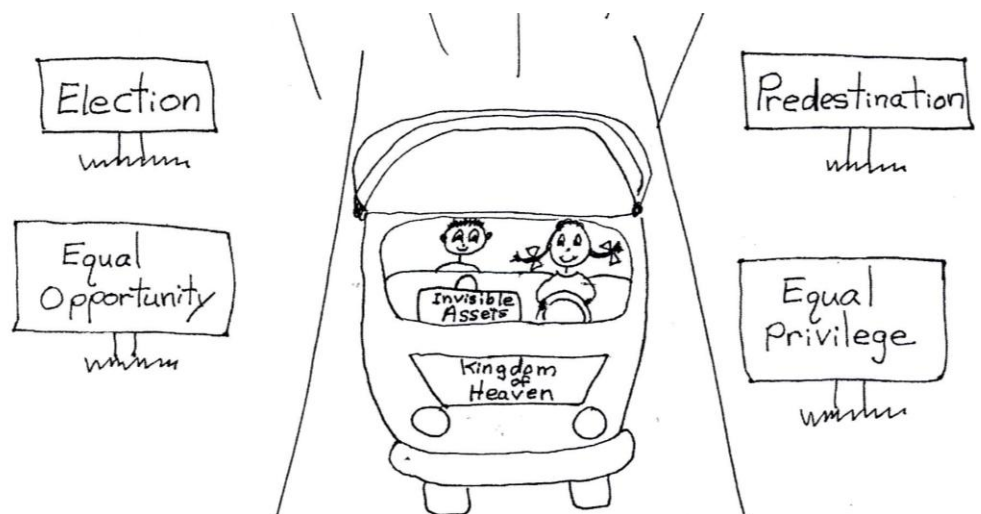
Very few believers take seriously their calling or election from God. They don't take seriously that they have been elected to receive God's highest and best! God has voted us in already! He's given us everything we need for our natural and spiritual lives. We just **need** to use our equal privileges and equal opportunities. We **need** to live in the predesigned plan of God for our lives! Then we will receive His highest and best! Let's take seriously what God has called or elected us to receive!



2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you [electing you]; for as long as you practice these things [read verses 5-7], you will never stumble....

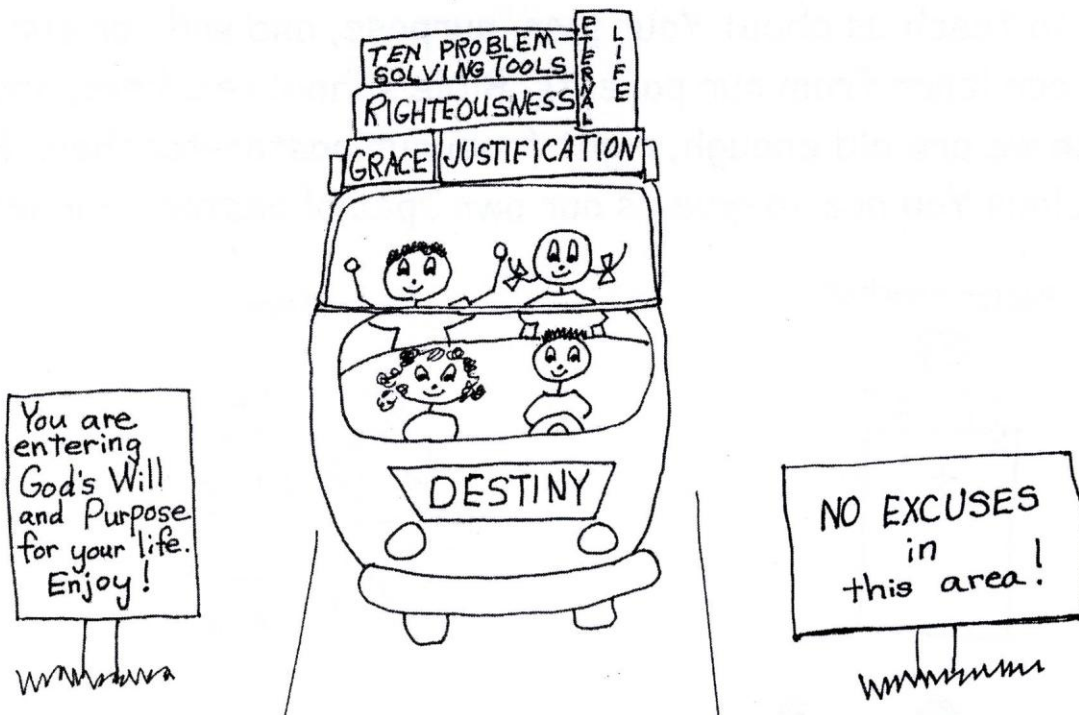
## Points for Discussion

1. God has fantastic gifts for believers in the Church Age.
2. God has given Church Age believers equal privileges and equal opportunities.
3. Under predestination, God has provided a predesigned plan for the believer to live in so he can have God's highest and best.
4. To receive God's highest and best and live in His plan we have to be filled with the Holy Spirit and learn, believe and use Bible doctrine.
5. When we let the Lord motivate us or move us in the right direction we will develop qualities or virtues God wants us to have.
6. Believers all start out with an equal amount of faith, equal privilege and equal opportunity.
7. Satan wants to blind us to God's grace and His nature.
8. Very few believers take seriously their calling or election from God.



## Questions for Discussion

1. What are some of the gifts God has for believers in the Church Age?
2. Does any believer have an excuse for not living in the plan of God for his life?
3. For the believer, what does election mean? What does predestination mean?
4. How can we receive God's highest and best?
5. What are some of the qualities God wants us to have?
6. Why does God give us so many grace gifts?
7. Why does Satan want to blind us to God's nature and grace?
8. Why don't some believers receive God's highest and best?



# Coloring Page



Impersonal  
Love



Brotherly  
Kindness



Godliness Perseverance



Knowledge



Self Control



Virtue



2 Peter 1:5-7 Now for this very reason also, making every effort, by means of your doctrine supply virtue; and [with] your virtue [supply] knowledge; and in your knowledge, [supply] self control; and in your self control, [supply] perseverance [endurance or consistency]; and in your perseverance, [supply] godliness [living the spiritual life]; and in your godliness, [supply] brotherly kindness [love for members of the Royal Family]; and in your love for members of the Royal Family, [supply] impersonal love for all mankind.

*With the New Nature Comes New Things Part 2*

References: Robert McLaughlin Bible Ministries  
[www.gbible.org](http://www.gbible.org)

Tree of Life from the week ending 12-6-09  
Lessons: 12 - 2,3,4 - 09