

28. Only the actual events of divine and human history are retained in this imaginary computer the totality of which is the divine decree or the will of God.
29. There are a number of doctrinal terms that are related to the decree, for example foreknowledge. God knows who will use his free will to believe in Christ for salvation. Foreknowledge of these decisions cannot be foreknown until they are first decreed.
30. What this means is that our volition is absolutely free. God does not preprogram us to believe. In His omniscience, He is able to look into human history and discern who will believe and who will not do so.
31. That information is retained in the divine decree. From that information God is able to foreknow those who will believe. Those who are identified as believers will then be classified as being among the elect.
32. Predestination is associated with the divinely imputed assets and privileges that are to be imputed to these believers beginning at the moment of their salvation.
33. Principle: If God knew in eternity past that you would use your free will to believe in Jesus for salvation, then it follows that He also made decisions to accommodate that decision with plan for you.
34. That plan is also in the divine decree. It is personal with your name on it. If you placed your faith in Jesus, God knew it would occur in time. Knowing this, He had a plan for you.
35. If He knew you would become positive to the inculcation of His Word, there is a plan for that in the decree. If not interested, there is a plan for that called divine discipline.
36. Take for example the seven salvation ministries of the Holy Spirit:
  - (1) **Efficacious Grace.** When evangelized an unbeliever is under common grace where the Holy Spirit makes the gospel clear and understandable for that person. Efficacious grace occurs when at positive volition the person's faith is made effectual for salvation by the Holy Spirit. That's in the decree.

**Matthew 22:14** “For many are called but few are chosen.” (NASB)

This brief comment by our Lord refers to the dividing line between unbelievers and believers. The word “called” is the predicate adjective **κλητός (klētós)** which speaks of an invitation. In context it refers to the presentation of the gospel of salvation to an unbeliever under the common-grace ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The word “chosen” is the predicate adjective **ἐκλεκτός (eklektós)** which refers to election of the believer who responds positively to the gospel under the efficacious-grace ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Every person in history has the opportunity to hear or read about the gospel of salvation through faith in Christ. These are the “called” or *klētós*.

Those who respond to the gospel are referred to as “the few.” These are the “chosen” or *eklektós* or the “elect.”

- (2) **The Sealing Ministry of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit seals that believer’s name in the Book of Life forever. Those who reject the gospel have their names blotted out of the Book of Life forever. See Ephesians 1:13 compared with Revelation 20:15.
- (3) **Regeneration.** This is a technical biblical term for Operation Born Again. The Greek word is **καταλλαγή (katallagḗ)** and it indicates a change from a state of enmity between the individual and God to a state of divine favor.

Imputed sin at salvation places all mankind at enmity with perfect God. Faith in Christ results in the barrier being removed so that divine favor results.

**Titus 3:5** He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

- (4) **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit.** At salvation the Holy Spirit places us in union with Christ. Because of this we share what Christ has: eternal life, divine righteousness, eternal destiny, royalty, and a new spiritual species.

James makes these things personal to his audience. We established in James 1:1 that he writes his epistle to the Diaspora of the first century, Jews scattered over the known world at that time.

We observed that these people were the progeny of Diaspora that previously occurred in Jewish history, for example, those from Samaria into Assyria and other areas of the Middle East, and those from Judah into Babylonia and its environs.

This is indicated by the phrase, “so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures” in James 1:18.

(5) **The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

Simultaneously with salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells the body of the believer.

**1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

**1 Corinthians 6:19** Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

The purpose of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is to provide a temple for the indwelling of Jesus Christ as the Shekinah Glory.

This is necessary since the body of the believer is saturated with the sin nature’s presence in every cell.

Jesus Christ resides within the temple provided by the Holy Spirit where He is our guarantee of escrow blessings on deposit in heaven and of which He is the escrow Officer.

From that temple Jesus dispenses escrow blessing for time to the believer who advances in the spiritual life inside the divine power system.

In the dispensation of Israel, the Shekinah Glory, Jesus Christ, dwelt between cherubim in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle. His presence was a guarantee of blessings to Israel through the unconditional covenants.

The same was also true when the Holy of Holies was within Solomon's temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 7:1–3).

In the Church Age, the Shekinah Glory lives in our bodies as a guarantee of escrow blessings which are greater than those promised to Israel.

It is important to note that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit relates to the body of the believer, while the filling of the Holy Spirit relates to the soul of the believer.

The indwellings of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father have nothing to do with the spiritual life of the believer but for blessings.

(6) **The Filling of the Holy Spirit.**

This salvation ministry occurs at the moment of salvation and establishes His residence in the newly created divine power system or residence inside the bubble.

Its duration depends on the length of time between salvation and the commission of the new believer's first personal sin.

Sin removes the person from the bubble and results in being "out of fellowship" with the Holy Spirit. This fellowship is reacquired by the use of the first problem-solving device: rebound or confession alone to God alone (1 John 1:9).

The filling of the Spirit is the second of the problem-solving devices and is noted in Scripture by the present passive imperative of the verb **πληρώω (plērōō)** in Ephesians 5:18b, "be filled with the Holy Spirit." The present tense is customary denoting that which habitually occurs, or may be reasonably expected to occur.

The passive voice is permissive indicating that the believer out of fellowship must allow himself to be filled by the Holy Spirit while the imperative mood is a command.

Again, the process of acquiring lost fellowship is through rebound and maintenance of the filling is avoidance of sin in three categories, mental attitude, verbal, and/or overt.

The verb indicates that the believer is to be habitually filled with the Holy Spirit which results in His influence, guidance, and direction through the inculcation, retention, recall, and application of resident doctrine.

### (7) **Distribution of Spiritual Gifts to Believers**

All three members of the Trinity are involved in imputing a spiritual gift to each believer at the moment of salvation:

God the Father confirmed the distribution:

**Hebrews 2:4** And God confirming their witness, both by means of signs and wonders, also by means of a variety of powers, and by distribution of spiritual gifts from the source of the Holy Spirit according to His will.” (EXT)

Jesus Christ was involved in the initial distribution of spiritual gifts:

**Ephesians 4:7** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

**v. 8** Therefore it says, “When He ascended on high, He led captive a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men.”

**v. 11** And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.

The Holy Spirit became the Agent of distribution of spiritual gifts following the Lord’s ascension. In 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, Paul mentions several spiritual gifts distributed during the incipency of the Church Age some of which are no longer functional.

**1 Corinthians 12:11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

Spiritual gifts are the source for divine administration and service in the royal family. There are seven permanent spiritual gifts functional in the post-canon period of the Church Age: (1) pastor-teacher, (2) evangelist, (3) administrative leadership, (4) service, (5) helps, (6) showing mercy, and (7) giving.

These gifts have the greatest impact when they are present in the members of the local body. In our technological age, there is an abundance of electronic contrivances that allow believers to study the Word of God away from the church assembly.

These gifts learn how to function best within the assembled body. Opportunities for their function are more available there than in front of the Roku.

Although there are some good reasons for absences, for example, illness, work responsibilities, military service, or incidental circumstances, convenience is not one of them. The pastor's gift is designed to communicate face-to-face with the flock.

I can personally attest after years of teaching to an ever-shrinking congregation that the gift of pastor-teacher functions far more effectively with sheep in the corral rather than out to pasture.

**Hebrews 10:25** ... not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the Rapture drawing near. (NET)

This country desperately needs an enlarging Pivot that is on the advance. Those who are on the sidelines, take heed.

**James 1:18** In the exercise of His will [ βούλομαι (*boúlomai*) ] He brought us forth [ ἀποκυέω (*apokuéō*) ] by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. (NASB)

Here is the expanded translation for as far as we have gone.

**James 1:18a** Having been decreed in eternity past, He regenerated us by a spiritual birth by the word of truth, namely the gospel ... (EXT)