

Dear readers

Why do we have free will? We can either choose to conform our will to God or refuse to do so.

Singer Towns (2008, p. 420) defines “free will” as follows:

The gift from God that allows human beings to choose from among various actions, for which we are held accountable. It is the basis for moral responsibility.

The Bible teaches us that God formed the universe as a joyful, free, creative expression of his love and as the crowning act of Creation, God made human beings, more like him than is any other created thing (Singer-Towns, 2008). Because of this we have greater free will than any other part of creation. God created humans so that they could freely know and love God. Human beings are not governed by instinct as they have free will, reason and a conscience to govern their own behaviour (NCRS, 2017). Jesus showed us what it means to be fully human with free will and able to make decisions (John 10:10).

In order to be part of the Kingdom of God, Jesus spoke about free will, which means we are faced with a choice of either accepting or rejecting God’s Divine will. Adam and Eve chose to go against God’s plan for them to live in harmony with all that God had created as they made choice between whether to do good and avoid evil or not. They preferred to decide for themselves what is good and evil, rather than trusting God’s judgement on what is good and evil.

We can consciously choose good or evil; we can even choose to believe in God or not to believe in God. So when you struggle to believe in God, or struggle in making a moral choice, you are being exactly what God created you to be—a creature who must make choices (Singer-Towns, 2008, p. 33). Free will, then leads us to the question: “How does God want me to live?”

However, we can also make sinful choices that bring evil into the world, but God does not in any way cause moral evil, but he respects our freedom by allowing us to choose it (Singer-Towns, 2008, p. 33). As beings who have both free will and conscience. We know how easy it is to choose the thoughts, words and deeds that alienate us, lead us away from God, from others, from ourselves and from creation (NCRS, 2017, p.63). Self-reliance and self-knowledge are unable to save us as they are unable to generate the love and goodwill that will bring peace on earth (NCRS, 2017, p.63).

As human beings we are both free to make our own choices and obliged to choose what is good/right (Just, 2012). Our salvation is a result of both God's Grace (a free gift) and our cooperation (accepting the gift)

Apostle Flor teaches that (2014; see also Flor, 2013):

We must stand firm at all times and remember that we must give back to God some offering of appreciation. It is not compulsory like it is under Caesar where it is compulsory. Christ's kingdom is not of the kingdoms of this world and that is why all offerings unto the Almighty God must be voluntary, free willing and come from an understanding heart, not a compulsion, or a determined sum. If we can achieve that then we will find the blessings of God will continue until the end.

Disobedience is possible because God gave man a free will at his creation. Man is able to decide for good or for evil (Flor, 1993).

Apostle Bill Erry from the UK taught that:

When God tries to correct us by steering our life's course in the right direction, sometimes even permitting us to 'burn our fingers' this sometimes gives rise to a conflict of wills: between our own free will and the will of God. God did not make us automatons or robots, He wishes us to perceive the Wisdom of His way and yield of our own free will. Correction is an expression of God's grace and mercy.

Bishop Crouch teaches that:

Faith is not something that God imposes upon us; it is something that He gives free-willingly. Faith is not something that does not need working on, and labouring on, and continuing to build upon. It behoves each and every one of us, as we have that gift of faith, to understand that we must endeavour to strengthen this faith that we have as our forefathers did.

Hope this helps-the Great Commandment is always a good guide (Matthew 22:36-40)

Tot wedersiens. God bless, Nag Ou Grote, Fluit-Fluit, my storie is uit.

Br Theo PhD

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