

Is God's will my choice?

Questions Series

1. Where in the Bible does the teaching on "Free Will" originate? If we have free will how can God be sovereign over your life? If God has planned your salvations, and planned to save you, predetermined to call you, and chose you before the earth existed, how can you still have free will?
2. Acts 11:14 'He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'. Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Can you expound on that verse for unbelieving/unsaved family members?

What we think about God is the most important thing about us. It determines our conduct in this life.

Jeffrey Dahmer said, "If a person doesn't think there is a God to be accountable to then what is the point of modifying your behavior to keep in within acceptable ranges?"

- There is no God - Science
- Doesn't care
- Harsh – Only concerned with performance or Himself
- Love – Grace without justice

Psalm 53:1 A fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.

Difference between a fool and stupid

The word of God is the construct of our belief in God. It lays the foundation for life.

Without perspective there are no reason for questions. Nothing makes sense.

If you don't know who you are and why you're here, then nothing makes sense

Four Pillars of Life

The chief purpose of man is to give glory to God.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it for the Glory of God.

To enjoy him forever.

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, oh Lord, to receive glory, honor and power: for thou hast created all things, for thy pleasure they are created.

To know him.

Luke 10:25-28²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

²⁶ “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

²⁷ He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”^[a]; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b]”

²⁸ “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

Ephesians 4:12-13¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Make him known to others.

Matthew 28:16-20 The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.

¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Question 1 - Where in the Bible does the teaching on “Free Will” originate? If we have free will how can God be sovereign over your life? If God has planned your salvations, and planned to save you, predetermined to call you, and chose before the earth existed, how can you still have free will?

Free will - Galatians 5:5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

The reason Christ came was to grant us freedom. Free will

- Adam eve
- Joshua
- Cane and Abel
- Heavenly Hosts

Predestined— 4 times in NT

Ephesians 1:5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

This gives us a picture of God is **sovereign**.

1. Alpha and Omega
2. God judges the living and the dead
3. God does what he wants. Calls things that aren't as though they are. God's.
4. God's ways are not our ways.

God is just - Job

Foreknew

Romans 8:29,30 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

God knew before it happened and in that foreknowledge predestined.

- God knows before some have a chance to choose
- Pharaoh was not given a choice?
- Paul
- Unbelieving spouse
- Our children
- Ishmael
- Abortion
- death

God wants to save all man – If some people are predestined for His wrath then why does God's word say he is not willing that any should perish?

2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

God's dealings with man is relational which gives a different perspective.

Example of a child growing up – sometimes parents are sovereign, permissive, gives complete freedom.

What is our position with God?

- a. God is sovereign. Alpha and Omega
 - i. God judges the living and the dead
 - ii. God does what he wants. Calls things that aren't as though they are. God's.
 - iii. God's ways are not our ways.
- b. God is our father

We are friends of God:

Friends John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Children

Servants

In any parent child relationship things get a little messy. Sometimes we are omnipotent, sometimes we are guardians, sometimes we let them choose, sometimes we choose for them to protect them. Sometimes we let them choose and suffer the consequences, sometimes we let them choose because they are mature capable of making wise choices.

God's sovereignty does not oppose our free will. They are both part of God's nature.

- c. Foreknowledge does not equal predestination; both are terms that God's uses to describe his way with men. Both are part of the character of God.
 - i. Those he predestined
 - ii. Choose today
- d. Faith in the nature and justice of God is the only resolution.
 - i. The terms of our relationship with God is both choice and predestination.

ii. God judges the living and the dead with equal justice

Question 2 - Acts 11:14 'He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'. Acts 16:31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Can you expound on that verse for unbelieving/unsaved family members?

- This is a promise given to the centurion.
 - This is a promise given to the Jailer.
 - This is a promise given to you.
3. We must share the Good news to all to bring people to Him.
 4. We must stand on God's precious promises for our family.
 5. Let's do it now.

God cares about families, family is God's design. If you are praying for family members and other people you love, God is listening and is at work setting up situations in their lives so that they can turn to Him.

Acts 2:39 "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 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

1 Corinthians 7:14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

Deut 30:6

And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Ps 102:28

The children of Your servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before You.

Ps 103:17

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children.

Is 49:25

But thus says the Lord: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children."

Is 54:13,14

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear, and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Is 59:21

“As for Me,” says the Lord, “this is my covenant with them: My Spirit that is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, nor out of the mouth of your seed, nor out of the mouth of your seed’s seed, from this time and forevermore,” says the Lord.

Is 65:23

They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

Ac 16:31

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, you and your household.