

Freedom or Fatalism – Do we have a Free Will or is God Sovereign?

Eph. 1:3-11

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him.

In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,

which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.

Free?

- . God is an observer
- . God's sovereignty
- . God is a controller

“The Bible teaches both truths completely and therefore we should leave the harmonizing of them to God.”

John MacArthur Jr.

Our God is Sovereign

1. He sees and knows everything.

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. Prov. 15:3

He is omniscient – He knows everything.

For He looks to the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. Job 28:24

- He does not rely on others for information.
- He does not need someone to “fill Him in.”
- He does not forget anything.
- He does not need to research anything
- His vision is not impaired.

2. He is above time or eternal.

For thus says the ONE who is high and lifted up who inhabits eternity whose name is Holy...

Isa. 57:15

- His dwelling place – eternity!
- His home – eternity!
- His place of operation – eternity!

Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...

Eph. 1:4

Before time

Before seasons

Before the universe existed
Before the rotation of the earth around the sun.

Therefore everything He says about the future is certain nothing will ever surprise Him.

3. He is elevated above all creation.

... far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.
Eph. 1:21.

“Far above” - not even close; superior in every way
no one higher
... who is the head of all rule and authority. Col. 2:10

For there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God. Rom. 13:1

Jesus is –
King of Kings and Lord of lords
Rev. 19:16

All Hail King Jesus!
The King is Coming!

4. His will is done every time.

. His direct will

... According to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will. Eph. 1:11

This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God... Acts 2:23a

. His permissive will

And the Lord said to Satan – “Behold all that he has is in your hand, only against him do not stretch your hand.

Job 1:12

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...

Gen. 50:20

Satan – Event -> purpose is evil

God – Event -> purpose is good.

This is Jesus ... you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:23b

Mankind is Responsible!

1. We must give account to Him of our lives.

He will render to each one according to His works.

Rom. 2:6

Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this; that power belongs to God and that to You belongs steadfast love. For You will render to a man according to his work.

Ps. 62:11

His judgment

- is real

- is wise

- is good

- is merciful

- is loving

2. We must humble ourselves before God.

I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.

Isa. 57:15

- Will I let pride control my life choices?
- Humility is a decision, not an emotion – military term to submit.

Humble yourselves before the Lord and He will exalt you.

James 4:10

- Voluntary submission.
- Ready to repent.
- Ready to surrender.
- Ready to cry out for help.

“I’m coming in, training as hard as I can. If I make it that would be amazing, but if I don’t then that’s a different path that God wants me to take and I know that there are greater and bigger things for me to do.” Lauri Hernandez -16 Yr old gymnast

3. We must come to Him

“I sought the Lord and afterwards I knew He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me!

It was not that I found, O Savior true;

No I was found by Thee.”

John Chadwick

Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat...

Isa. 55:1

Incline your ear and come to me; hear that your soul may live (3)

Seek the lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. (6)

Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

Matt. 11:28

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come”.

And let the one who hears say, “Come.”

And let the one who is thirsty

come;

let the one who desires take

the water of life without price.

Rev. 22:17

4. We must trust Him and obey Him in all that we do.

... repent and believe in the gospel. Mk. 1:15

But to all who did receive Him, who believe in his name... Jn. 1:12

... but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart...

Eph. 6:6b