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The Gift of Independent Living in a Dependent World: We Are Held and Free

Why Surrendering to Divine Wisdom Is the Key to Living Freely

By Love

July 18, 2025 – The Paradox of A Dependent Independence

While our very existence is entirely dependent on God for fundamental elements like air, water, earth, the moon, sun, food, and even the very laws of existence that hold atoms and galaxies in place, which highlights our inherent dependence, yet we are simultaneously granted the remarkable capacity for independent thought, action, and the ability to experience life as separate, individual beings.

This is indeed a beautiful and amazing paradox. On the one hand, we are utterly reliant, because, without these foundational elements, life as we know it simply could not

exist. Yet, within this framework of absolute dependence, we are given the incredible gift of autonomy. We have our own minds, which allow us to think independently, our own wills to independently choose, and the freedom to navigate and experience life according to our own desires and decisions. We are not merely puppets in a grand design; we are active participants with our own unique journeys. This creates a fascinating tension, which is a complete reliance that is coupled with a profound freedom. It suggests a creator who not only provides for our existence but also values our individuality and grants the

dignity of self-determination to us.

The Paradox of Dependent Independence is this in a nutshell: We are completely dependent, yet we live as if we are completely independent. Every second, we are sustained by GOD, yet we are allowed to exist as if we are separate from Him. This is not just a paradox; it's a mystery of divine generosity and radical mercy.



Let's see! In what way is best to express my feelings on this topic? I guess that I will start by saying, "when it comes to expressing my feelings about this paradox, there is no single "right" answer". All the

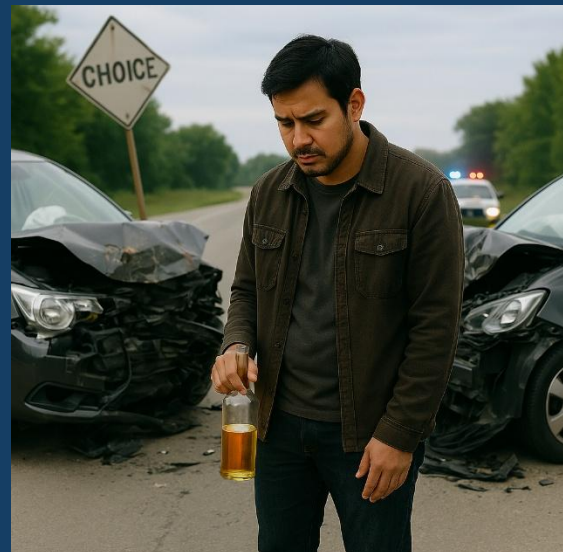
sentiments like praising, being thankful, and worshiping God are entirely appropriate and interconnected responses to such a realization, e.g., I could focus on the magnificence and wisdom of a creator who orchestrates such an intricate and paradoxical reality. I could express gratitude for both the sustenance of life and the gift of independence, which is a powerful way to acknowledge this paradox. Or maybe, I could be thankful for not just existing, but for the quality of that existence, which includes my freedom. I could also worship GOD. This encompasses a broader sense of reverence and devotion. In other words, worship can be an acknowledgment of God's sovereignty and benevolence in granting both dependency and independence, and by recognizing His ultimate power and goodness.

At first, it sounds like a contradiction: How can someone be independent while being totally dependent? Nevertheless, this is not a contradiction, but a divine paradox. Here is a

fantastic way to explain it to you, which reveals a crucial layer in it: not only is our existence dependent, but our very independence (that is, true freedom and self-determination) is also dependent on aligning with a higher wisdom. In other words, genuine independence is not about absolute self-reliance in defiance of divine principles. Instead, it's about a wise dependence on God's wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. When we choose to live in accordance with these divine laws by acting with integrity, working diligently, and respecting others, we actually establish and secure our independence. This path leads to freedom and self-mastery.

Conversely, when we stray from this divine wisdom through actions like lying, stealing, or simply being unproductive et cetera, this does not lead to freedom. On and to the contrary, it leads to various forms of bondage and dependence. For example, when we violate laws, this often results in incarceration or societal control. Dishonesty and exploitation can trap individuals in cycles of

mistrust and negative consequences. A lack of discipline or a refusal to work can lead to reliance on others, diminishing personal autonomy and potentially placing one under the control of those who provide for them.



Therefore, true freedom is not found in rejecting dependency, but in choosing the right kind of dependency. By depending on God's wisdom, we gain the independence to live a life of purpose and true freedom, rather than being subjected to the whims of circumstance or the control of others. This deepens the paradox, because showing that "dependent independence" is not a

contradiction but a profound truth. Our greatest freedom is realized when we align our will with the ultimate source of wisdom.

I can conclude by saying that the only path to true independence is through wise dependence, but I won't. I will continue to say that the more you depend on God, the more independent you become, and the more you ignore Him, the more your "freedom" turns into chains.



Learning by Wisdom or Learning by Wounds

The following is the difference between the world's definition of freedom, which is the ability to do whatever you want, versus the definition of freedom by the standard of GOD, which is the ability to do what you were created for: The world says: "Freedom means no one tells me what to do." But God says: "True

freedom is when nothing controls you but truth and love." There is a reason why God gave freedom to us. It was not just to see what we would do with it. It is because love cannot exist without freedom. If God forced obedience, there would be no such thing as love, trust, or loyalty. Yet these leaders in the world want to force you to follow them, pay attention to them, love them, and be loyal to them by programming you like robots or animals on instinct. So, God gave independence to us so that our dependence would be meaningful. Every time when we choose Him freely, it glorifies Him more than a billion stars ever could. So, I would like to ask you: What kind of God allows a person to turn away from HIM, while still holding their breath steady and their heart beating? Only a God who is patient, merciful, and confident enough in His love to wait for you to return. Therefore, Remember, "Independence is a gift, but dependence is a design." Therefore, you are not made to run from dependence. You are made to choose where you place it. When you place it in God, you rise in dignity, wisdom, and freedom. When

you place it in the world, yourself, or other people, you shrink and become enslaved by the very things that you chase.



I would like to further highlight that true independence is not about existing in a vacuum or defying all rules. Instead, it is found in aligning with a higher order. This suggests that freedom is not lawlessness; it is living in harmony with the laws that govern well-being.

Here is an excellent way to connect this concept to everyday experience, and it perfectly reinforces the idea of dependent independence as a choice, which will also

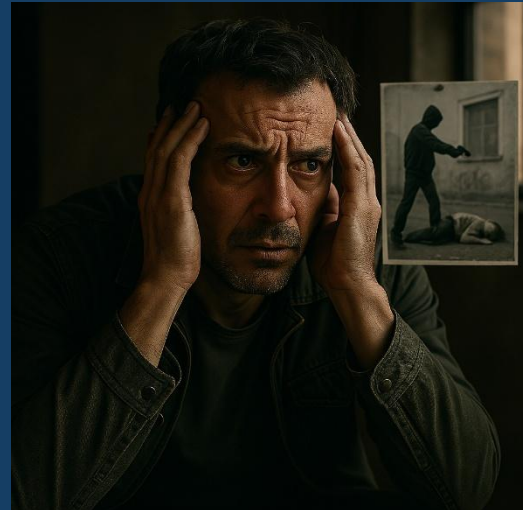
highlight another critical point: the divine laws, wisdom, and knowledge are not forced upon us; they are freely offered guidance. Take baking a cake as an analogy, which is spot-on to understand how this concept of life works. Just like a seasoned baker provides a proven recipe for a delicious cake, divine wisdom offers principles for a well-lived life. These are not arbitrary rules, but rather instructions derived from a deep understanding of how life works optimally. You are absolutely free to ignore the cake recipe and try your own methods. Similarly, we are free to disregard divine principles. This is our independent decision-making in action, despite knowing the potential "consequences", which is a poorly made cake, or a life filled with avoidable difficulties.

Therefore, choosing to follow the experienced baker's instructions is not a loss of freedom; it is an intelligent exercise of it. You are choosing to leverage superior

knowledge to achieve a desired outcome, which is a good cake. This act of voluntary dependence on established wisdom is what leads to true mastery and success, which is a form of independence from constant failure and struggle. However, if you do not want to avoid learning the hard way, then learning by yourself will cause you to make mistakes that you could have avoided. This powerfully illustrates why aligning with divine wisdom is beneficial. It is a shortcut to flourishing, and to allowing us to bypass many painful lessons that arise from going against fundamental principles. Therefore, our ultimate independence lies in our capacity to independently choose to embrace a wise dependence on principles that lead to flourishing. It is not about being forced into a mold, but about intelligently choosing the path that maximizes our well-being and true freedom.

Remember, submission to divine instruction is not weakness; it is intelligence. Moreover, freedom is not

about rejecting instructions. It is about choosing which instructions to trust. And that's where divine wisdom comes in. You are free to reject God's guidance, but you're not free from the consequences of doing so.



This is why mentorship, parenting, and discipleship are so powerful. Sometimes, others have already walked the road. They have burned the cake, wasted the ingredients, and learned what works. God's divine laws work the same way; they come from a timeless wisdom that knows the beginning and the end. So why reinvent disaster, when you can follow instructions that lead to peace? You can learn by wisdom, or you can learn by wounds. One protects you; the other will humble you. Either way, life is going to teach something to you

about life, but you get to choose how. My conclusion is while most people are trying to be 'free' by ignoring God, I

am realizing that the only true freedom is found by choosing to follow Him.