

FREE WILL

What part does my “free will” play in the whole scheme of things?

Before I answer this question, there must be some background presented.

We know that God is sovereign over His creation. Psalm 24:1 tells us: “the earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.” Colossians 1:16 says: “for by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

Verse 17 – “And He is before all things, and in him all things consist.” (ie. He is the nuclear glue holding everything together and in place).

We obviously have the scripture in Romans 9 telling us that as the Potter, He makes as He wills of the clay.

Further – Proverbs 16:9 tells us “A man’s heart plans its way, **but** the Lord directs his steps.” God’s plans will not be thwarted – period. **Psalm 135:6** “whatever the Lord pleases, He does. In heaven and in earth.” **Isaiah 46: 9 & 10** “remember the former things of old, For I am God and there is no other, I am God and there is none like me.”

There are also ample passages that proclaim that people are responsible for their actions. And, he is subject to God for those actions.

So how do we bridge this divide?

The answer is quite simple if you understand two things; One is our position before the Lord as one of His children, and the other is that as His child we are free to make our decisions.

The second situation we will call our **“condition”** before Him.

The totality of this issue is the “salvation” walk with the Lord. Part of the salvation walk with Him includes where we are going when we die (justification) and the second part is the condition we find ourselves in on a daily basis.

The Apostle Paul refers to the second or condition as the “state” that he finds himself in during he walk with the Lord. See **Philippians 4:11**.

It is my view that the former (**position**) is totally of God.

My references to this position are as follows: Jesus Himself said “you have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.”

The Apostle **John** said in **chapter 1 vs 11&** following: He came to His own and His own received Him not (speaking obviously of the Jewish people), vs 12 – But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who

believe in His name; who were born, *not of blood, nor the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*”

Did you get that? Their reason for the new birth had nothing to do with their parents (blood) or their desire to be birthed (flesh) nor by any desire on the part of man in any way, but of God Himself.

Many other scriptures claim the same thing. Bottom line – our new birth was totally up to Him. We were chosen in Him **before** the world was.

It is my position, that we had no part in this. We could not do anything except accept the condition we found ourselves. We were dead in trespass and sin, and could remain that way or become alive. We became alive when His Spirit wooed us. Our response was – “Well, I believe that” and that is all it took for us to become part of His family. Not baptism (spirit or water) no Roman road experience – like the thief on the cross next to Jesus all he did was “believe” and Jesus told him, “Today you will be with me in paradise”.

I do not believe that my will was even considered. I didn’t even know I needed saving. Without His intervening in my life, I would still be in the world – a gentile_ lost as a goose. Further, I believe that not only was this of His doing, but if left to me – I did not have sense enough to know I even needed saving.

Ok – then what about my will today? Even though scripture tells me that “all things are lawful for me” I am now alive to the balance of that verse that says “yet not all things are beneficial, and I should not be brought under the influence of any of them.

I can do what I want to do and usually do. I just don’t have the same appetite to do what is wrong for me to do (like I used to). To God belongs all the credit here for sure.

My salvation walk, depends upon me. How I respond to Him. How I find my life setting about to follow and please Him.

My walk depends upon me. My present condition depends upon my decisions. While I understand that scripture teaches me that the sowing – reaping applies to my life, the truth be known that some of the sewing I have done has not brought forth fruit in my life.

I am truly grateful for this. Some of the seeds I have sown have never matured to bring forth nasty fruit. For many reasons this was the case, but principally I place that blessing where it belongs. That is to my Lord Jesus Christ for snuffing out the seed before it took root.

My free will is totally intact with regard to things I now allow into my life. I have the right to choose what I allow in my life. Good things and bad things.

The bad things are fewer today totally because “the love of Christ constrains me.” I am doing more profitable things in my life today because the reality of His love for me has

captured me and much of my behavior. I am still doing whatever I want to do, I am just not doing as many things that were harmful to me as I did in the past.

That is where my will is activated. That is where my will comes into play.

As Paul stated in Philippians chapter 4- "I have learned that whatever STATE I find myself, (not just Texas however, that too) therewith to be content." That is a learned behavior beloved. Circumstances no longer dictate my peace. They no longer determine my outcome. They no longer control my emotions.

Concerning my former life (that is before Jesus got a hold of me) I am **now** persuaded that NOTHING can separate that life from me. NOTHING – PERIOD.

As **Jude 24-25** tells me – "Now unto Him who is able to keep me from falling, and to present me FAULTLESS before the presence of His glory – WITH EXCEEDING JOY to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and forever – amen."