

FREE WILL VERSES FREE COOPERATION

Free will implies that a person could determine on his own to seek after God and find Him. Free will implies that once a person believes and receives Jesus that he might determine on his own to turn away from Jesus and go his own way and thus lose eternal life in Christ.

According to the Bible, free will alone cannot bring a person to God and maintain a relationship with Him. A person must have external help in order for him to seek God, find God, believe Jesus, and receive Jesus.

This external help cannot force the person to receive Jesus otherwise salvation would be determined upon that person with no personal activity in the matter. According to the Bible, people are free to cooperate with God. The Bible describes the external help that comes to all people as the conviction of the Holy Spirit. All people are convicted of sin, the need of right standing with God (righteousness), and the fact of personal judgment to come. An appropriate response to conviction results in the Holy Spirit helping the person learn that Jesus is the only righteous One, the only Way by which a person can receive eternal life and fellowship with God.

Human free will is based on the false premise that a man can choose Christ or reject Christ on his own. The truth is that coming to Christ can only be done in cooperation with Holy Spirit conviction. There must be interaction of the will of man with Holy Spirit conviction. The Holy Spirit can bring a person to Christ when cooperation with conviction is present.

Free will in a Biblical sense is likely a misnomer even though it sounds good. Free cooperation is definitely a requirement for having and maintaining fellowship with God. All through Scripture people are challenged to cooperate with God's instructions.

Acts 17:27 Seek God Acts 17:30 Repent John 16:8 Respond rightly to conviction

Mark 12:30 Pursue love for God Romans 10:13 Call upon the Lord for rescue from sin

Once regeneration occurs, once you are born of the Spirit: then cooperate in this way:

Walk in the light of the Spirit. 1 John 1:7 Romans 8:1-17

Be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18

Pursue the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-26 Confess sin. 1 John 1:9

Pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:17,18

Don't quench the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19

Study to show yourself approved. 2 Timothy 2:15

Freely cooperating with God is God's challenge to humanity.