

THE FREE WILL OF MAN

1. Definition: The act or power of willing or exerting choice.
2. Volition is the decider of the soul, located in the mind.
3. We have the right to make our own decisions and the obligation to assume our own responsibilities resulting from our decisions.
 - A. Acts 3:23, "And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."
4. God has absolute will. He does whatsoever He pleases. God, in His sovereignty pleased to give man free will.
 - A. Psalm 135:6, "Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He in Heaven, and in Earth, in the seas, and all deep places."
 - B. Psalm 115:3, "But our God is in the heavens: He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased."
5. The Bible indicates the existence of human volition.
 - A. Every third class condition.
 - B. Every subjunctive mood (probability).
 - C. Every alternative, such as John 3:36, indicates this.
 1. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."
6. The very nature of the fall of man presents the fact of free will, for the only way in which Adam could fall was his volition acting independently of God.
7. Any statement of the will of God, or the will of God not being accomplished indicates the free will of man. God commands, the imperative mood of command.
8. Man's free will first meets the sovereign will of God at the cross. God's absolute will, God in His sovereignty gave man free will and the meeting place is the cross.
 - A. 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
9. Therefore, the issue in the human race is: Will the free will of man act in conjunction with the Divine will of God or act independently of it?
10. Volition operates in the realm of the soul of the unbeliever and the believer.
11. As a believer your volition also operates in the realm of your human spirit, where you learn and store the Divine Viewpoint of life, and this knowledge of the Word of God is the building material for your spiritual structure in the soul.

12. When the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, which is positive volition to the Word of God found in Ephesians 5:18, then the Holy Spirit stimulates the proper Word of God at the right time, for correct application of the Word of God to your experience.
 - A. Ephesians 5:18, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."
13. If your human spirit sends the Word of God to your volition, you have compliance with the will of God; when not sent, there is no compliance.
14. Be sure you understand this principle of Biblical volition and free will -- it is a major doctrine.

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