

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

HOW MUCH FREE WILL DOES A CHRISTIAN HAVE?

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God has given man a free will to serve Him or to rebel and serve the Devil. The Garden of Eden was the first time this choice was given. **Genesis 2:16-17**

God spoke through Moses to the people of Israel to serve God or not but they were free to make that choice. **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

Joshua reminded the people of Israel at the end of his life to make the choice as to whom they would serve. **Joshua 24:14-15**

MAKING DECISIONS APART FROM GOD?

God had promised Abraham and Sarah a son, but after many years and with Sarah getting older, they made a decision to take care of the situation themselves and used Hagar, the young slave woman to become pregnant by Abraham. God did not stop them and allowed them to fail. **Genesis 16:1-6**

King David decided to build a house (Temple) for the Lord. It was a good thought in that there was nothing wrong with it, but David wasn't going to be the one that built it. God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David that he was not the one to build the Temple. **2 Samuel 7:1-13; 1 Kings 8:17-19**

The conclusion we can draw from these two examples is that man at times has a free will to do what he wants but sometimes God will intervene and say "No."

FREE WILL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus taught a parable of a using the resources God has given to each human being. Ten men were given different resources and told to occupy until the nobleman returned as a king and then give an account of what they had done with the resources. It is noteworthy that the nobleman did not tell them how to use the resources; it was up to each man to figure that out. **Luke 19:11-13**

During this time it was common for noblemen to travel to Rome and work out a deal so they could return as kings. Jesus referred himself as a nobleman, who in the future would travel to work out a kingship for Himself and then return. But the people hated Him and sent messages to God the Father that they did not want to have Him return as a king. **verse 14**

The nobleman worked out his kingship and returned to find out what had been done with the resources. **verses 15-26**

The people who hated the nobleman were then judged and killed. **verse 27**

Compare this with the account in **Revelation 20:11-15**.



You and I have been given different abilities and talents which God expects us to develop and use to the uttermost. Sadly, most people squander their gifts and talents. 1 Corinthians 3:1-15

JESUS GIVES US FREEDOM TO DEVELOP OUR TALENTS

When a person is born again, they don't become a mindless slave that must be told what to do at all times; instead, we are given authority and freedom to serve God as each man sees fit. God will call people into different vocations but it is up to each believer in Christ to work it out. **Philippians 2:12-15**

Jesus called His apostles and gave them a charge. **Matthew 10:1; 5-8; Luke 9:1-5**

Seventy other disciples were given the same charge. **Luke 10:1-9**

Please notice that Jesus did not tell them who they were to heal, what demons to cast out and to whom they should preach; it was up to each individual to work it out and to make decisions on how it was to be done.

The Holy Spirit is constantly available for guidance but it is up to each Christian to decide if they want the Holy Spirit in their lives or not. **John 16:13-15**

Jesus also gave a general charge for all believers through the ages. **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18**

Some believers in Christ will have personal callings upon their lives but they still will have to work out the details of how it is done. **Acts 13:1-5**

We must also never forget that we are commissioned by Jesus and we need to abide in and draw our strength from Jesus in everything we do on this earth. **John 15:1-8**

SUMMARY

Each person on this earth is given a life to live for God or the Devil. Every believer in Christ must learn to develop the gifts in their life and take charge or nothing will be done. **Your can either use your gifts or waste them!**

The apostle Paul was fully content at the time of his death. What will your state of mind be when you die? **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Have you made plans on how to finish your life or are you just drifting?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?