

HOW POWERFUL, THE FREE WILL OF MAN

Author Unknown

God is omnipotent. All power and authority derives from his power and authority (Mat. 28:18). However, in creating man, God infused a force in mortals with the capacity to reject even the Divine power that gave them their existence (Gen. 2:17; Rom. 1:16; Jos. 24:15). God made man as a free moral agent, one capable of choosing to trust, love, and obey his Creator, but one able also to choose to distrust, despise, and disobey the very one responsible for his existence (Gen. 3:1-6). How powerful, the free will of man.

The Bible's teaching in this matter is extensive, telling as it does about hundreds of people who lived upon the earth and who chose good or evil. These people all made choices, choices made possible by God's gift of free will. Eve and Adam obviously exercised free will in choosing the devil's way over God's (Gen. 3). Abel used his free will choosing to worship God in faith, while Cain used his free will choosing to worship in an unauthorized manner (Gen. 4:1-5; Heb. 11:4). The great man Enoch used his free will choosing to walk with God as did his great grandson Noah (Gen. 5:24; 6:22), but Noah's generation, by a staggering majority, chose by their God-given free wills to rebel against their Creator and heavenly Benefactor (Gen. 6-7). By continuing in such rebellion, despite God's efforts to persuade them to change, man's free will sealed his own doom. The same flood waters that delivered the few who choose good, engulfed and destroyed those who refused to choose good (1 Pet. 3:21; 2 Pet. 2:5; Gen. 7:21-23). How powerful, the free will of man.

Free will has a phenomenal potency for good as shown by men like Moses, men who chose to rightly reason in light of their origin and destiny, and with proper regard for the authority empowering them to live and move and have their being (Heb. 11:25; Acts 17:28).~