

Predestination And Free-Will

Are People Saved Against Their Own Will?

Nothing is too difficult for God. He is capable of saving people *in spite of* their own will, as it was with the apostle Paul who was quite busy going about his work of persecuting Christians when God decided it was time to convert Saul to Paul on the road to Damascus. Luke describes what happened to Paul in Acts chapter 22:

Acts 22:4-14 - "4 And **I persecuted this way unto the death**, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. 5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. 6 And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. 11 And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. 12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, **The God of our fathers hath chosen thee**, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth."

Has God converted you yet? Can you say with assurance that He has chosen you? If not, pray for Him to have mercy on your soul. As God to grant you salvation to enable you to truly repent of your sins. Cry out to God; plead with Him, to deliver you from the wrath to come. Seek Him today! **Seek Him in the scriptures** for that is where He is found.

So, what kind of a will do the unsaved possess? Not a will to please God:

Romans 8:8 - "So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please God.**"

The Bible has nothing positive to say about unsaved man's ability to do anything pleasing to God:

Isaiah 59:1-4 - "1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have

hid *his* face from you, that **he will not hear**. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. 4 **None calleth for justice**, nor *any* pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.”

Summary: This article is a section of a much larger article on the Bible doctrines of Election and Predestination called “Who accepts Whom?”. You are urged to check out that larger article for many other thought provoking questions pertaining these “Doctrines of Grace”. — *RM Kane*
