

Establishing the Concept of Free Will?! (Slide 1)
Did Jesus Have Free Will?

Reading: John 10:11-30

As I studied for this lesson, I had a lot of thoughts and some turned into mere speculation. They were questions that I simply could not answer. I'm not sure anyone on earth can. So, I am sticking with what we do know.

As we go further into this study there are two points I want us to keep in mind:

1. From a human perspective, I don't completely understand the *GodHead-God The Father, God The Son, and The Holy Spirit*-but by faith I know they exist!
2. Unless a person is completely convinced that the Bible is real and the Word of God, what we discuss in this lesson has no meaning!

What is *Free Will*? From the perspective of offering our monetary earnings to the Lord, we deem that to be a "*free will offering*."

(Slide 2) One definition in regards to a *free will offering* is that one gives *voluntarily, readily gives*.

Paul says in:

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (Slide 3)

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

So, clearly, "*giving*" is a choice. A "*Free Will Offering*" that is; what to give, is an individual choice. Paul gives us things to consider when we give: (Slide 4)

1. *Sowing sparingly compared to sowing bountifully*
2. *Purpose in our heart to give*
3. *Willingly and God loves a someone who cheerfully gives*

The subject of giving regarding “Free Will” is relatable to everything else one might freely do.

“Free Will” defined generally: (Slide 5)

*the power of acting without the **constraint** of necessity or fate; the ability to act at one's own discretion.* (Oxford Dictionary)

With that definition one can clearly see that individual choice is at the forefront of action or non-action.

Establishing the concept of Free Will:

We may ask, “Did Jesus have *Free Will*?”

Listen to what He says in:

John 6:35-40 (Slide 6)

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, (Slide 7) and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, (Slide 8) but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

Does He mean that He had no choice in the matter, the Father sent Him;

“but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of Him who sent Me”

Sometimes it's difficult from the human perspective to fully understand the trinity of the GodHead, that is; God The Father, God The Son and The Holy Spirit.

The Father is God:

John 6:27 (Slide 9)

27 Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

The Son is God:

John 1:1 (Slide 10)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (Slide 11)

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Before Abraham Was, I am:

John 8:53-59 (Slide 12)

53 Surely You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets died too; whom do You make Yourself out to be?” 54 Jesus answered, “If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God’; (Slide 13) 55 and you have not come to know Him, but I know Him; and if I say that I do not know Him, I

will be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” 57 So the Jews said to Him, (Slide 14) “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” 58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” 59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

From what we have read, we see that God The Father and God The Son, are two distinct persons. One that is; God, a spiritual supernatural being and one who was in that sense who became flesh.

Many will say that Jesus, as a man, was The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. All left Heaven. This being the case, “Free Will” would not be relevant. God would be doing His own *will* in the form of a man.

But the Bible simply doesn’t teach that to be the case.

Remember:

John 6:38 (Slide 15)

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

If what they were saying is true, this would nullify what Jesus said and His sacrifice would have no meaning.

Jesus had “Free Will!”

When Jesus came to the earth in a miraculous fashion and became a man, capable of feeling pain, human emotion and could die, things changed dramatically.

Did it become possible for Jesus to sin? Before Jesus began His ministry, Satan himself tempted Jesus to sin. Of course, Jesus resisted the Devil citing scripture to thwart his challenge. But would Satan, a supernatural being, waste his time tempting Jesus if there wasn’t a chance for him to turn against God?

Hebrews 4:15 (Slide 16)

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

He was without sin but that doesn't mean He wasn't capable of sin. If He couldn't sin, He wouldn't understand, ***sympathize***, with what we are going through. If He were the trinity on earth, He simply could not sin.

Further evidence that Jesus while on earth was not God The Father in:

James 1:13 (Slide 17)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. In other words, God cannot do evil and therefore, cannot sin.

We can see that Jesus was not God The Father from His prayers.

Jesus prayed several times while on earth. Here are some examples:

Before choosing His 12 disciples:

Luke 6:12 (Slide 18)

It was at this time that He went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God.

The Garden before He was arrested:

Matthew 26:36 (Slide 19)

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

On the cross:

Luke 23:34a (Slide 20)

But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Perhaps the greatest evidence we have is found in:

Luke 3:21-22 (Slide 21)

21 Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Notice this happened "**while He was praying.**" Jesus is not a ventriloquist! He's a man born of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary. There is none like Him nor will there ever be one like Him.

Clearly, He is an individual within the GodHead who became a man through miraculous means. This is what He chose to do of His own "*Free Will!!*" Everything that was created was created by Him and for Him and, obeying His Father's will, He left Heaven to save His creation.

He tells the Jews; "***I and the Father are one.***" Which means united in purpose.

John 10:37-39 (Slide 22)

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." 39 Therefore they were seeking again to seize Him, and He eluded their grasp.

John 10:17-18 (Slide 23)

17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on

My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

Though filled with The Holy Spirit, He is not the Holy Spirit but is united in purpose with The Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17 (Slide 24)

(Please Read the Previous verses)

16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

The Spirit, though part of the Trinity, is an Individual Spiritual Person. He calls Him, The Spirit of Truth!

Through this lesson, I think we have clearly established:
(Slide 24)

1. Jesus as God the Son
2. He was The word that became Flesh! (don't let anyone substitute a for The)
3. He obeyed God's will and thus is the Son of God
4. He prayed to God The Father and not Himself
(Slide 25)
5. He of His own *Free Will* laid down His life for His people given to Him by God The Father
6. He and The Father are one
7. He is not The Holy Spirit but is united with Him in purpose

I think it is important to establish *Free Will* from that of The Christ who is our example. If He didn't accomplish what He accomplished of His own free will, we could look back and say "*yeah but look!? He had no choice!*"

Next week, Lord willing, we will look at Examples of Man's Free Will!!

Invitation

The invitation to become a child of God is yours. Make the choice today of your own *Free Will* to be baptized into Christ and Jesus Himself will add you to His church.

If you need the prayers of the faithful today to help restore your walk with Him, we will pray for you and with you.

Please let your wishes be known.

John 10:11-30

11 "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd. 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. 18 No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father."

19 A division occurred again among the Jews because of these words. 20 Many of them were saying, "He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?" 21 Others were saying, "These are not the sayings of one demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of the blind, can he?"

22 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place at Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple in the portico of Solomon.

24 The Jews then gathered around Him, and were saying to Him, "How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these testify of Me. 26 But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

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