

*Final Thoughts on Free Will!! (Slide 1)*

**Reading: Proverbs 2:1-5**

It should come to no surprise that an all knowing and all seeing God can know the future. Afterall, He created the heavens and the earth with the end in mind. He also created time for humanity.

God's Foreknowledge:

**Psalm 139:1-4 (Slide 2)**

***1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.***

***2 You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You understand my thought afar off.***

***(Slide 3) 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.***

***4 For there is not a word on my tongue,  
But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.***

**Isaiah 46:10 (Slide 4)**

***Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,  
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
And I will do all My pleasure,'***

Jesus' Foreknowledge

**Mark 14:27-30 (Slide 5)**

***27 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:***

***'I will strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep will be scattered.'***

**28 “But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.”**

(Slide 6) **29 Peter said to Him, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.”**

**30 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”**

Jesus knew Peter would deny Him 3 times. Peter had foreknowledge of what Jesus said he would do and did it anyway. *This proves that Jesus’ foreknowledge did not negate Peter’s free will!!*

Jesus knew His disciples better than they knew themselves and He knew Judas would betray Him.

**John 6:64** (Slide 7)

***But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.***

Judas, of His own free will, betrayed Jesus even after He said: ***“He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.”*** Matthew 26:23 How could he not know who Jesus was talking about.

God has all knowledge of future events because He lives outside of the scope of time and His plan has been set in motion before the foundation of the world. Yet, my gaining knowledge of God’s plan doesn’t cause future events to occur. It’s how I react to them of my own *free will* that can make a difference for or against me. Peter’s denials and Judas’ betrayal are perfect examples.

Foreknowledge: the return of Christ Jesus.

**Acts 1:9-11** (Slide 8)

***9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, (Slide 9) 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”***

The Apostle Paul explains what will happen when he returns in great detail for those in Christ and those outside of Christ in his letter to the church in Thessalonica. Their fate is based on their free will to accept or reject Jesus as The Christ.

God knows human nature in that some will believe and some will not and He does not force either response.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:1-5 (Slide 10)**

***1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes (Slide 11) upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.***

When people live ungodly lives we can be assured they do so out of choice. They have chosen *evil over good*.

It truly is the choice we make of our own *free will* that impacts our future. Decisions we make are not set in stone by God. God set in motion the outcome of our future based on the decisions we make.

The *city of Nineveh* was not *overthrown in 40 days* because they made the decision to repent. Had they not, they most certainly would have been destroyed. God gave them a choice.

*Free will* is a marvelous thing. Free to make our own decisions. Yet, with this God given gift comes great responsibility. The responsibility of choosing wisely. One bad choice can result in a lifetime of heartache.

Considerable thought should come before any major decision.

Our choices determine our future. From a spiritual standpoint, our choices determine our eternity.

### **Proverbs 13:13-16 (Slide 12)**

***13 He who despises the word will be destroyed,  
But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.***

***14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life,  
To turn one away from the snares of death.***

(Slide 13) ***15 Good understanding gains favor,  
But the way of the unfaithful is hard.***

***16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge,  
But a fool lays open his folly.***

The Godly and righteous person will acknowledge God in all decisions that they make: ***in everything with prayer and supplication (Philippians 4:6)***

I am convinced an earnest and open communication with God through prayer is the spiritual mechanism for good choices. He has established an answer for all things in His Holy Inspired Written Word.

However, there was a time when God communicated either directly to His people or through Prophets and Priests. This communication existed during King David's sojourn on earth.

Prior to David's kingship, He experienced great hardship and violence as he sought to flee from King Saul who wanted to kill him. He was faced with defending himself and his men against foreign nations and one of his greatest nemesis, The Philistines.

King Saul's violence became that of a madman. So set on killing David, he turned against anyone who was David's friend. In **1 Samuel**, those friends just happen to be the Priests of The Lord.

Doeg the Edomite, who certainly would not have any love for David, was the one who had informed Saul that he witnessed David coming to Ahimelech the Priest for spiritual advice.

So incensed and wanting to rid the world of David and anyone who aided him that Saul commanded his guards to turn around and destroy the Priests of the Lord with the sword.

When they refused to lay a hand on the Priests, Saul turned to Doeg, who must have been just as deranged and he carried out Saul's wishes. He struck and killed 85 of the Lord's priests in one day.

Doeg entered the city of the Priests that is; Nod and slew men, women, children, infants and livestock. The son of Ahimelch, Abiathar, was able to escape and tell David. David knew the kind of person that Doeg was. He was vindictive, power hungry and blood thirsty.

David said:

**1 Samuel 22:22** (Slide 14)

***"I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul."***

All around David was violence, yet, David, because of his trust in God. always spoke with Him before He made a move.

In the next chapter David hears that the Philistines are attacking Keilah, a city of Judah. The people of this city are no match for the army of the Philistines and would be destroyed.

The following is a condensed story of **1 Samuel 23**:

David spoke to God twice regarding this city in Judah, Keilah.

The first inquiry was: *"should we go down and battle the Philistines?"*

God said: *"go down."*

The men who were with David said:

*"We have great fear and trouble where we are, we will have even more going down to Keilah."*

David inquired again to God: *"Will we defeat the Philistines?"*

God said: *"Go down, For I will deliver the Philistines in your hand."*

David trusts God and made his choice based on that trust. With a great slaughter David and his men slew the Philistines.

Saul finds out that David is in Keilah and he believes that God has delivered David into his hands and that he is trapped behind the city's gates and double bars. Saul doesn't realize, at this point anyway, that God has abandoned him.

So Saul with his army makes his way to Keilah. David finds out that Saul is on his way and that he will destroy the city if they try to harbor David.

So, David inquired of God:

**1 Samuel 23:10-12** (Slide 15)

***10 Then David said, "O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. 11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant."***

(Slide 16) ***And the LORD said, "He will come down."***

***12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?"***

***And the LORD said, "They will deliver you."***

Notice God didn't say to David, *"Don't worry, I am with you! Stay and Fight!"*  
Nor did He say; *"Flee!"*

Nevertheless, David heard the word of God and weighed what God said, measured the consequences of both choices and chose of his own *free will* to flee. His choice likely saved his and his men's lives.

So, what can we get from this story? *Free will* is powerful, yet, if wielded without the counsel of God, the very choices we make can cost us dearly in so many ways.

The difference in the choices we make and that of those outside of Christ is that we *"Believe and trust in God."*

Seek the counsel of God because our lives and soul depend on Him.

Invitation

Today, have you made the choice to trust God completely? If so, trust His plan of Salvation. If you have not been baptized for the remission of sin, don't hesitate, do it today!!

If you have once trusted God and obeyed the Gospel, but some of your choices have gotten in your way of serving Him completely; may we pray with and for you and help restore that trusting relationship.

Please let us know how we can help you this day.

**Reading:**

**Proverbs 2:1-5**

***1 My son, if you receive my words,***

***And treasure my commands within you,***

***2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom,***

***And apply your heart to understanding;***

***3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment,***

***And lift up your voice for understanding,***

***4 If you seek her as silver,***

***And search for her as for hidden treasures;***

***5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD,  
And find the knowledge of God.***

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