

# Determinism vs. Free Will

## God has a plan

Isaiah 46:10

*I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will.*

Daniel 4:35

*he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

## God is in control of what we do

Proverbs 16:9

*A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps.*

Proverbs 16:33

*The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.*

Proverbs 19:21

*Many plans are in a person's heart, but the Lord's decree will prevail.*

Proverbs 20:24

*Even a courageous person's steps are determined by the Lord, so how can anyone understand his own way?*

Jeremiah 10:23

*I know, Lord, that a person's way of life is not his own; no one who walks determines his own steps.*

Lam 3:37

*Who is there who speaks and it happens, unless the Lord has ordained it?*

James 4:13-15

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to such and such a city and spend a year there and do business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring—what your life will be! For you are like vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes. Instead, you should say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*

## God is in control of salvation

Ezekiel 36:26-27

*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place my Spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes and carefully observe my ordinances.*

Matthew 22:14

*For many are invited, but few are chosen*

Romans 8 & 9, esp 8:29-30, & 9:6-20

*29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified.*

*9:14 What should we say then? Is there injustice with God? Absolutely not! 15 For he tells Moses, I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then, **it does not depend on human will** or effort but on God who shows mercy.*

Ephesians 1, esp v 4-5, & 11

*4 For he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in love before him. 5 He predestined us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ for himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

*11 In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will,*

Ephesians 2:8-10

*For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift— not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.*

## ...But God Doesn't Do Everything

James 1:13-14

*No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God," since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt anyone. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire.*

## **Our inability to choose God**

John 6:44

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.*

Romans 8:7-8

*The mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

1 Corinthians 2:14

*But the person without the Spirit does not receive what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually.*

## **Our will / choice**

Deuteronomy 30:19

*I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,*

Joshua 24:15

*But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship...*

Psalms 106:23

*So He said He would have destroyed them— if Moses His chosen one had not stood before Him in the breach to turn His wrath away from destroying them. (see Exodus 32:1-14)*

Ezekiel 22:30-31

*I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land so that I might not destroy it, but I found no one. So I have poured out my indignation on them and consumed them with the fire of my fury. I have brought their conduct down on their own heads." This is the declaration of the Lord God.*

Luke 13:34

*"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her. How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"*

John 7:17

*If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority*

## **Both God's will and our will**

Genesis 50:20

*You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.*

Exodus 8:32 (Pharaoh's will), 9:12 (God's will).

*(8:32) But Pharaoh hardened his heart*

*(9:12) But the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart*

Matthew 26:24

*The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born." (This is referring to Judas betraying Jesus, which was prophesied in Psalm 41:9 and Zechariah 11:12-13.)*

Philippians 2:12-13

*Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.*

2 Peter 1:3-10, esp 3-5 & 10

*His divine power has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness....for this reason, make every effort to supplement your faith....make every effort to confirm your calling and election....*