

Bible Study - Free Will

Deut 30:19. This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

Gen 2:16,17 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

John 7:17 Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.

Josh 24:15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

Rev 3:20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Rom 10:9,10 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

1 Cor 10:13 No temptation^[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[b] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,^[c] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Ezekiel 18:30 "Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

Who is sovereign? God or man? Who predestines events? If He alone is sovereign and decides in advance, things that cannot be changed, How can we define, label, or indoctrinate people about their fate.

Who can foresee, or understand the orchestration of our outcome? Who has the right to “govern” ?

Has God revealed future events? Such as Israel, the messiah, the church, end times. Is this corporate vs individual free will? Has God made us in His image (relinquished individual control) to choose our own benefits and consequences? Can God be all powerful (control) and unconditional love (will to choose) simultaneously?

Calvinism makes up a very small percentage of Christianity, estimated to be around 3% globally and in the U.S. While Protestantism itself is about 37% of all Christians worldwide, the traditions most associated with Calvinism, such as Presbyterian and Reformed churches, make up a smaller fraction.

The five points of Calvinism, also known as the [Doctrines of Grace](#) and summarized by the acronym TULIP, are **Total Depravity**, **Unconditional Election**, **Limited Atonement**, **Irresistible Grace**, and **Perseverance of the Saints**. These points describe how God is sovereign in salvation, and that God saves those who trust in Christ.

- **Total Depravity:** All people are born sinful and unable to come to God on their own without God's intervention.
- **Unconditional Election:** God chooses to save certain individuals based on His own will, not on any foreseen merit or action on their part.
- **Limited Atonement:** Christ's death on the cross was intended to save a specific number of people, not all people.
- **Irresistible Grace:** When God calls someone to salvation, they are drawn to faith and cannot ultimately resist His grace.
- **Perseverance of the Saints:** Those whom God has saved will remain in His care and will be kept in faith until the end.

<u>Arminianism</u>	<u>Calvinism</u>
1. Sinner, can do good & respond to God	• Man unable of self to respond to God
2. God elects on basis of foreseen faith	• God elects according to His good pleasure
3. Christ died for all	• Christ died for Elect
4. Man can resist God	• Irresistible election
5. Believer may lose salvation	• Elect can never lose salvation

	CALVINISM	LUTHERANISM	ARMINIANISM
Sin	The fall rendered man completely depraved, rendering him unable to come to God or do any work that pleases God or contributes to him being converted	Original Sin has brought man's will into bondage- the sinner is unable to come to God without the grace of God – man is still able to do acts of civil righteousness but is unable to contribute to being converted through his own works	Although damaged by the fall, nevertheless the preceding grace and universal drawing from God renders man able to believe and repent
Election	Unconditional double predestination chosen by God's sovereign will, irrespective of any future belief or unbelief	Unconditional predestination for the salvation of the whole world through Christ – those foreseen to resist are excluded	Conditional predestination based on foreseen belief or unbelief
Atonement	Limited atonement – Christ's death is intended only for the elect.	Substitutionary atonement in Christ, sufficient for all men, but efficacious only for the elect	Christ's atonement is intended for all men, but is only efficacious in those who respond to the drawing and believe/repent
Grace	Irresistible Monergism – conversion is entirely of God's choosing & working, with no human factors	Resistible Monergism – conversion is entirely of God's choosing & working but can be resisted	Synergism – assisted by preceding grace, man reacts to God's drawing, co-operating with Him in repentance
Salvation	Since God has decreed the salvation of the elect, and since they cannot resist his grace, they are unconditionally and eternally secure	Salvation is assured, but apostasy is possible through obstinate sin & resistance	There is security in God's grace that allows assurance of salvation, but that security is in relation to continued faithfulness, we can definitely reject God

From an Arminian view, predestination is **conditional on God's foreknowledge** of a person's faith, rather than unconditional. This means God predestines those whom He foresees will choose to repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Some Arminians also view predestination as a corporate reality, where God elects a people (like the Church) rather than specific individuals.

Key aspects of Arminian predestination

- **Conditional Election:** God's choice of individuals is not arbitrary but is based on His foreknowledge of their response to His grace.
- **Human Free Will:** Individuals are not coerced but have the free will to accept or reject God's salvation, which is available to all.
- **Corporate or Individual:** The view on whether God predestines individuals or a collective group (the Church) varies among Arminians. Some emphasize the corporate body of believers, while others focus on individual choice, as outlined in the [Remonstrance of 1610](#).
- **God's Foreknowledge:** God's predestination is not about Him deciding before the world began who would be saved, but about Him making a decree based on His perfect knowledge of who would respond to His offer of salvation through Christ.