


UNITY
CHURCH OF BAKERSFIELD
"A POSITIVE PLACE TO GROW!"


Today's Lesson
A Matter of Free Will
PowerPoint notes available at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

A Matter of Free Will




Charles R. Fillmore's take on the matter of free will:
Free will is our inherent freedom to act as we determine. There can be no perfect expression without perfect freedom of will.
If we determine to act in accord with divine law, we will build harmony, health, happiness, and eternal life, which is heaven.

A Matter of Free Will




The question of free will has been a subject of great debate among the philosophers and theologians for centuries.
One of the most fundamental gifts our beloved creator gave us was the freedom to make choices for the greater good.

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In 1931 the editors of Unity Magazine presented an article on the issue of free will. The following is their response to the question being asked by many Truth students.

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The Unity School of Christianity teaches that fatalism and predestination are false beliefs, and that they are not true, not real, because man has the power to turn in thought to God and to reverse his wrong thoughts.

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Each person selects that law under which he will live. Every man decides which law he will obey. The civilian lives under the civil law; the soldier puts himself under the military law; and the sailor submits himself to the law of the sea.

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The fearful, trembling soul elects to live under the law of chance, and finds himself in a world that corresponds with accidents, floods, and sudden storms.

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But the glorified soul says, "There is only one Presence and one Power in the universe, God, the good omnipotent. I live, move, and have my being in God."

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I have my being in a world of Spirit, a world of mind, and I obey its laws. I exist in the heart of the Infinite and enjoy its fruits, for the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, and divine harmony."

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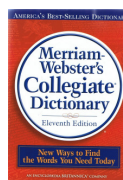
With that assurance the triumphant soul marches forward from glory to glory, because the Father of lights makes plain the way, and as co-workers with God, we realize that we are in truth a child of God.

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As the Daily Word affirmation today revealed:
I align my attitude and actions with the Truth of my being.

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Webster defines free as "voluntary" and will as "the faculty of consciousness and deliberate action; a desire; a choice; a purpose, and a determination".

So we could therefore surmise that humanity's free will is a voluntary action involving a desire, choice, purpose or determination.

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In Matt Chapter 21:28-31 we find Jesus telling a parable that relates to this definition:

"A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' I will not", he said; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go.

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Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you."

Wow! What a blow to the Pharisees and their egos. They were about the "letter of law, God's will written by man."

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Jesus, however, saw a different meaning for the will of God. And it was simply this:

"I can do nothing on my own authority; as I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."

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When we look at the meaning of this parable we can see several points being made here:

1. Jesus had come to the temple for Passover and had turned over the tables.
2. He had healed a blind man born blind.
3. The Pharisees came to ask by what authority he did these things.
4. The Pharisees kept to the law, the law of Moses as there authority.
5. Jesus kept to God's law, a spiritual law, not man made.

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6. Jesus never taught a theology, he only taught spiritual truths. His messages were always of a spiritual nature

7. We always have the power to choose through our ability to reason and to think which allows us express "free will."

8. Metaphysically speaking, Jesus is saying that those who ultimately do the father's will (spiritual) will enter into the kingdom (all that is good) before those who say they do the will by maintaining the law of Moses (physical attachments.)

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9. Jesus understood the human condition and its attachment to things. In the physical realm of things we are limited, but in the spiritual realm all things are possible. And everything he did was to affirm:

That with God all things are possible.

We are spiritual beings, made in the image and likeness of God on a journey back to God.

That we are like a drop of rain that finds its way back to the ocean from where it came, we too will find our way back to God.

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A modern take on the matter of free will by Fred Alan Wolf a.k.a. Dr. Quantum, can be found in his book, Taking the Quantum Leap. The New Physics For Non-Scientist.

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"Quantum mechanics seems to point to the limits of human power. These limits refer to our knowledge and our ability to gain knowledge. Quantum mechanics, perhaps more clearly than any religion, points to the unity of the world. It also points to something beyond the physical world. We might say that God's will is exercised in the world of the 'qwiff,' the quantum wave function. It is a casual world of exact mathematical accuracy, but there is no matter present. It is a world of paradox and utter confusion for human, limited intelligence.

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Perhaps if we come to understand how modern physics, particularly quantum mechanics, can make us be aware of the limits of human will, we will learn to get along with each other. Even better, we may realize our cosmic heritage as part of the greater will."

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How can you know if something is God's will? No one can tell you absolutely for sure because it requires an inner knowing on your part, but here are some guidelines which can help you:

1. If it results in a winning situation for everyone involved, chances are it's God's will.
2. If things are going effortlessly, without force or manipulation, chances are it's God's will.
3. As long as there's a green light or an open door, proceed ahead. Go through it. Chances are it's God's will.