

MAN'S WILL IS NOT HIS HOPE

For the stream to be pure, the source must be pure. For the fruit to be good, the tree must be good.

The will is only an expression of who you are.

- Those who rely on will-power will be disappointed (Jhn 1:12-13)
- Those who rely on “peer pressure” and the “wisdom of man” in the marketing of the message will be disappointed (2 Cor 4:1-5)

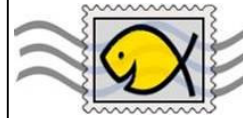
The Spirit alone changes human nature by,

- A new birth (Jhn 3:3; 1 Peter 1:23)
- The gift of believing (Gal 3:2-3)
- The hearing of the word (Js 1:18)

Therefore,

We stand with no power to make the tree good. Nor can gimmicks make what is unclean, clean. It is the work of God’s Spirit alone, through His Word, that in all things, He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

WRITE OUT TODAY’S MEMORY VERSE (JOHN 1:12-13)



**THIS, THE SCRIPTURES
TEACH AND THIS WE
BELIEVE ABOUT...**

THE WILL OF MAN



**HUMAN FREEDOM IS ...THE POWER TO DO WHAT ONE
DESIRES...**

Jonathan Edwards

THE WILL OF MAN

Matthew 12:33-38

For over 1500 years there has been heated discussion on this subject. Your views today will decide what message you spread and what methods you use tomorrow.

- Pelagius vs Augustine (410AD)
- Erasmus vs Luther (1500)
- Arminians vs Calvinists (1600)
- Wesley vs Whitfield (1700)
- Finney vs ...very few (1900)

☞ MAN IS FREE TO CHOOSE (MATT 12:36-37)

- Man is free to think and act as he desires (1 Kings 18:21)
- God doesn't force people against their will (Deut 7:20-24)
- But man will not choose Christ (John 5:40; Rom 3:11)

Therefore,

Man is responsible because he chooses his words. Jesus says, "Believe", but Man says, "I will not!". Jesus says, "Come", but Man says, "No!".

☞ MAN IS NOT NEUTRAL (MATT 12:333-35)

- What *fills* Man determines what he **is** (Rom 1:29; Phil 1:11)
- What a Man *is* determines what he **desires** (Matt 7:16-20)

Therefore,

Man's will is governed by what he desires. And what he desires is "evil" (Gen 6:5; Jhn 8:44)

1. What is implied if man can say, "Yes" apart from the Spirit?

☞ HOW CAN I BE COMMANDED TO BELIEVE IF I CANT BELIEVE?

This is an argument from philosophy, not from the pages of scripture, and assumes, what cannot be proved: that a plan or purpose of God must destroy the freedom of man. But...

- God commands us to believe (Mark 1:15-17)
- God commands us to come to Christ (Mark 1:15-17)

Therefore,

Accountability is not dependant on a neutral will. Man is accountable for God for every idle word, despite any claim of ignorance or inability, because he was made by God and in His image (Rom 9:19-21, cf. Gen 9:5-6).

The fact that man "freely" forfeited his ability does not alter God's command.

2. Can God act in a way contrary to His nature?

Be thankful that God does not change.

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. (Mal 3:6)

3. If sin is a result of the rebellious nature, will we sin in heaven?
