

I had published a short synopsis on my position on free will, which read:

**I believe in free will:**

**You are free to choose to do what you want to do,  
but you are not free to choose what it is, that you want to do,  
nor are you necessarily able, to do what you choose to do!**

A reader then responded by asking:

***John 6:44 No man can come to Me unless the Father who hath sent Me draw him; and I will raise him up at the Last Day.***

***"can" does not mean "will". This seems to indicate there is still a choice after being drawn?***

My response to her was:

The "can", speaks to ability, no one is even able to come to God. Paul, in the book of Romans, sums up the condition of fallen mankind when he quotes the Old Testament:

10 as it is written,

“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,  
THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS;  
THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD,  
THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.”

That is not vague language "**none**", "**not even one**", "**none** who understands", "**none** who seeks for God", "**all** have turned aside", "**none** who does good", "there is **not even one**"

So, in essence, if there is a choice there, **not one single person** made it! **Not one!**

If not even one did or does, then there is a huge problem, EVERYONE rejects God, **EVERYONE!** As I said this is not vague language! Look in that short passage, the point is made at least 7 times, in 3 verses!

The disciples seemed to be catching on to this, when Jesus addressed the rich young ruler. You will recall, that the young man asked Jesus what he must do to be saved. Jesus said "keep the commandments"! The ruler asked: "which ones?" Jesus gave him a list. The man said it essence: "I have done all that since my youth"! "Jesus said, then sell your things, give to the poor, and follow me!"

Here we had, apparently, a very good man, who never-the-less, had doubts about his own eternal security. He probably knew he was doing pretty good, trying hard. Still he knew somehow, that he lacked. Jesus made him confront his sin, his wealth was more important to him that following Jesus to eternal life was. It is a sad story, but it is the story of all mankind, **no one** seeks God, **not even one**.

The disciples were astonished, and realized how desperately in peril we are, so they asked:

"Who then can be saved?" Jesus hit the nail squarely on the head, and said "with man, it is impossible". Why is it impossible? Because man **cannot** choose God, it is impossible for him to do so.

There are two conditions, either a person is a lost sinner, or they are perfect. No one is perfect, so all are lost. That, is the natural man's condition after the sin in the garden. On our own, we are hopeless, unable to choose God, a slave to sin. We can try, but we fail. There is no shade of gray, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

If it requires perfection, then aren't we still lost? No, not if we have faith in Jesus. By faith, we are justified. Justified, means that we get credit. As someone said, justified, is "just as if I'd" never sinned. Jesus transfers His sinlessness to us, it is put into our account. This is the great exchange:

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. - 2 Cor 2:21

On our own we are hopeless, but, we are not without hope, because we are not on our own. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness, as the hymn says.

Since we are impossibly lost, left to ourselves, Jesus answered the disciples' question, in two parts:

"with man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible!"

That reflects back to what we already touched on:

John 6:44 No man can come to Me unless the Father who hath sent Me draw him; and I will raise him up at the Last Day.

So, yes, no one can, and therefore no one does, come to Jesus, unless the Father draws that person. Then the great thing happens, things go from impossible to certainty. The certainty is contained in the clause, "I will raise him up".

Isn't that wonderful, "I will raise him up!" Not "I might raise him up", not "I will raise him up if".

Now, what is debatable there is the question of: "will all who the Father draws – actually come, or is it just that all that the Father calls are then able to come?"

Either way, the sequence is the same. People come only AFTER the Father draws, before that they cannot. This takes our part of our salvation out of the picture. We do not chose God until God first, chooses us. God is the husband in this relationship. We the bride, do not accept until He proposes, and He propose to those He has chosen. Those He chose, He chose before the foundation of the world, before we were ever able to do anything nor have any say in the matter. (Eph 1:4)

So, free will? Yeah, we have it, in a sense, at least the chosen do, but unless a person is among the chosen, their will is captive to sin. We are slaves to sin, apart from the new birth, and then we are slaves to God. We are all slaves, and do slaves really have free will? I suppose we have free will as much as any slave does.

This is why I ask the question about free will, what is it really, do we really ever have it, after all, in Romans 6:22 we see:

But now having been freed from sin and **enslaved** to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

I love what I have come to believe in this area. I have loved God from the day I realized that He saved me. I reached out to Him, and He responded. That is how I saw it. Then, I read the Bible, years and years, then realized, I did not choose Him, He chose me to choose Him, and before that, He sought me to seek Him, and yet, is was all determined before the foundation of the world.

God knew this was going to happen, and whatever God knows will happen, does happen, without exception.

Realizing this, has made me come to appreciate Him even more. Now that I realize that I did not choose Him, it means that I can take no credit for my salvation, none at all, it is all Him. When I thought that I had a say in it, I was sharing some of His glory, as it I had some merit, some wisdom or goodness that had led me to choose to follow Him.

I now get, that I am a total sinner, apart from God, I was even His enemy. That makes what He did for me, even more glorious, and makes me appreciate Him even more than I did. I had no free will, my will was enslaved, not free at all, but it became freed to switch allegiance from a master to **the** Master.