

Freedom

By Craig Paardekooper

We Have Freewill

Each moment of every day we exercise freewill. Free choice is the most evident and most frequent characteristic of human behavior. It is also the strongest evidence that we have souls, since how can freedom exist if we are just matter – matter does not make choices – it just responds when external forces are applied. Our free will is something that materialists and atheists would like us to forget.

Freedom to do Anything

On the plain of freedom we are able to do anything we want. Good or evil. Sometimes this freedom feels like a pull towards evil because evil becomes possible just as good is. When all things are possible it feels like standing on a ridge with a drop on both sides. It's because all things are potentials. But really it is just what freedom feels like. Floating in a sea of possibility. But possibility does not pull us either way because on the plain of freedom we are in total control.

Freedom from Past Decisions

Even following a previous poor decision you still exist on the plain of freedom and still have complete freedom to go either way. So every moment you are able to shape your destiny anew. To learn to walk on this plain is to learn to be a man rather than an animal, since you are making free choices rather than being compelled by instinct.

How can you navigate this field ?

First of all you can choose nothing and just learn to relax amidst potentials. This way you are learning that you are in control. Fasting is an exercise in freedom. Establishing a strong center is an important first step.

Then from this center of relaxation you will be able to perceive and think, rather than being pulled and pushed by the potentials around you. You may become aware of a bigger picture, because you are no longer preoccupied with your own “needs” or obsessed by particular outcomes. So, inevitably, you will be more aware of what is in your environment – awareness of others – even awareness of God. Based on your bigger awareness, you may make different choices, or no choices at all.

Walking with God

The path of freedom is the path that Christians must learn to walk. I think it is what is meant by the phrase “walking with God” – because it is a walk of freedom where you choose God. It seems like an infinite sea of possibility with no trails. That's because the only trail is your awareness which grows with time. You may receive help along the way, if you pray and share your concerns.