

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK
WEEK 29: Leader Study Guide

Free Will & Faith

-Welcome!

-Intro: Thanks for being here! Revisit last week's points

****point everyone to PODCAST! Fcamx.com/gospeldrivenathlete**

**Exchange numbers or invite attendees to join your ETEW Facebook group.*

INTRO:

Hi, and welcome to Every Track Every Week. My name is _____ and I am involved with Texas FCA Motocross through _____. I've been involved with FCA MX for ____ years and my favorite thing about the ministry is_____.

This week's discussion is based upon episode #86 of our podcast "The Gospel Driven Athlete", titled "Free Will and Faith." Today we are going to discuss the freedom of our choices and where faith falls within that freedom.

-Ice Breaker Question: How is a dog's nature different from the nature of human beings?

-Question 1: Does mankind have free will?

***ANSWER:**

Yes man does have free will. We are autonomous beings with conscious individual minds. We make decisions individually and God has created a world where we are free to do so. God has made us in his image and we each operate in a world where we make our own choices. We are not puppets and our actions are not all determined in advance.



Man had the choice to obey or disobey. Man, still today has choices that he makes in his life.

-Question 2: Why is it important to consider the nature of man when discussing free will? How does the story of the fall in genesis explain what we are able to do and what we are unable to do after man sinned?

ANSWER:

While we all have a free will, we are bound to our nature and we behave in accordance with our nature. A dog that has freedom will behave like a dog. A bird that has freedom will behave in accordance with that nature.

Man's nature made a major transition from before the fall and sin of Adam and Eve to after the fall. Man went from having a perfect sinless nature, to having a sinful corrupted nature. So while man maintained his autonomy and freedom, his freedom now is used for the sake of acting in his new sinful nature.

“For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Romans 8:7

-Question 3: If man is prone only to sin because of his nature, and despite his autonomous and free will can only go on sinning, what hope does he have?

***Answer:**

This is the hope of the gospel. The gospel is the message of free grace whereby the triune God acts to save sinners.

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

As we can see in Ephesians. Even faith itself is a gift.



Faith is the key gift from God that acts as the means by which we rest in God's promises and receive the free forgiveness of God on account of Christ's work.

In Christ, man is legally declared righteous through faith, however he is still bound in some degree to his flesh and his sin nature. While he has God's spirit living inside him and effecting faith, sanctification, and good works, he still struggles with sin. However, in his union with Christ God is restoring the freedom to act outside of his sin nature through the power of the gospel.

-Question 4: So how then with a free will that is in bondage to his nature does man believe in the promise of the gospel?

***ANSWER:**

Scripture is clear that man can only be regenerate by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the doctrine of election. Scripture is also clear that those that God calls he regenerates and enables them to believe.

Romans 10:16 says that faith is created through hearing the gospel and that the power of God is in the gospel. The redemptive story of God's free scandalous grace is the means by which the Holy Spirit uses to call those who are his.

Question 5: What is the ultimate hope of the Gospel?

***ANSWER:**

That man's nature will be restored to what was in the garden. Perfect and sinless.

Even better, we are told that we will be "like Christ" meaning unable to ever sin again. While Adam was mutable, we will be immutable.

Mutable- liable to change.

When we are glorified in the future we will be immutable and unable to sin. This is the amazing promise of the gospel that sinful man is redeemed and made perfect, resurrected unto life just like Christ.

Question 6: How should these facts drive our attitudes, our actions and our lives?



ANSWER:

- 1.) It should make us humble. We have nothing to do with saving ourselves and even our faith is a gift.
- 2.) It should give us hope that if we are receiving and resting in Christ alone for our salvation that God is renewing our nature day by day through the power of the gospel to be in conformance to his will. Despite our current struggle with sin we know that one day we will be redeemed and restored completely and without sin.
- 3.) Because we are promised a future with Christ that is free of our sin nature it should motivate us to love and to love our neighbor and to begin acting in accordance with the future promise.

