

MAN IS A FREE MORAL AGENT CAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTION

God speaks to all men through moral consciousness, His power in creation, and through the conviction of the Holy Spirit concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. Romans 1:20; 2:1-4 John 16:7-11

Moral consciousness is the ability of all men to know when good or evil is extended in their direction.

The power in creation is evidence of a creator to which we as created beings are accountable.

Awareness of our own sin and our need for righteousness makes us aware of judgment to come. A man can either seek God and His righteousness or ignore God and remain in self-centeredness with its consequences. Jeremiah 36:7 Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Galatians 5:13-17 John 7:17

The Bible consistently teaches that man is a free moral agent capable of seeking God and His righteousness. All men can exercise "common faith" and in cooperation with the Spirit come to "saving faith" in Jesus Christ. Common faith includes believing there is God, and that there is absolute truth regarding sin and righteousness. Acts 17:11,12 Romans 10:8-21

The Bible teaches that man must be brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by the aid of God in conjunction with a readiness of mind in the free moral agent. Man being a free moral agent does not allow for attaining righteousness exclusive to the work of Christ's provision for our righteousness.

Christ's one act of righteousness, dying sinless, proves Him to be the "Righteous One" who God raised from the dead and gave all power and authority to remove sin from all creation. By believing Jesus and receiving His salvation for the removal of sin, regeneration is the initial gift of salvation which includes the indwelling Holy Spirit, election and calling to service and holiness, sanctification, glorification, adoption, inheritance, and justification for eternal life.

God speaks to the believer through the Bible to reveal Himself, to reveal our fallen self, and to reveal His work of salvation for those who will cooperate. Our faith is pleasing to God. God has decreed and allows the believer in Christ free choices which should be influenced by the truth in God's Word as revealed by the Holy Spirit. We can do nothing eternally good without the indwelling Christ in our life. God does not remove us from our living by faith. God is pleased when we allow His Word to guide our lives and out of our free choices follow Him. Believers are free moral agents in that we still must choose to walk after the Spirit in obedience to His commands found in His Word. Whereas all men are free to do temporal good or evil, believers are free to do eternal good by walking after the Spirit.

Hebrews 1:2 Matthew 7:7-11 Philippians 4:7-9; 2:12-16