

1. Everything that occurs in the life of any person in human history was known to God in eternity past. Every thought, decision, and action of the individual emerges from his law of freedom.
2. The law of freedom emphasizes the free will of the individual. It makes clear that each person is a free agent. His decisions are his decisions, not someone else's.
3. These decisions are based on his personal inventory of ideas regardless of any external influences upon his free will.
4. Since the fall in Eden, every human being has been exposed to the gospel of salvation and his free will has either responded to that information or not (Romans 10:14–20). Those who do respond are saved and have eternal life and will go to heaven when they experience physical death.
5. **PRINCIPLE:** The soul never dies. It is imputed at the moment of physical birth to every individual. Where that soul exists following physical death is primarily determined by whether or not he used his free will to believe in Jesus Christ.
6. When an unbeliever experiences physical death, his soul exits the body. It is then incarcerated in an interim body in the Torments compartment of Hades.
7. When a person experiences physical death having placed his personal faith in Christ, his soul exits the body, along with the human spirit, and is immediately face to face with the Lord in an interim body (2 Corinthians 5:8).
8. The reason for the introduction of Homo sapiens into world history is to give each person the opportunity to become a witness for the Prosecution in the resolution of the Angelic Conflict.
9. Free will is a grace provision that allows each individual to use his law of freedom to make his own decision to accept or reject the invitation to acquire eternal life through faith in Christ or use it to decline the offer.
10. Therefore, since free will is the determining factor in distinguishing between the two responses, the individual must have the mental faculties necessary to understand the gospel in order to make a rational response.
11. Consequently, those who are incapable of making such a decision are not held responsible and are granted eternal life in heaven.
12. This exception applies to those who do not possess the mental faculties required to comprehend the gospel and therefor are incapable of responding to it.

13. Examples include the mental development of children with emphasis on their ability to comprehend abstract thought. Here's an excerpt:

Abstract thinking involves abstract concepts. For example, time, death, love, manners, empathy, fairness, etc. Experiments show that children do not even begin development in this stage until around the ages of 5 and 6.¹
14. This is why the Baptist denomination does not recognize cognitive clarity of the gospel and its eternal implications until a child reaches the age of 12.
15. The ability to fully comprehend the gospel message enables a person to use his free will to respond objectively to either to accept or reject it.
16. The term “free will” refers to the presence of volition in the soul of an individual. The human soul is equipped with the ability to acquire information and retain it for consultation and application.
17. This means that every person who ever lived is a free agent and is personally responsible for all his thoughts, decisions, and actions once his mental faculties acquire clarity of thought.
18. This is when the individual should be held responsible by society for his thoughts decisions and actions. Before God, his major problem is his status quo of unbelief and therefore in need of the Savior.
19. The age varies for each individual, but God knows when a child reaches the age of responsibility. Salvation results in forgiveness of all personal sins and the person's spiritual life proceeds at that point.
20. This is when the Law of Freedom kicks in accompanied by one's accountability before the Lord. The word, “freedom,” is the noun, **ἐλευθερία (eleuthería)**.
21. James in his epistle twice uses the phrase, “the Law of Freedom,” in the NASB and NIV translations; the King James, however, translates the phrase, “the Law of Liberty.”
22. “Liberty” is not used in Greek lexicons and dictionaries' definitions, but “freedom” is. This requires us to consult English dictionaries in order to determine the difference between the two words and then apply the correct definition to our context in James.

Liberty. The state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views.²

¹ “Abstract Thinking: Cognitive Development in Young Children,” <http://deltaflute.blogspot.com/2011/10/abstract-thinking-cognitive-development.html>, accessed July 27, 2018.

² *The New Oxford American Dictionary* (2001), s.v. “liberty.”



Freedom. The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. The power of self-determination attributed to the will [volition].³

23. What we discover is that “liberty” refers to decisions made externally within the commonwealth of one’s culture, society, or government. On the other hand, “freedom” is internal with regard to one’s volition. The individual has free will and may use it to make personal decisions on every issue, subject, or idea that requires a response.
24. The latter is James’s context and therefore “freedom” is the correct translation. James is presenting examples of situations that require adherence to biblical guidelines, principles, and doctrines that require a decision from one’s free will.
25. Throughout the life of every individual there are situations that require responses. These responses vary from human viewpoint to establishment viewpoint among unbelievers. Their inventory of ideas is limited to information accumulated from *cosmos diabolicus*.
26. On the other hand, believers have these same cosmic responses still available for consideration. If they never give guidance from the Word of God serious consideration, then they remain dependent upon human and establishment viewpoints as their only references for decision-making.
27. Those who avail themselves to the teaching of the Word of God gradually supplement their cosmic inventory of ideas with divine viewpoint. These are the one’s James refers to as “hearers of the Word and not doers (1:22).”
28. Serious study of Scripture is a process that gradually inhibits one’s inventory of cosmic solutions while facilitates the buildup of divine solutions. This is described as matriculation in the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics.
29. The serious student must commit himself to the ongoing study of the Word inside that Academy which is the divine dynasphere under the ministry of a pastor-teacher and the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.
30. This is a lifelong process. That process is the accumulation of truth from the source of God’s immutable Word which carries with it the guarantee of its veracity.
31. Truth from God’s Word is absolute and does not vary. Jesus Christ is the human expression of divine truth. Here is his comment to Pontius Pilate and the procurator’s response:

³ Ibid., s.v. “freedom.”



John 18:37b “I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

v. 38 Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

32. Jesus’ person was absolute perfect humanity. His inventory of ideas was the sum total of divine thought. His decisions and applications were perfect expressions of divine guidance.
33. John exclaimed this truth in his introductory paragraph to his Gospel:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

34. James describes the application of this grace and truth in:

James 1:17 Every good-of-intrinsic-value act of giving and every completed gift keeps on being from above, coming down from the ultimate source of the Father of lights, with Whom there is no change or alteration or the occurrence of an eclipse. (EXT)

35. If Scripture is the presentation of absolute truth, if Jesus Christ is the human expression of that truth in His Person and Works, and if that truth never suffers change or alteration or occurrence of an eclipse, then we are forced to conclude that the Word of God is alive and powerful and perfectly capable of successfully addressing every circumstance, adversity, exigency, disaster, tragedy, or heartbreak that life in the devil’s world challenges us to confront.

Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

v. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

36. I believe that in times of national or personal trial, it is good to go back to the principles that James presented in the first chapter of his epistle. Every circumstance we face was known to God in eternity past. When they arrive in time, we must be prepared to engage them through the power of the Word and the Father’s matchless grace.

