

What if someone doesn't continue in the faith?

And when people escape from the wickedness of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and then get tangled up and enslaved by sin again, they are worse off than before.²¹ It would be better if they had never known the way to righteousness than to know it and then reject the command, they were given to live a holy life. 2 Peter 2:20,21

If election is all God's doing, nothing you fail to do could make it less sure, yet Peter warns them live your life accordingly, if not you're worse off then you were before you knew Christ.

Therefore, brothers and sisters...²⁶If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, *no sacrifice for sins is left*,...²⁹How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, ... Hebrews 10:19,26,29

Sounds Conditional. And Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount.

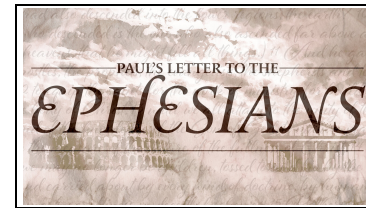
"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13,14

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

Both predestination and personal responsibility are true.

God is completely in control, and we make choices and are completely accountable for those choices. These are not mutually exclusive truths. Though it is taught that way by many.

In the Bible, God repeatedly calls on us to exercise our will to trust in Christ for salvation, and we should pursue obedience to His commands always as a response to His gift of grace



The Arguments for Predestination & Free Will Ephesians 1:1-6

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God's holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus.² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.⁴ *Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.*⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.

Predestination/Election and Free Will's Role in Our Salvation

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's **elect** and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness...Titus 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's **elect**, exiles scattered throughout the provinces... 1 Peter 1:1

"God's *elect*" a phrase both Paul and Peter use, are those people God has predestined to salvation. They are called the "*elect*" because that word denotes "*deciding ahead of time.*"

The concept of God *electing* those who will be saved isn't controversial in itself. *What is controversial is how and in what manner God chooses those who will be saved.*

Two main views on the doctrine of Predestination/Election.

Foreknowledge-teaches that God, through His omniscience, knows those people who will choose of their own free will to place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation.

The second main view is the **Augustinian** view, which essentially teaches that God not only elects those who will have faith in Jesus Christ, but also grants to these individuals the faith to believe in Christ.

The difference boils down to this:
Who has the ultimate choice in salvation—God or man?

Foreknowledge View: We know God offers salvation to everyone.

For the grace of God has been revealed, *bringing salvation to all people*. Titus 2:11

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. *So, they have no excuse for not knowing God*. Romans 1:20

Augustinian View: You cannot make yourself a Christian, by your choice.

For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.¹⁰ But *by the grace of God I am what I am*.
1 Corinthians 15:9,10

For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me *draws them to Me*,...
John 6:44

When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and *all who were chosen for eternal life* became believers. Acts 13:48

The Bible never says a we *can't* choose God, rather the Bible teaches a we don't *want* to choose God. Not that you're incapable of choosing, but you're incapable of wanting it. So, when the Bible says you cannot come unless the Father draws you, that doesn't mean you don't have free will. It means you can't want him unless he opens your eyes because your fallen nature doesn't want him.

What happens is the Bible says God has to come and pull a blindfold off of you.

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. 1 Corinthians 4:4

Why should God choose some people and not others?

No one can answer that question, because it's not based upon what we've done but on who God chooses to show mercy.

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." ¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. Romans 9:14-16

The one created has no right to accuse the Creator of being unjust.

So, you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen. Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?" ²⁰ No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?" Romans 9:18-20

Foreknowledge View:

For *God so loved the world* that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

"For God so loved the world " not just a part of the world.

(Jesus) himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins *but the sins of all the world*. 1 John 2:2

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to *confirm your calling and election*.
For if you do these things, you will never stumble, 2 Peter 1:10

If election is God's choice alone, and it cannot be changed, God picks you and you will come to Him, then what could you do to make it more sure than it already is?