

Fearless Q – Week 1

DOES GOD CHOOSE US OR DO WE CHOOSE HIM?

discussing free will and predestination

HEAD

1. **Where do we go to understand?**

-search the scriptures - stick to what the scriptures say

- a. Ephesians 1:3-8
- b. John 3:16-18 and 15:16
- c. Philippians 2:12-13
- d. Romans 9:14-16, 19-21
- e. 2 Peter 3:9



HEART

2. **What questions does this cause you to ask?**

-acknowledge the struggle - do not attempt to answer now

- Does God love me?
- Is my salvation sure?
- What about those God doesn't seem to call?
- Is God fair?
- Is there only 1 right decision in any situation?
- Do my prayers matter?
- Does predestination make God a puppet-master?
- Other _____

3. **How do the scriptures above help as you wrestle through your questions?**

-invite the Spirit into the mystery—use your Bible study to wrestle



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What Chapel Hill's pastors have understood in our wrestling:

Scripture teaches both free will and predestination. We prioritize the idea of predestination over free will because predestination makes our salvation secure in the character of God. Do you trust him?

HANDS



4. How can we talk about this with others?

-practice the conversation

- You're talking with a friend who is the parent of a six-year-old who just passed away. They ask, "Do you think my child's in heaven?"
- You run into a college student at the grocery store who you used to see at church but don't anymore. They say, "Oh, I don't need church anymore. I got baptized in high school. So I'm all set."

5. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Lord, you've said that you love your world; you've said that you want none to perish. Help us to trust in your love for us and for your world. We have people we know that we want to know you. Please draw them to you that they might believe and confess that you are God. We pray for [name those you desire to know Jesus].

Holy Spirit, please give us the faith and the perseverance to believe. We want to be assured of and filled with your mercy and compassion.

In Jesus' name, Amen.