

Freedom of choice –

God has spoken through His prophets, Son, and apostles. His approach has been consistent. He has revealed His moral will and freedom of choice is to be exercised within the revealed stated limits.

1. 1 John 3:4 with Rom. 4:15 – the only way a person can sin against God is to break one of God’s laws (make a decision outside the moral will of God).
2. If no biblical principles are violated, a decision lies within the area of moral freedom.

Examples of freedom of choice in God’s Word (free will):

1. Gen. 2:16-17 – from any tree but one, you may eat. (Gen. 3:1-3)
2. Lev. 11 and Deut. 14 – God’s moral will placed upon the Israelites only separated animals into two categories – those which could be eaten and those which were forbidden. From among the “clean animals” the Hebrews could freely choose. Lev. 11:2
3. Num. 6 – if a person made such a vow, he obligated himself to fulfill the terms of his commitment – terms which were clearly explained:
 - a. the decision to take the vow was strictly voluntary.
 - b. The man who took the vow and the man who chose not to take the vow were equally within God’s moral will.
4. Lev. 22:18-20 – free will offering gave an Israelite the opportunity to express their devotion to God in voluntary displays of love.

NOTE: within the limit that the animal chosen for the burnt offering had to be a male without defect, it could be a bull, a ram, or a goat.

5. Deut. 18:6-7 – comes whenever he desires.
6. Deut. 23:21-23 – vows are voluntary until they are made. Deut. 30:2; Ps. 50:14; Eccl. 5:4-5
7. Deut. 23:15-16 – he may live...in the place...where it pleases him.
8. Mt. 20:13-15 – Jesus assumes the principle of freedom to be true.
9. Paul in the area of eating meat – 1 Cor. 8:8-9; 9:4; 10:23, 25, 29
10. 2 Cor. 9:7 – giving.
11. 1 Cor. 7 – whether to marry and whom to marry (no specific person mentioned, just parameters).
12. 1 Thes. 3:1 – We thought it best.
Phil. 2:25-26 – I thought it necessary.
Acts 6:2-4 – it is not...therefore...we will.
Acts 15:22, 25, 28 – it seemed good to us.
Acts 15:19 – it is my judgment.
13. 1 Cor. 6 – Christians ought to be able to make wise decisions.