

accomplishment if we truly desire. The Lord Jesus Christ says 'If any man will to do His will, he shall know of the , whether I speak of myself or whether I speak from the Father. If any man will do to His will, there is that proof right in every one of us where we have a power of choice and a responsibility. And so the general principle is stressed ~~there~~ in the beginning of this chapter nine. 'God hath endued the will of man with that natural liberty, that is neither forced, nor by any absolute necessity of nature, determined to good or evil.' Now we should go on and look at the other sections of this chapter which deal more with one special phase of this whole matter of the will of man. We may deal with the matter of whether man can will entirely to serve the Lord. And there we find expressed in the second section. 'Man in his ^{state} ~~state~~ of innocency had freedom and power to will and to do that which is good and well pleasing to God. But yet ^{2/3/4/} ~~you can believe~~ so that he might fall ^{from it.'} ~~from it.'~~ ^(23/4) . What is man in the state of innocency? Man as ~~believe/~~ we read it in the garden had a will which was much more able, much more free than our will can possibly be because he was in the ~~state~~ of innocense. He had the power to will to serve God. But he also had the power to will to turn away from God and yet what man did then was unauthoribly ordained from all eternity by God. And the situation in the Garden of Eden was just as much ordained of God as what happens now. But note from all eternity ~~ly~~ and he chose to be that way in accord with his own great wisdom and for His own good purpose. But man in his state of innocency, had a freedom and a power which is far beyond anything that even the redeemed can have had today. To have that freedom and power to do which was good and well ~~pleasing~~ to God and he chose to turn away from him and he chose to question Gods goodness and God's love he chose to sin, and in making that choice, he dragged all of us down with him, he who was a (4) into the abyss in which we are today. And number three: Man, by his fall into a state of sin, hath wholly lost all ability of will to any spiritual good accompanying salvation, so as a natural man, being altogether averse from that good, and dead in sin, is not able, by his own strength, to convert himself, or to prepare himself