

Not that powerful

At the weeks end, I find themes to blog about. This week has been all about destiny. In the Bible there are terms like predestination and hardening of the heart. Is God in control of our lives? That's the question! Some good folks say yes. God lives outside of time. He can see the outcome before it happens. I suppose He could change the past like a chess board. Make fate different because of something that happened in another time period. Yet, is God surprised by events? Did He say "I didn't see that coming?" I suspect that fate, predestination, and free will are all true and all false in God's world.

I listened to a preacher who figured God knows everything. Yet, God will make allowances for free will. He will change the game to make it all work out. So, God can have His will and plan even if we make mistakes or quit? Dorothy wanted to go home from Oz. She looked at the wizard's bag and doubted there was anything in there to help her. The wizard piped up that he had a way. Dorothy exclaimed "are you a great enough wizard?" This wizard looked perplexed at the question. Of course, he was!

If God was all powerful then what does that mean? Is He all-powerful by doing miracles and resurrections? Yet, fate and predestination are His downfall? He is good but not that good! God couldn't take Dorothy home because that's impossible, right? He isn't the wizard of Oz! I think we have a pre-vision of what is possible. People love fantasy stories that take them to places that are impossible. It makes us dream and wonder of what could be even if it's impossible. Most people put God in that place. Wouldn't it be nice if God was real? If the Ark and Jesus had existed. Deep inside, most people just can't get past there belief box. Some things are impossible to humans.

What does God have to say? Romans 10:14 *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”* That’s about it. How can people call on an all-powerful God if they don’t believe it? Matthew 19:26 says *“But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”* The trouble with predestination, free will, and fate is our view of God. Somehow, He must fit in our belief box. Read those scriptures again. God does not fit in a box. Would any God?

It's like saying I wish my dog was a cat. I wish my Mazda was a corvette. Some things are what they are regardless of our wishes. People can place God within their human belief box. That does not mean God is in their box. I think the queen is a nice lady. Is she? Our view of God does not lessen God’s power. Our beliefs in the universe do not make them fact or true. Oh, you say it does. What do you know compared to the vastness of time and space? Nothing little human!

What if our own choices made fate? Now I dispute that just a little with some of the horrific crime stories I’ve heard. Fate seems like a lion hunting down the innocent. Predestination seems odd. I thought the Bible says God wants anyone to call on His name and be saved? I thought God so loved the world? Then we have this concept called free will. It fits with the killer called fate. What if men chose to kill? What if women chose to cheat, lie, and steal? What if God was powerful enough to allow free will to have a place on this earth?

They ask why God does not save the innocent. Why does God not rescue us from our bad choices? If He is above time, then He could stop us, right? Think about it? If we make our own fate then God lets our free will decide. If God predestined all to be saved then God let your free will decide. God bought you a ticket for heaven will you use it? What if sin was a bad thing? If

free will is giving sin a place to stand? Will you stand with your choices, your sin, and with your choice whether to enter heaven or not? What if the power God has in your life was based on your belief? Maybe, just maybe that why God is not all powerful to you?