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## CHOOSE LIFE (John 3:16)

God created us all in His own image (Genesis 1:27). He also gave us the freedom to make our own choices. We would have had to involuntarily love and obey Him if He had created us as robots, but His plan at the time of creation was not to compel us (His most beloved creatures) to make choices that would be against our own will. God wants to receive genuine love back from us all. He would rather have us submit to Him because we choose to do so, and not as a matter of compulsion.

God gave us freewill, but also warned us of the consequences of sin, just as He warned Adam and Eve when He told them not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Let us examine a few of the consequences of the Gift of Freewill He gave us:

### Will God let a person do whatever he wishes to do, even if it is a sin?

Yes, He will. Remember that He has been gracious to give us freewill.

#### Can God stop a person from sinning?

Yes, He can, through the Holy Spirit and the person's cooperation. This is one of the reasons it is important to receive the Gift of Salvation He offered us through Christ. When you do, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you.

You do not have the strength to resist sin without Him. Those who are in Christ give in to sin sometimes when they choose to follow a different path, but they are forgiven when they confess their sins to God and take steps to repent. God forgives them because He is rich in mercy, and they have the righteousness of Christ. Furthermore, God puts a person who has received Christ, right, if he continues to sin. He disciplines him as a Father would, so that he will remain righteous and not end up in hell (Hebrews 12:6). A person who has not received Christ does not have these privileges.

# What happens when a person sins, and chooses not to be forgiven by rejecting the Gift of Salvation?

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death, but the Gift of God through

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#### **WHYL NEXL**3

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