

8 | FREEDOM OF CHOICE



In the Garden of Eden, God created plants, animals and as the crown of His creation: man. In that garden, God made two additional trees. First the tree of life and the other tree is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. When God spoke to Adam and Eve, God warned them not to eat from the latter tree, for it would bring forth death. The tree of life was also there, but God did not say anything about that.

God gave Adam and Eve the choice to eat from the tree of life or from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This choice determined the rest of their lives and all of creation. It was a choice that would affect their area of authority, the garden they were responsible for. It was a choice that determined who was allowed to rule in their lives: God or Satan.

Free choice

In the Old Testament, we see the people of Israel going into exile at one point. That meant they went to live in another land, under another ruler. This was because they had forsaken God and had not kept the laws and rules of the Bible.

In the New Testament, we see a Roman ruler who kept the Jewish people under control. When Jesus began His ministry, He gave a very clear message about a different Kingdom.

Jesus did not come with rules for people to follow. Above all, He showed them what the Kingdom of God on earth was all about and how to get into it. The values of the Kingdom were opposite to the laws the Jews knew. Jesus showed that the Kingdom of God is mainly about keeping your **inner I am** in your heart. He always gave people the choice to follow Him or not. He will not force anyone to do so. He also showed mercy to those who were condemned by the law if they put their trust in Jesus. Thus, He lifted all the consequences of Adam and Eve's choice. Through Adam's choice came death on earth, but through Jesus' choice it is possible to live forever in the presence of the Father. It is a free choice, but it has tremendous consequences.

EXERCISE:

-Do you experience in your life that you are free to make choices? If so, what person and vision of life do you follow? Has this freed you to become the person God intended you to be?

-Share what you find about this freedom of choice, where this already has or does not (yet) have space in your life?

-Are you also someone who gives others the choice to make their own decisions? How could you possibly expand or give space to this?



PRINCIPLE 8

Jesus asked us to follow Him. This is a choice you get to make for yourself. If you follow His ways in His Kingdom you will be able to live as an heir in freedom.

