

Why Does God Allow Evil? – Study Guide

Chapter 6: Is Free Will Worth It?

1. What Is Free Will?
 - a. Human Depravity Doesn't Negate Free Will
 - b. God's Existence Can't Be Too Obvious
 - c. Natural Laws Must Work in Regular Ways
2. Does the Bible Teach that We Have Free Will?
3. Is Free Will Worth It?
 - a. Aliens Threaten Human Free Will
 - b. Human Creations Gain Free Will
 - c. Humans Reject Scripted Bliss for Free Will
4. God Desires Real Relationship

Study Questions: Chapter 6: “Is Free Will Worth It?” (part 1)

1. Jones says “if God is going to create beings with free will that allows them to do other than they do, then that absolutely means that...

...God has to _____.”¹

Doesn't this make God responsible for the evil we do? Why or why not?

- a. Read Romans 6:16-23.

Jones explains “adamic depravity” as the doctrine that non-Christians are slaves to sin (see Romans 6:17).

Does this mean non-Christians have no choice but to sin every time they have a choice? If not, then what does it mean?

Does God ever do anything to restrain the evil acts of non-Christians?

- b. Romans 6:19 says Christians are “slaves to righteousness.” Does this mean that we cannot use our free will to sin?

If not, then what does it mean?

- c. Does God ever prevent Christians from doing evil?

In doing so, doesn't God thwart our free will?

2. Describe one mysterious aspect of God that allows us to have an enormous amount of free will.

If God was not like this, how would free will be affected (*i.e.*, what would people do instead of exercising free choices)?

The answer to this question illustrates a principle that applies to prayer. If God is really all-powerful, shouldn't He just immediately answer our prayers?

Read Isaiah 59:1-2. Does God really not hear us?

¹ Clay Jones, *Why Does God Allow Evil?: Compelling Answers for Life's Toughest Questions* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2017), 110.

What is one possible reason He does not always immediately deliver us or answer our prayers?

3. Read Matthew 12:38-39. Explain what this encounter between Jesus and the Pharisees has to do with God's hiddenness.
4. Jones says that if our actions are going to be meaningful, natural laws must work in regular ways. What do natural laws have to do with our choices?

Does the regularity of natural laws change us over time? How?

5. Some say that the Bible doesn't give much attention to the concept of free will. If free will is so important, shouldn't the Bible have a lot to say about it?

Read 2 Samuel chapter 11. Think of at least 5 examples in which a person's will was obviously free and also used for sin. Describe one person's choice made in chapter 11 that if different, would have resulted in less sin.

The Bible doesn't omit distasteful, wicked examples of people using their free will to sin. Why not?

6. From page 116-122, Jones gives examples from science fiction of why free will is valuable. Choose a favorite science fiction illustration from the book and explain how it emphasizes the value of free will.
7. Jones says that God desires real relationship with us (pp. 122-123). Explain what God's hiddenness has to do with His relationship to us.