

We often wonder how much God knows of our lives and our destiny when we are born, when we are young and when we are old.

In the Scriptures, we see in God the ability to foreknow and the lack of ability to foreknow.

How does this affect our calling and obedience to Him?

1Sa 23:9-12 David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." (10) Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. (11) Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." (12) Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you."

God spoke to David, Isaiah and Daniel and told them what would come to pass.

Isa 48:2-3 ... the God of Israel; the LORD of hosts is his name. (3) "The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and I announced them; then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.

Dan 2:28-29 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: (29) To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.

At times, God knew them before a man was born.

Jer 1:4-5 Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (5) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

At times, God determined them after a man was grown.

Act 22:14-15 And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; (15) for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

God knew that there would be those who would love God.

Rom 8:28-29 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (29) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Rom 11:2-5 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. ... (5) So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.

God knows that there are those in every generation
who will serve Him.

1Pe 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those
who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus,
Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, (2)
according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,
in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to
Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

It was God's plan from before the foundation of the world to establish the church and to fill it with those who would obey Him.

Eph 1:4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Act 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Eph 3:8-10 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, (9) and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, (10) so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

God knows our hearts (thoughts).

Heb 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

1Jn 3:20 for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.

Rev 2:23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

So God can present us with choices that “should”
lead us to obey Him.

Jos 24:15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the
LORD, choose this day whom you will serve,
whether the gods your fathers served in the region
beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in
whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house,
we will serve the LORD."

But we must make the choice before He is sure we
will do His will!

But there are also Scriptures which teach us that God does not know what we are going to do.

Gen 22:10-12 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son... (12) He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Job 1.8 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" (9) Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? (10) Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. (11) But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." (12) And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:3 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." (4) Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. (5) But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." (6) And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life."

Gen 6:6-7 And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. (7) So the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them."

Exo 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." (11) But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ... Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. (13) Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" (14) And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

God, being privileged to our hearts, knows our thoughts as we make them.

2Ch 6:30 then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you, you only, know the hearts of the children of mankind,

Psa 44:21 would not God discover this? For he knows the secrets of the heart.

Eze 11:5 And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind.

Isa 66:18 "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory,

Act 1:24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen

God shows He changes His mind when appealed to
in prayer.

1Ch 21:15 And God sent the angel to Jerusalem to
destroy it, but as he was about to destroy it, the
LORD saw, and he relented from the calamity. And
he said to the angel who was working destruction,
"It is enough; now stay your hand."

Jer 26:13 Now therefore mend your ways and your
deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God,
and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has
pronounced against you.

Jonah 3:8 ... let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. (9) Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." (10) When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Why do we pray? -- not only for praise, but also to influence God!

Luk 18:1 And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (2) He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. (3) And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' (4) For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, (5) yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" (6) And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. (7) And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?"

Why do we pray? -- not only for praise, but also to influence God!

Php 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Eph 6:18 With every prayer and petition, pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and requests for all the saints.

Why do we preach?

Rom 10:13-17 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (14) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (15) And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (16) But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" (17) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Why do we preach? – to persuade others

2Co 5:10-11 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (11) Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

It is not a sure thing that anyone will obey the Lord,
but we try to persuade all.

In the Scriptures, we see in God the ability to foreknow and the lack of ability (or perhaps willingness) to foreknow.

How does this affect our calling and obedience to Him?

IT IS OUR CHOICE

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'