

THE DEFENSE OF MAN'S TOTAL INABILITY

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The evidence for man's total inability can be summarized in five distinct points:

1) The Scripture asserts that men in their natural condition are enslaved, dead and blind. Slavery, death and blindness are three pictures of total inability

Romans 6:16–20—Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading* to *more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as* slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

John 8:31–34—Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” They answered Him, “We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

Ephesians 2:1—And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

John 3:3—Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

2) The Scripture asserts plainly and explicitly that man has lost the ability to please God, to do God's will, or perceive and receive the things of God

Romans 7:18—For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

Romans 8:7—Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

1 Corinthians 2:14—But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

John 6:44—No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

3) No man ever wills to receive Christ or come to God apart from God's drawing

John 5:40—But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

John 6:37–39—All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

John 6:40–45—And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.” The Jews then complained about Him, because He said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” And they said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that He says, ‘I have

come down from heaven?” Jesus therefore answered and said to them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘*And they shall all be taught by God.*’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

John 6:65—And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.”

4) **The will of man is not the source or determining factor in the application of salvation**

James 1:18—Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.

Romans 9:16–18—So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, “*For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.*” Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

John 1:12–13—But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

5) **Repentance and faith, those crucial duties laid on the sinner in the gospel, are the gift of God**

Acts 5:31—Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 11:18—When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

2 Timothy 2:25–26—In humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

Philippians 1:29—For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Ephesians 2:8–9—For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.