

Total Depravity Pt. 5

Questions and Answers

Romans 8:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Introduction:

The Doctrine of Man's Impotence **by A. W. Pink**

It is of the utmost importance that people should clearly understand and be made thoroughly aware of their spiritual impotence, for thus alone is a foundation laid for bringing them to see and feel their imperative need of divine grace for salvation. So long as sinners think they have it in their own power to deliver themselves from their death in

trespasses and sins, they will never come to Christ that they might have life, for "the whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." So long as people imagine they labor under no insuperable inability to comply with the call of the gospel, they never will be conscious of their entire dependence on Him alone who is able to work in them "all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power" (2 Thess. 1:11). So long as the creature is puffed up with a sense of his own ability to respond to God's requirements, he will never become a suppliant at the footstool of divine mercy.

A careful perusal of what the Word of God has to say on this subject leaves us in no doubt about the awful state of spiritual serfdom into which the fall has brought man. The depravity, blindness and deafness of all mankind in things of a spiritual nature are continually inculcated and emphatically insisted on throughout the Scriptures. Not only is the total inability of the natural man to obtain salvation by deeds of the law frequently asserted, but his utter helplessness in himself to comply with the terms of the gospel is also strongly affirmed—not indirectly and occasionally, but expressly and continually. Both in the Old Testament and in the New, in the

declarations of the prophets, of the Lord Christ, and of His apostles, the bondage of the natural man to Satan is often depicted, and his complete impotence to turn to God for deliverance is solemnly and unequivocally set forth. Ignorance or misconception on the matter is therefore inexcusable.

What leads to confusion

Many times in the Old and New Testaments, it communicates in conditional language...if you do this,...I will do this. If you will obey, God will bless. If you come to me, I will come to you. If you return to me, I will return to you.

2 Chronicles 30:1–13 (NKJV)

Hezekiah Keeps the Passover

30 And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover to the Lord God of Israel. ² For the king and his leaders and all the assembly in Jerusalem had agreed to keep the

Passover in the second month. ³ For they could not keep it at the regular time, because a sufficient number of priests had not consecrated themselves, nor had the people gathered together at Jerusalem. ⁴ And the matter pleased the king and all the assembly. ⁵ So they resolved to make a proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover to the Lord God of Israel at Jerusalem, since they had not done *it* for a long *time* in the *prescribed* manner.

⁶ Then the runners went throughout all Israel and Judah with the letters from the king and his leaders, and spoke according to the command of the king: “Children of Israel, return to the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel; then He will return to the remnant of you who have escaped from the hand of the kings of Assyria. ⁷ And do not be like your fathers and your brethren, who trespassed against the Lord God of their fathers, so that He gave them up to desolation, as you see. ⁸ Now do not be stiff-necked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves to the Lord; and enter His sanctuary, which He has sanctified forever, and serve the Lord your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you. ⁹ For if you return to the Lord, your brethren and your children *will be treated* with compassion by those

who lead them captive, so that they may come back to this land; for the Lord your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn *His* face from you if you return to Him.”

¹⁰ So the runners passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh, as far as Zebulun; but they laughed at them and mocked them. ¹¹ Nevertheless some from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem. ¹² Also the hand of God was on Judah to give them singleness of heart to obey the command of the king and the leaders, at the word of the Lord.

Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.

Some questions regarding Total inability

1. How can God hold man Responsible to Believe?
2. Does man really Resist the Holy Spirit?
3. If man can't come to Christ why pray?
4. Does this discourage missions?
5. What does the Bible mean by "whosoever will"
If man can't come?
6. Why did God give all the laws and commands if man can't obey them?
7. If man can't come and his will is in bondage, then how does he come?

The Teaching of Scripture

Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV)

²³ Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?
Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

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.

Romans 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ *There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.*

John 3:3,5 (NKJV)

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.”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 6:44 (NKJV)

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.

John 6:65 (NKJV)

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.”

John 8:43 (NKJV)

⁴³ Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word.

Matthew 12:34–35 (NKJV)

³⁴ Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

So man cannot come,

cannot submit to Gods Law
cannot please God
cannot change himself
cannot receive the things of God
cannot know the things of God
cannot understand spiritual things
cannot see the kingdom of God
Does not seek after the true God

cannot listen to the Word of God

But is clearly held accountable to God
for his unwillingness to respond.

Matthew 12:36–37 (NKJV)

³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment,
Including every secret thing,
Whether good or evil.

John 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7–10 (NKJV)

⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Hebrews 2:3 (NKJV)

³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*,

Hebrews 12:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven,

Romans 2:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ who “*will render to each one according to his deeds*”: ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,

1. How can a man be held accountable to God for not believing, repenting and coming to Christ, If he cannot believe, repent and come to Christ.

As I pointed out last time, the answer is found in the difference between physical inability and moral inability as defined by Jonathan Edwards.

1. Physical inability would mean that the person does not have the physical ability to respond. i.e. mind, will, emotions. No reason, not volition, If God we're to say to a quadriplegic get up out of the chair and walk without healing him and then hold

him responsible to walk when he cannot, that would be unjust.

However,

We have the faculties to respond. We have a mind that can think, we have reason and logic. We have eyes that can see the evidence of God in Creation. We have a volition. We make choices, we choose to reject God. We choose to suppress the truth (Romans 1:18)

So this is not God Judging us because we do not have the physical ability to respond.

Rather we have a MORAL CORRUPTION that is a bondage to sin, and we Love it that way.

2. Moral inability

Although we have the faculties to respond. We are so in love with evil and sin, that we refuse to respond, it is a moral issue.

John 3:18–20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the

condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 15:22–24 (NKJV)

²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

John 5:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that *comes* from the only God?

John 12:42–43 (NKJV)

⁴² Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*, lest they should be put out of

the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Jeremiah 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak and give warning,
That they may hear?
Indeed their ear *is* uncircumcised,
And they cannot give heed.
Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to
them;
They have no delight in it.

2. If a man can't come to Christ then what does it mean for him to Resist the Holy Spirit.

Is there a real resistance, if he is unable to come anyway

1st, it is clear from Scripture that men resist the Holy Spirit.

Acts 7:51 (NKJV)

⁵¹ “*You* stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you.

Jeremiah 17:23 (NKJV)

²³ But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear nor receive instruction.

Ezekiel 2:3–4 (NKJV)

³ And He said to me: “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day. ⁴ For *they are* impudent and stubborn children. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God.’

Nehemiah 9:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Yet for many years You had patience with them,
And testified against them by Your Spirit in Your prophets.

Yet they would not listen;

Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.

³¹ Nevertheless in Your great mercy
You did not utterly consume them nor forsake
them;
For You *are* God, gracious and merciful.

Zechariah 7:8–14 (NKJV)

⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Zechariah,
saying, ⁹ “Thus says the Lord of hosts:

‘Execute true justice,
Show mercy and compassion
Everyone to his brother.

¹⁰ Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless,
The alien or the poor.
Let none of you plan evil in his heart
Against his brother.’

¹¹ But they refused to heed, shrugged their
shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could
not hear. ¹² Yes, they made their hearts like flint,
refusing to hear the law and the words which the
Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the
former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the
Lord of hosts. ¹³ Therefore it happened, *that* just as
He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they
called out and I would not listen,” says the Lord of

hosts. ¹⁴ “But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land became desolate after them, so that no one passed through or returned; for they made the pleasant land desolate.”

2nd, it is real Resistance, because it comes from their nature to do so. IT is natural. It is another one of the Reasons they cannot come.

1. love of sin
2. Desire to resist God.

Acts 9:1–6 (NKJV)

9 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”

Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads.”

⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

3. If man cannot come, then why pray, why share the gospel, why do missions, Does this view of Man discourage missions.

First, It must be understood, that this is a command.

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

1 Timothy 2:1–4 (NKJV)

2 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Timothy 2:8–10 (NKJV)

⁸ Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Prayer, evangelism and missions are a means to the end to get them saved.

Romans 10:9–13 (NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the

Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.¹³ For “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*”

Romans 10:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

*“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach
the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”*

4. What does the Bible mean by “whosoever will” _____ If man can’t come?

Romans 10:11

¹¹ For the Scripture says, “*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same

Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For “*whoever calls* on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

John 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 6:40 (NKJV)

⁴⁰ 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.”

John 6:47 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

The issue here is not the whosoeverwill. Many believe that these verses imply the ability of someone to come.

That the fact that the statement is made assumes that they can.

But the question not the universal invitation but rather “who will”
 who will come”
 who will see
 who will believe
 when no one can come, see, or believe.

The whosoever wills of the N.T are genuine true statements and universal offers to sinners. But because man loves his sin he cannot and will not come.

5. Why did God give all the laws and commands if man can't obey them?

The giving the law does not imply ability to obey it. The law was not given to save us but to lead us to understand that we need to be saved.

Romans 3:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds