



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 9 - Of Free Will

Sovereign God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Created by you, male and female we worship you.

We praise you for uniquely gifting us from the beginning with a will that possessed true liberty.

You created us with genuine freedom—a freedom that could choose to perform in obedience your good and perfect will or turn from that toward what you call "evil."

Heavenly Father, with heavy hearts, we recognize that our first parents, being tempted, gave in to that temptation and chose to turn away from obedience and goodness. Lord, we grieve that they chose disobedience and, in doing so, embraced sin and evil. We recognize this with heavy hearts because of the devastation this brought in the world. We confess that in their choosing of disobedience we now see ourselves. Forgive us, Lord.

We recognise the awful consequences of that choice—consequences they bore for themselves but also impacting all who came after them. We their offspring fell from that original glorious freedom into a state of sinfulness. We admit, Lord God, that in our own thoughts and actions like our first ancestors, we have lost all ability to perform the spiritual good that accompanies salvation.

We confess that by our very natures, we are hostile to what you determine is good.

- Forgive us, Lord, that by our own choosing, we are dead to what is pleasing to you.
- Forgive us, Lord, that we are unable—by our own will or determination—to turn ourselves back to you or even to begin to prepare ourselves for such a return.

But we praise you, God of Life, that as a holy God, you mercifully act upon a people, and in the kindness and goodness of your grace, you convert us. We are

in awe because we recognize this state of grace is a free gift from you to your people.

God of Life, thank you:

- That you free us from our bondage under sin.
- That you enable us to turn and begin freely to will and do that which is spiritually good. All of this is by your grace alone.

We praise you for such grace, but we admit immediately that because of the remaining corruption within us, we sadly acknowledge that we do not *always* think or act in perfect obedience to your will. In fact, Holy God, we confess with heavy hearts that despite your grace in Christ to us, we even continue in that which is evil. Forgive us, Lord.

Lord Almighty, Maker of the heavens and earth, we long for that day when our thinking and our acting will be conformed perfectly and unchangeably to do only your good will, for your delight and pleasure. We look forward in anticipation and faith to that state of perfection, which we call "glory!"