

Learning From Experience

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

It was taught in the Worldwide Church of God that the offer made by Satan to Eve was to learn by experience rather than to trust God to tell them the correct difference between right and wrong. However, history shows that men do not learn from experience. What was Satan's offer to Eve?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he **[God’s Son]** might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he **[the glorified Christ]** is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses

in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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According to the teachings of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) in the days of Mr. Armstrong, the decision made by Adam and Eve when they were tested by Satan was to choose to learn by experience rather than to rely on God for the knowledge of good and evil.

However, what can be seen in recorded history is that mankind does not learn from experience. It keeps on repeating the same mistakes leading to wars which cause incomprehensible suffering, death and great material destruction. Wars continue on a smaller or bigger scale all over the earth even now.

Mankind has shown itself incapable of determining right from wrong and this inability, which affects all facets of human existence, is the root cause of nations not being able to live in peace with each other. This state of affair is true when it comes to relationships between men and women right on up to the great and mighty nations of the world.

This is why God calls this present world “Babylon” which is a word that means “confusion.” This confusion is with respect to right and wrong and, good and evil. Everyone has their own self-serving definitions which inevitably clash with the self-serving definitions used by others leading to strife, violence and ultimately war. Where do wars in the world come from; they come from competing and opposing versions of right and wrong.

Mankind has not known the way to peace nor can it know it because of

its inability to come to a universal agreement on what is the truth, on what is right and what is wrong.

Isa 59:8 The way of peace they know not; and *there is* no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

Rom 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

We are presently in the lull between the 2nd and the 3rd World War which along with the plagues of the Day of the Lord will be the worst time of trouble to come upon mankind since the creation of Adam and Eve.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

There will be huge losses of lives, massive destruction of property and great disruption to the environment; it will be such a wide ranging and extensive destruction of animal and human life and of the environment that there will never again come such a great catastrophe upon men and the earth.

This is why after the pouring out of the last plagues, it will be necessary for God to restore the earth to a state that will render the earth more habitable for those having survived it. The environment, the weather, animal life, the forests, the seas, etc. will all need to be restored so great will have been the destruction of the events of the Day of the Lord. It will be somewhat like the time when God had to restore the surface of the earth as recounted in the first few chapters of the book of Genesis following Satan's rebellion.

Even after the Great Tribulation and the events of the Day of the Lord, mankind will not have learnt anything from the experience and so it is that some time after the Millennium begins there will be physical Gog and Magog that will come up against Israel and Jerusalem to destroy it.

Eze 38:16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

Eze 38:18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, *that my fury shall come up in my face.*

Eze 38:20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

Eze 38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

Eze 38:22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

And at the end of the Millennium, you would think that mankind would no longer be interested in war yet there will be one more great uprising against Israel which will be attacked by a post-millennial Gog and Magog. These are not the physical descendants of the physical Gog and Magog that attacked Israel early on during the Millennium. These people come from all four quarters of the earth i.e., from all over the world and their number is as the sand of the sea i.e., a vast, uncountable multitude. They have been referred to as spiritual Gog and Magog as they are all those individuals from all the nations of the world who are not converted even after God the Father called all men to salvation during the Millennium and they are a very great number of them.

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Rev 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: **the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**

Rev 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Do men learn from experience? It would seem, if we will believe the Bible and history, that mankind does not learn all that much from experience and often repeats the same mistakes which in the past led to great ca-

tastrophes, loss of life and material destruction. There is this saying that "History bores itself repeating itself." Many say that the study of history is a useless pursuit as mankind never learns from its past errors and keeps on repeating them with increasingly more disastrous results as technology makes our weaponry massively more destructive than that of even only fifty years ago.

Satan's Offer

So we come back to the original question of this study: did Adam choose to learn by experience when he accepted Satan's offer by taking of the forbidden fruit?

What was the choice given him by Satan?

Does it have anything to do with salvation; if so how?

Let's go back to Genesis and see what it is that Satan offered to Eve.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Here in these verses, we see that it was very clear in Eve's mind that neither Adam nor she were to take of the tree which was in the midst of the garden. God had only said that they were not to eat of it but in Eve's mind God's warning was so strong that she understood it as also meaning that they were not even to touch it. If they ate of the forbidden tree they would surely die. Satan to allay her fears reassures her that she would not surely die:

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

And in the next verse Satan adds that the only reason why God told them not to take of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden was that if they did, they would be like Him, knowing good and evil.

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

“....knowing good and evil....” is a short expression that carries a lot of meaning and which has been the source of much confusion. What does it mean for someone to know good and evil like God knows good and evil?

Looking at the Bible as a whole, we learn that God is the only lawgiver, that sin is the transgression of God’s law and that the law that comes from God is both physical and spiritual. God rules over the material universe through the physical laws that govern matter and God’s spiritual law defines what is good and what is evil. In other words, and this is the essential meaning that must be understood, God is the One that defines good and evil. Satan told Eve that if she ate of the forbidden fruit she would become like God i.e., she would become able to determine correctly for herself good and evil just like God can and that this was an ability that God was keeping for Himself rather than sharing it with them as He should.

Eve obviously wanted what she then believed it was that God was withholding from her and still not quite sure that it was alright to take of the tree, she did an analysis of the situation herself.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make *one* wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

She looked at the tree and saw that it was a beautiful tree; that it bore fruit that was good to eat and moreover, it was something that would make her wise. How could it be a bad thing to take of it? What could go wrong? She disregarded God’s warning and wanting to know good and evil like God i.e., to be able to correctly determine good and evil, she took of the fruit and gave some to Adam also who also ate of it.

So, what was Satan’s offer to Adam and Eve? Was it to become his slaves, to be subject to him? Or, was it that they should decide good and evil for themselves as he had chosen to do when he rebelled against God i.e., that like him they should not accept God’s authority over them and be themselves the highest authority in their own lives deciding what is good and what is evil rather than accepting God’s authority to define this for them.

The decision made by Adam and Eve was not so much to learn by experience instead of accepting God's revelation but rather to refuse God's authority in their lives as defined by His law and themselves be the highest authority in their own lives. Once that had come to pass, Satan's work by and large was done. Through Adam and Eve refusing to submit to God with their first act of insubordination having been to take of the forbidden tree, sin entered the world and through sin, death.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by **one man** sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

It should be noted that the Bible talks about a first and a second death. All of mankind die the first death as all have sinned and without a sacrifice that paid the price for sin that would have been the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind. Men upon dying could never be resurrected to be judged.

They would still be in their sins and the wage of sin is death.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Time of God Judging Men

Judgment is a time when men who have been given to know the truth are evaluated by God as to the sincerity of their desire to obey Him. For someone to come under judgment that person must first be given to know the truth and then that person must have time to demonstrate their commitment to follow it to the best of their ability until the end of their natural lives. Those who have never been given to know the truth, which is the vast majority of humanity, will rise in a resurrection from the dead, have their minds opened to understand God's spiritual truth, and be given the opportunity to choose to follow it or not. That is when they come under judgment.

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Those who have never known the truth cannot come under judgment as they remained blind as to what God required of them.

But with Christ having been the perfect sacrifice for sin, God's plan of salvation has been made sure. The sins of mankind can be forgiven and

the first death is temporary. In a time order determined by God, all will be resurrected either with glorified spirit bodies in which dwells immortality or as flesh-and-blood human beings.

The first resurrection occurs at Christ's 2nd Coming. It is the resurrection of all those from the days of Adam and Eve to the time of Christ's 2nd Coming who have been called, chosen and who have remained faithful until the time of their death.

Christ was the first human being to be resurrected; He is the first of the firstfruits and at His 2nd Coming, those that have died in Christ will be resurrected with glorified spirit bodies and become part of God's Kingdom.

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Co 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

There is also a 2nd resurrection which occurs after the Millennium i.e., the Last Great Day resurrection of all those who were not called and who never knew the truth and consequently, never could come under judgment. The truth is knowing correctly the difference between right and wrong, and this is defined by God's law. Because mankind after Adam's sin was cut off from knowing the spiritual truth of God and became spiritually blind i.e., incapable of knowing correctly the difference between right and wrong, it was impossible for God to judge them as those who don't know the truth cannot be held responsible for not following it. Their time of judgment is yet future.

This second resurrection is mentioned in the following verse:

Isa 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

This is the second resurrection to flesh-and-blood existence of the Last Great Day when men who had died without ever having known the truth will be given to know God's spiritual truth, be given the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to following it or not and be rewarded accordingly.

All those in this resurrection to flesh and blood existence whether

young or old will live a hundred years. At the end of this time period, comes the Great White Throne Judgment where the children and the old men who were given to live for 100 years and are sinners will be accursed, will lose their salvation. Their sins were not forgiven because they did not follow their calling or remain faithful to it. All those in the 2nd resurrection will be called and given their first and only opportunity for salvation in accordance with God's plan of salvation for mankind.

The Second Death

There is a time coming when everyone will live again in either a resurrection to glorified spirit life as immortal beings (the first resurrection at Christ's Second Coming) or as mortal, flesh-and-blood human beings, the second resurrection at the beginning of the Last Great Day. At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day, all those who did not follow their calling or who turned back after having followed it, will die the 2nd death which is forever.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of **the second death**.

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such **the second death** hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is **the second death**.

Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which **is the second death**.

I will not go into any further detail about the different resurrections because as long-time members of God's Church you should already be quite familiar with them. This should not be new knowledge to you.

For the remainder of this study I will go through a number of topics that should allow you to understand rather clearly how it was that Adam and Eve could make the choice they made whose effect was that death entered the world (Rom 5:12).

Let's go back to reviewing the factors which made it possible for Adam and Eve to commit the first sin.

Animal Brains and the Human Brain

Mankind was created with animal brains to which God added a spirit essence that gives it mind power. In order to understand the very great difference between the animal brain and the human brain we again have to go back to the beginning.

In Genesis we read that man was created in the image of God and according to his likeness.

Gen 1:27 And God said, let Us make man in our image, [as beings with mind power and free will] after our likeness [physical appearance] and let them have dominion over fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth (King James version)

The first part of the verse “.....in our image....” refers to the kind of mind with which man was created and the second part of the verse “.....after our likeness.....” refers to man’s physical appearance.

When the disciples wanted to be sure that Jesus was the Son of God one of them, Philip said unto Jesus:

Joh 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Joh 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**

Man’s physical appearance is similar to God’s appearance. In the Bible we read that God has feet, hands, fingers, hair, etc. and this should all be already very familiar to you.

Man was created in the image of God or with mind power and free will which is the ability to acquire knowledge and *think independently from any other being God created including God Himself*. All other animals created by God function by instinct and have an extremely limited ability to acquire knowledge. Their reactions to different situations are set

and, but exceptionally and in a very limited way, they do not deviate from them even if doing so would save their lives.

Man however has the ability to acquire, use and link together a tremendous amount of information all throughout his life and his behavior is not set by instinct like that of animals. He can analyze and react to diverse situations in accordance with past accumulated knowledge.

In addition to mind power or the ability to think, God gave man absolute free moral agency or free will.

What does it mean for a being to have absolute free moral agency?

Absolute Free Moral Agency

You will recall that God gives man the command to choose. What does it mean to be able to choose? It's a bit more complicated than it looks at first glance.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

This is the Scripture that allows us to know and understand Gen 1:27 where God says “....let Us make man in our image.....” Part of the answer is that God gave man absolute free moral agency i.e., He gave mankind the freedom to choose.

The freedom to choose means that there is no other being created by God that has the power to force man to believe something against his will. If such a being exists then man is not free to choose as the only choices he can make are controlled by the more powerful being which dominates him. In practical terms this means that neither God nor any of His spirit being creations such as Satan and his fallen angels have the power to force man to choose good or evil; otherwise, man would have no power to choose and God could not have commanded him to choose as He does in Deu 30:19. If there were such a being, man would effectively be under the control of a more powerful being which controls his choices. God would then not be able to judge mankind as the choices that it makes would not be their own but that of the more powerful being which controls them.

Man was created with mind power and absolute free moral agency or

free will. This unconstrained power to choose means that mankind is entirely free to choose life or death and that God will respect man's choice. He will not intervene to change man's choice should he choose death. If He did man would not be free to choose.

This is the chance that God took in creating beings with mind power and free will. There was always the very real possibility that these beings would make the wrong choice but God had to proceed this way for these beings to have individuality and personality. Without mind power AND freewill which make choice possible as well as self-generated thinking, mankind would have been simply an extension of God's mind; they would be fully controlled by God and unable to originate their own thoughts or make their own decisions. Despite the existence of all those beings God would still be alone in the universe.

They would be living flesh robots controlled by God and be like the other animals created by God who have no mind power or freewill.

We now have to look at how it is that man's brain has mind power while all other animal brains, some of which are much bigger and are as complex as man's, do not have mind power. Having mind power and free moral agency are essential requirements of God's plan of salvation for mankind. Without either one, salvation would be impossible.

Mind Power

Science has struggled to understand the vast difference in the ability of man's brain to amass huge amounts of knowledge as compared to the brains of all other animals who have no such capability.

Brains of great geniuses who have been among us and of high intelligence quotient (IQ) individuals have been dissected and analyzed using man's most powerful microscopes and still there is no answer and only puzzlement as to why it is that a human brain is so much more able to acquire vast amounts of knowledge than that of any other animals many of which have much bigger brains than men.

The Bible however gives us the answer as to why man's brain has mind power and why it is that science cannot discover why this is so.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

And what are the things man can acquire or know? It is the acquisition of material knowledge. Man was created with the kind of mind that can work with physical matter. All men have the same spirit essence in them which the Bible calls “the spirit in man” and it is this spirit essence that gives man’s physical brain mind power, the ability to think and to acquire knowledge about the properties and laws that govern the physical-material world. This is also why man’s science which is limited to the physical and material will never be able to discover why men’s brain are so superior in their ability to acquire and use knowledge than that of any of the other animals created by God.

This spirit essence is in man but is not part of the man. It is like a marble that one would swallow; the marble would be in the man but not be a part of him. At the time of death, this spirit essence does not remain in the man; it returns to God (Ecc 12:7) and the body returns to the dust of the ground from which it was formed.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

As a last point which may be of interest, in the book of Ecclesiastes, it is made clear that no man has the power to prevent the spirit from leaving the body, which is to say, to delay the time of his death.

Ecc 8:8 There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

When this spirit essence leaves the physical body, the body is irretrievably dead.

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Now going back to the main point I wanted to emphasize and that is that man’s animal brain has mind power, the ability to acquire knowledge and to think because of a spirit essence put in man by God. But the human spirit does not give man access to God’s spiritual knowledge.

Indeed, for man to be able to come to know God’s truth it is necessary for him to have another spirit dwelling in him and this is what we will explore in the next section of this study.

God's Truth

Mankind was created with the kind of mind that can deal with physical matter and this we can readily see by just looking at the beautiful material things man has built. Man can come to know the material world through his 5 physical senses; discover the different laws that govern matter and the physical universe and; put this knowledge to practical use.

But when it comes to God's truth, man is unable to know it because it is something that cannot be known through his physical senses which limits him to the physical and the material. Man has no ability on his own to come to know God's truth whose essential nature is spiritual i.e., it cannot be discerned by man's physical senses.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

How can it then be possible for physical beings limited to the physical and the material to come to know God's truth which man cannot see, touch, hear, smell or taste?

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

But how can God do this? How does this process work? Paul gives us an example of this process at work when he says:

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

All men have the same spirit essence in them i.e., the spirit of man which allows man to know and understand the things of men. They have the same ability to know and understand the material-physical world and thus can understand and relate to each other.

Man at the time of creation received a spirit essence which gives his animal brain mind power but he did not receive another spirit which his mind is capable of receiving and which he needs in order to be able to understand the things of God in the same way that he can understand the things of men and the material world.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Men can receive another spirit that will give them the ability to know the things of God, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman which teaches all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Joh 14:17 Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [my disciples] know him; for he [**I, Christ**] dwelleth **with you**, and shall be in you.

The holy spirit the Word who existed eternally with the holy spirit God the Father is called the Spokesman because He is the one who is responsible for teaching all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Without the presence this holy spirit being in the minds of men, they are unable to come to know the truth of God.

It is also why man cannot come to know and understand or learn God's truth by experience. He cannot come to a right knowledge of right and wrong by experimentation; it can only be obtained from the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman dwelling in the mind of the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Mankind as represented by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden did not choose to learn right and wrong by experience because the knowledge of God's spiritual truth is only by the indwelling presence of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman in the mind of men; *it is not human level findable truth.*

This is fundamental and critical knowledge and understanding which allows us to understand a very important aspect of God's plan of salvation for mankind which we will explore in the next part of this study.

Character

God will not force any man to choose salvation; God only ever leads. Those who are to become part of God's Kingdom have to freely choose God's way; it has to be their own personal choice taken without anything or anyone forcing them to do so. Man must self-willingly subject himself to God in all things when given to know the truth and maintain his attitude of obedience to God in all things until the time of his death.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Man must choose as made clear in the book of Deuteronomy. God commanded Israel to choose and all of mankind will have, at one time or another, to choose. All will be taken to the crossroads and have to choose to go one way or the other.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

As we have seen God created man a free moral agent which is to say there is no power in heaven or on earth that can force him to choose something contrary to his will. In practical terms this means that Satan cannot compel man to do evil. He can influence the minds of men but he cannot force them to obey him; if he could, man would not be free to choose and God could not have commanded man to choose.

Satan has the power to deceive man before conversion regarding good and evil but he cannot force them to do evil.

Being free to choose is the basis of the character that God requires of men for them to be saved i.e., that they self-willingly choose to obey Him when no one is forcing them to do so; when no one is looking on and; even when to do so frustrates the fulfillment of some of their physical and mental lusts. They willfully restrain themselves and endure some hardship because they have freely chosen to do so after having come to the knowledge of the truth.

Satan nor any other beings created by God have the power to force men to decide one way or the other so that mankind can be held responsible for its decisions. God would not be able to judge men if they were not free to choose between good and evil.

Conclusion

God could, but has chosen not to do so, force man to be happy or to be saved by forcing him to obey Him. God could force His will upon man but that would have for effect to undo His plan of salvation for mankind which requires that those in whom salvation is to be possible must freely choose to obey God when God makes it possible for them to know the truth.

It must be a freely taken decision; otherwise, men would lose their individuality and personality and simply become extensions of God's own mind. They would be like robots with no minds of their own and God does not want to populate His kingdom with robots but with individuals with their own minds and personalities to be beings like Him with whom he can interact as he does with the Word. The Word is in submission to God the Father but He is also an individual with His own mind independent from God's and which gives Him the ability to think, feel emotions, spontaneously originate thoughts and to acquire and use knowledge.

Adam and Eve's sin or the original sin as it is often called was not to submit themselves to Satan's rulership but rather, they were convinced by Satan to do what he had done and that is, to be the highest authority in their own lives instead of God. And, by doing this Satan told them they would be like God knowing good and evil. Satan's temptation was essentially for mankind to choose to rule themselves rather than submit to God's rule. They would be the god that they would follow in their own lives.

When Adam and Eve made that decision, they did not choose to learn by experience. By their choice they cut themselves off from God's wisdom and became spiritually blind i.e., incapable of even knowing about God's spiritual law and that their salvation depended upon their applying it in their lives. By experience man can learn about the laws governing physical matter but it is impossible for him to come to a correct knowledge of right and wrong which is defined by God's law which is spiritual and unknowable to a man unless God calls him.

Mankind as a whole was blinded to God's spiritual law and will remain blind until Christ's 2nd Coming when God's Spirit will be poured out upon all flesh.

The choice made by Adam and Eve was not to learn right and wrong by experience rather than trusting God to teach it to them. The correct knowledge of right and wrong is not something that can be learned by experience. The right and wrong way of doing material things can be learned and is learned by experience; things work or don't work as they should or as intended; it's as simple as that.

The main cause of wars in the world are differences between individuals and nations as to what is right and what is wrong with there being a constant push to enforce one's version of right and wrong on others.

One person's right is another person's wrong and there is no way of reconciling the differing points of view from a human standpoint because individual definitions of right and wrong are selfserving excuses to justify one's behavior which others find objectionable.

The knowledge and understanding of the correct difference between right and wrong and, good and evil is only possible by revelation from God.