

## The Foreknowledge of God

It has been a common theme around many of us in this room that God elected us, based on His foreknowledge. This couldn't be further from the truth. Simply because that would imply that God is without His Solitariness. It would make His decrees rest upon what He discovers (not all knowing) in the creature, not the creator( Himself). God is the cause of salvation alone, although He is omniscient and knew you would repent, He alone was the cause of our effect of salvation. He foreknew because He already predestined.

Scripture used:	Context:
Acts 13:48	False theology make's God' foreknowledge of our believing the cause of His election to salvation. Whereas, God's election is the <u>cause</u> , and our believing in Christ the <u>effect</u> .

The word foreknowledge is not used in the Old Testament. However, "know" occurs throughout the Old Testament frequently. It often signifies to regard with favor, with an affection for the object in view.

Scripture used:	Context:
Exodus 33:17	He knows you by name.
Deut. 9:24	"you have been rebellious against the Lord since the day that I knew you"
Jer. 1:5	He knew you before He formed you.
Hos. 8:4	They made princes and I knew it not.
Amos 3:2	You only has He known, of all the families of earth.

In the above passages "knew" signifies either loved or appointed. Similar in the New Testament the word "know" is also used.

Scripture used:	Context:
Matt. 7:23	He never knew you.
John 10:14	He knows His sheep, and His sheep know Him.
1 Cor. 8:3	If any man loves God, the same is known of Him.
2 Tim. 2:19	The Lord knows them that are His.

Foreknowledge, is never used in scripture in connection with events or actions; instead, it always has reference to persons. It is a person God is said to "foreknow" not the action of the said person(s).

All scripture where "foreknowledge" is used:	Context:
Acts 2:23	The reference is not of the crucifixion, but the person crucified.

Rom. 8:29-30	Look at the pronoun – It is not <u>what</u> He did foreknow, but, <u>whom</u> He did foreknow.
Rom. 11:2	The reference is to persons and persons only.
1 Peter 1:2	Read the previous verse. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> point is defined by the 1 <sup>st</sup> point. The “aliens scattered” makes this about people. (Not men from mars)

In view of the passages above (and there are no other passages). Scripture never speaks of repentance and faith as being foreseen or foreknown by God. He did know from all eternity that certain persons would repent and believe, Yet, this is not what scripture refers to as the object of God’s foreknowledge. Scripture only refers to God foreknowing people.

- Q. What causes the act of believing?
- God’s knowing you will eventually believe.
  - Man’s intellect to choose a good deal when he sees it.
  - God’s action alone by His will or decree.

Scripture used:	Context:
Acts 2:23	Christ was delivered by the (1) determinate counsel and (2) foreknowledge of God. Therefore, His “counsel” or decree was the reason of His foreknowledge.

Therefore, again in Romans 8:29 – This verse opens with the word “for”, which grammatically tells us to look at what immediately precedes. “...all things work together for good...who are called according to His purpose.” Thus the “foreknowledge” is based upon His “purpose” or decree. (see also Psalm 2:7)

Scripture used:	Context:
Ephesians 2:8-9	Salvation is a gift! If God elected certain ones to be saved, because they in due time would believe, than that would make salvation an act of merit. Therefore, in that event the saved sinner would have the right to boast. Which scripture emphatically denies! (read again Eph. 2:9)
Acts 18:27	Confirms that Christians are people who have believed through grace.
Romans 11:5-6	Not on the basis of our works – or grace is no longer grace.
Eph. 1:4	If you are a Christian than it is because God chose you before the foundation of the world.

If God is solitary in His excellence and He has decreed all things because He Himself is all knowing than He couldn’t have predestined you because of what He foresaw in you, but, what He predetermined He foreknew.



