

This materialistic idea has been very widespread but nobody really is satisfied with it. It just doesn't work! Some try to think of birds and other animals as making up their minds and making ideas like that. As the Professor said, This is not reasonable they are just following the impulses of their nature. Well, I fear that most people a great part of their time just follow the impulses of their nature. But yet it is true, and I believe that every human being in his heart feels-- and if he doesn't he certainly acts as if he did--that he has a power to make thoughts and to make decisions. Whether he drifts along most of the time and doesn't bother or whether he actually tries to change his life and his environment. He has a belief that he is able to do so. That, after all, wonderful as is the material universe God has created, marvelous as is this body God has made, even more marvelous is the act of God in creating spirits that are capable of making decisions. You notice in these three verses in the Psalms: "my glory" it was called. The most glorious thing God has given anyone is the power of making a decision himself, the power and ability to think things through for himself. And when you think of it, it is a marvelous thing surpassing the marvel of all the material creation that an individual would have this sort of power, this sort of ability, to set forces in motion of his own volition.

God could easily have programmed a universe in which there would be creatures far more capable than even human beings are. That would move as He said, move this way and that way. God here and there in accordance with the program He laid out in every regard. God in His glorious purpose desired to create spirits like Himself, far inferior to him of course, yet spirits partaking of the divine nature. Spirits that would be able to love Him of their own volition. That is, able to love and serve Him not because He forced them but because they love him. So God created, I think, the greatest marvel of all. Individual spirits, and that is the true glory of man. Individual spirits. A spirit that has the power of decision, the power of change. That is, of course, provided that power is used rightly. But when God created such spirits, there was always the possibility they would choose to oppose Him. So we have sin in the world, and we have this marvellous God, this loving God creating us to love Him and to enjoy Him forever, and we have