

The Sovereignty of God

2) God's Sovereignty and Our Free Will

***'For when you were slaves of sin,
you were free in regard to
righteousness'
(Rom.6:20)***

***'Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it spring the issues of
life'***

(Prov. 4:23)

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

(Rom.8:7-8)

***'No one can come to Me unless the
Father who sent Me draws him;
and I will raise him up at the last
day'***

(Jn.6:44)

***'The king's heart is in the hand of the
LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it
wherever He wishes'***

(Prov.21:1)

***'Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia,
that the word of the LORD by the mouth of
Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up
the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia'***

(Ezra 1:1)

***'Blessed be the LORD God of our fathers,
who has put such a thing as this in the
king's heart, to beautify the house of
the LORD which is in Jerusalem'
(Ezra 7:27)***

**1) We honour God by acknowledging
His sovereignty and submitting to His
will**

'Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that"'

(Jas 4:13-15)

*'...but took leave of them,
saying, "I must by all means
keep this coming feast in
Jerusalem; but I will return
again to you, God willing"'*

(Acts 18:21)

***'For it is better, if it is the will
of God, to suffer for doing
good than for doing evil'***

(1 Pet.3:17)

**2) We see salvation from
God's perspective**

Man's perspective:

***'For "whoever calls on the name
of the LORD shall be saved."
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? 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!”
(Rom.10:13-15)***

God's perspective:

***'And we know that all things
work together for good to
those who love God, to those
who are the called according to
His purpose...'***

***...For whom He foreknew, He
also predestined to be
conformed to the image of His
Son, that He might be the
firstborn among many brethren.
Moreover whom He predestined,
these He also called; whom He
called, these He also justified;
and whom He justified, these He
also glorified'***

(Rom.8:28-30)

***'...who has saved us and called us
with a holy calling, not according to
our works, but according to His own
purpose and grace which was given
to us in Christ Jesus before time
began'***

(2 Tim.1:9)

'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out...This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day...No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day'

(Jn.6:37,39,44)

***'Jesus spoke these words, lifted up
His eyes to heaven, and said:
"Father, the hour has come. Glorify
Your Son, that Your Son also may
glorify You, as You have given Him
authority over all flesh, that He
should give eternal life to as many
as You have given Him... I pray for
them. I do not pray for the world
but for those whom You have given
Me, for they are Yours'
(Jn.17:1,2,9)***

'Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you"'
(John 10:25-26)

***'But we are bound to give thanks
to God always for you, brethren
beloved by the Lord, because God
from the beginning chose you for
salvation through sanctification
by the Spirit and belief in the
truth'***

(2 Thes.2:13)

'But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God'

(Jn.1:12-13)

'So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy'
(Rom. 9:16)

***'Now when the Gentiles heard this,
they were glad and glorified the
word of the Lord. And as many as
had been appointed to eternal life
believed'***

(Acts 13:48)

***'Paul, a bondservant of God and
an apostle of Jesus Christ,
according to the faith of God's
elect'
(Titus 1:1)***

***'Even so then, at this present
time there is a remnant
according to the election of
grace'
(Rom.11:5)***

'Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city"'

(Acts 18:9-10)

***'The Lord is not slack concerning
His promise, as some count
slackness, but is longsuffering
toward us, not willing that any
should perish but that all should
come to repentance'
(2 Peter 3:9)***

***'Simon Peter, a bondservant and
apostle of Jesus Christ,
to those who have obtained like
precious faith with us by the
righteousness of our God and
Savior Jesus Christ'
(2 Peter 1:1)***

**3) Prayer does not change God's mind,
but aligns us with His purpose**

***'If you then, being evil, know
how to give good gifts to your
children, how much more will
your Father who is in heaven
give good things to those who
ask Him!'***

(Matt.7:7)

'If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!'

(Lk.11:13)

'Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered'

(Rom.8:26)

'And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward'

(Exodus 14:15)