

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD
“All things originate with Him and come from Him;
All things live through Him, and all things center
In and tend to consummate and to end in Him”
Romans 8:28-29

God, in His supreme power and authority, independent of all others, has absolute control of our lives. We were bought with the blood of Yahshua, a price of love no one else could ever pay for all has sinned and in need of justification. He is not only our Creator, Savior, but also our Commander in Chief. Everything that happens in the lives of a believer serves to fulfill His purposes; nothing happens by mistake, nothing happens by accident.

The Lord has made **everything** to its own end and for His purpose – even the wicked for the day of calamity and evil (Proverbs 16:4). The devil has no authority over the believer, only that which is from God. He cannot exercise power over us without God’s permission, as we see in the life of Job (Job 1:12). He is not in any position to thwart God’s purpose and plan, for nothing created has authority over God and his plans for His own and for the world.

Paul, in his imprisonment, acknowledges God’s sovereignty in his life to accomplish His purpose of bringing the Gospel to the nations. He does not regret, neither complains about the position he is in. He says, “Now I want you to know and continue to rest assured, brethren, that what [has happened] to me has actually only served to advance and give a renewed impetus to the [spreading of the] good news. So much is this a fact that throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest [here] my imprisonment has become generally known to be in Christ [that] I am a prisoner in His service and for Him] (Philippians 1:12-13).

Understanding the sovereignty of God for us, it helps us to be free from fears and worries and it helps us to be obedient in submission to Him in difficult times. Paul so expressed in his letter to the Philippians, “I have learned how to be content in whatever state I am” (Philippians 4:11). “To be content in whatever state” is to have freedom, freedom from doubts and fear, and have the certainty that “If God is for us, who can be against us”? It is learning to submit to His sovereign will in the midst of discipline and judgment, for His will to be fulfilled in us and through us through molding us into the image of His Son! Nothing will happen that is not intended to happen. We must believe that no one “is greater than our God, Who holds the world in the palm of His hand, Who, by the word of His mouth and wisdom, created the world”. Because He is the One who justifies us, we stand free from any condemnation from anyone in the face of the earth and down below it. There is no one to separate us from His love.

God works out everything in agreement with the counsel and design of His [own] will (Ephesians 1:11). He uses that which He created – the soul in the sphere of the will to perform His will. All creation serves God to fulfill His will (Psalm 119:91). Paul said in Philippians 2:13, “For it is God Who works in you both to will and to work, for His pleasure”. Paul tells in Romans 8:28-29 that “All things work together for good to and for those who love God and are called

according to His design and purpose". His design and purpose are found in verse twenty-nine that says, **"For those whom He foreknew, He also destined from the beginning to be molded into the image of His Son that He might become the first born among many brethren"**. Let's understand one thing here. God brings everything to work, to agree, to cooperate for the good of molding those whom He chose, whom He foreknew into the image of His Son, Yahshua! In another words, everything that happens in our lives, is for the purpose of sanctifying us into being holy as He is holy. When Peter refused to submit to Yahshua for the washing of his feet, Yahshua said to him: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me (John 13:8). Here is a solemn truth I would leave with you: unless we submit to His sovereign will and allow Him to sanctify us, we have no part in Him, for without sanctification we cannot see God.

Oh the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unfathomable are His judgments! And how untraceable are His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord and who has understood His thoughts, or who has been His counselor? Or who has first given God anything that he might be paid back or that he could claim recompense? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. **[For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen** (Romans 11:33-36).

Because God is sovereign, He works everything without the counsel of man and He follows no one's idea. He works, He does, He uses and He causes, according to His word found in Lamentations of Jeremiah 3:28,31,32-33,37-40 .Let him sit alone uncomplaining and keeping silent, **because [God] has laid upon him; for the Lord will not cast off forever! But though He causes grief, yet He will be moved to compassion, according to His loving-kindness and tender mercy. For He does not willingly and from His heart afflict or grieve the children of men. Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, if the Lord has not authorized and commanded it? It is not from the mouth of the Most High that evil and good both proceed?**

We will not be changed if we think it to be the devil behind our circumstances. There will be no maturity and conviction of sin and repentance; if we think ourselves to be so good- reason why the devil is doing it to me. We learn absolutely nothing when we blame the devil or people. James says, **"Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed (James 5:16)**. Many people never see the need to repent and die in their sickness. When we tell the Lord, no I don't need to confess to be forgiven, because You already paid for my sins, and deliberate continue to sin, we are rejecting the calling for sanctification and the words of Yahshua said to Peter will be also applicable to us, "You will not have any part in me".

There is no accident in the life of a believer. Yes, because we are under the protection of God, as the psalmist says, "For He will give charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone (Psalm 91:11-12). The believer that dwells in the secret place of the Most High will accept and submit to the sovereignty of God in his hour of trial. Job, when going through his trials, asked the question: "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and not receive evil"? Yes, Job did not give credit to

the devil for his problems. Instead, he submitted to God, to received evil from Him, as he had received good also. God does to us because we deserve it. We must reap the consequences of our sins, when we have planted the seed of sin. Jeremiah 2:19 says, "Your own wickedness shall chase and correct you; and your backsliding and desertion of faith shall reprove you (Jeremiah 2:19). And Moses warned Israel, "Your sins will find you out". One way or the other we must get there and realize the faithfulness of God in molding us according to His calling us to sanctification.

As the Potter, God has all the right over us the clay. In Jeremiah 18:6 we read, "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? Says the Lord, Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand O house of Israel". And in Isaiah 45:9 says, "Woe to him who strives with his maker-a worthless piece of broken pottery among other pieces equally worthless. Shall the clay say to him who fashioned it what do you think you are making"?

We are in the hands of God, destined to be molded and sanctified to be holy as He is holy. God is the One Who formed the light, the One Who created darkness, the One Who makes peace and creates evil, the Lord Who does all that, and we are only clay in His hands being molded into sanctification day after day until we are glorified.

We are to approach Him in prayer submitting all to Him with the understanding of His calling before the foundation of the world. He knows where we are and where we should be; He knows our hearts and its motives; He knows also what will take to break us, in order for us to follow His will. The life of a believer is never wasted in the valley or in the desert when the sovereignty of God is understood, and submission is followed.

In the seasons of life, we must remember that the winters are necessary for the season of spring to come in with its abundance of blessings, and beauty; it is in the winter season that the ugly things in us will die, while the Holy Spirit beautifies us in the beauty of spring, with love, hope and peace; the harmonious singing of the birds confirms that our morning has arrived. It will be the time when God calls us to experience this season with Him. "My beloved speaks and says to me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land; the fig tree puts forth and ripens her green figs, and the vines are in blossom and give forth their fragrance. Arise, My love, My fair one, and come away (Song of Solomon 2:10-12)!

Never reject your winter; fight the good fight of faith against all confusion of the mind related to the sovereignty of God. Be strong, exercise patient in suffering, for this is the plan of God for you as part of His molding you to be like Him in the path of sanctification to glorification.