

# Let God Be God!

## Big Rock of Sovereignty

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Sunday, January 16, 2022

God's sovereignty means that God is in absolute and total control of all things. The sovereignty of God means that He rules over the universe as Lord, so that everything—both good and bad—happens either because He directly causes it or consciously allows it.

“[The sovereignty of God] means that God is in absolute control of His world and everything that happens, without any gaps, limits, interference, or thwarting of His rule. It means that God alone determines all that will happen and rules the means by which everything will happen. This means that God never has questions, never is surprised, never is frustrated, never wonders, never is greeted with mystery, never wishes He could have, never looks back with regret, never is hoping, never is waiting, never feels helpless, has nothing He can't figure out, and never finds Himself at a loss. No one can back God into a corner. He is never pressed to do something. There is no authority over Him that He has to answer to. He does what He pleases, decides whatever He wants, and acts as He wants. To say God is sovereign is simply to say that God is God and there is no one like Him.”

~ Paul Tripp, *Do You Believe? 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life*

**God LIMITS, ORDERS, and CONTROLS all things for His GLORY and our GOOD.**

If you dwell on the truth of this statement, it could change the way you live. It would change how you respond to everything going on around you and how you feel in the midst of it.

**1 Chronicles 29:11-12** “Yours, O, LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all. <sup>12</sup> Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.”

**Job 42:2** “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.”

**Psalms 115:3** “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”

**Psalms 33:8-11** “Let the whole world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of Him. <sup>9</sup> For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command. <sup>10</sup> The LORD frustrates the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. <sup>11</sup> But the LORD's plans stand firm forever; His intentions can never be shaken.”

**Proverbs 21:1** “The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”

**Daniel 2:20-21** “...Praise the name of God forever and ever, for He has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings...”

**Daniel 4:32** “...the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”

**Lamentations 3:37-38** “Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, when the Lord has not commanded it? <sup>38</sup> Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that woe and well-being proceed?”

**Amos 3:6** “If a trumpet is blown in a city, will not the people be afraid? If there is a calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it?”

**Isaiah 45:6-7** “...I am the Lord, and there is no other; <sup>7</sup> I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things.”

God is always ultimately in control and sovereignly decrees what will and will not happen. He does so without being the author of sin or evil. He leaves people responsible for their own sin while being sovereign over the final outcome.

**Isaiah 46:9-10** "...I am God and there is none like Me, <sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"

**Ephesians 1:11** "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will."

**Revelation 19:6** "...For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns!"

## I. To Trust in the Sovereignty of God You'll Have to Resist the Counsel of Some Committed But Confused Believers

[Read Psalm 11:1-7]

### A. His Well-Meaning Friends Want Him to Run Scared!

**vv. 1-2** "...Flee like a bird to your mountain, <sup>2</sup> for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart."

### B. His Well-Meaning Friends Want Him to Lose Heart!

**v. 3** "If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

His well-meaning friends tried to suck him into panic and push him towards despair. David's response is the same response we all need to have today!

### C. But David Refuses to Panic for Three Really Important Reasons

#### 1. I'm Already Choosing to Trust God

**v. 1** "In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul..."

#### 2. I Still See God in Control of It All

**v. 4** "The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes see, His eyelids test the children of man."

#### 3. I Know God Will Grow Me in It and One Day Make All Things Right

**v. 5-6** "The LORD tests the righteous, but His soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. <sup>6</sup> Let Him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup."

## II. Trusting in the Sovereignty of God Changes the Way You Process Your Own Life

### A. His Sovereignty Means that Your Pain Has a Purpose

[On the difficult battle of being a quadriplegic] "I suppose what helped me get through this more than any other thing was reading Loraine Boettner's *Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*."

~ Joni Eareckson Tada

"What she was saying was that she came to understand through this book that God is in control. And if God is in control... then her accident wasn't just a fluke, but a purposeful arrangement by a loving God. She could trust a God like that. That accident cost her freedom and brought chronic suffering. But to Joni, that diving accident was a huge gift from God—a platform for speaking to the world about her favorite subject, Christ."

~ Jim Elliff, "What's Luck Have to Do with It?" [www.CCWtoday.org](http://www.CCWtoday.org), 2003

How should you respond to your problems knowing there's a purpose behind it and that God has permitted it for a reason?

**Genesis 50:20** "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

**Romans 8:28 NASB** "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

## **B. His Sovereignty Means that There Are No Misfits**

**Exodus 4:10-11** "Then Moses said to the Lord, 'O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.' <sup>11</sup> So the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the Lord?'"

**Isaiah 45:9, 11-12** "Woe to him who strives with His Maker! Does the clay say to the potter, 'What are you making?'... <sup>11</sup>This is what the Lord says – the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker: concerning things to come, do you question Me about children, or give me orders about the work of My hands? <sup>12</sup> It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens..."

If you have no peace and keep fighting with God over some of these unchangeable features in your life, you need to surrender whatever those issues are up to God today and embrace them, accept them and even thank Him for them.