

God is Sovereign

God is in Control of Everything

Introduction:

God is *sovereign*, which means that he possesses supreme or ultimate power. He is in control of all things, and he sustains all things. No one can stop or control him, and nothing happens unless God wills it.

This brings a tension: Does God decide who gets saved? Or is it our responsibility? If it's God's decision, how can those who are unsaved be held accountable? The truth is that God's sovereignty and our responsibility are both 100% true and in perfect tension.

This can be a hard truth for our broken worldviews to swallow. Our first reactions are to shake our fists at God – to resist his authority, to scream that he is unfair, to shift our blame. But we must seek to submit to God's sovereignty and trust what we know is true – even if we can't comprehend it: God is good, and he is sovereign.

Memory Verse:

"I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted." Job 42:2

Other Scripture References:

- "Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?" Lamentations 3:37
- "Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him." Psalm 115:3
- "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21
- "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things." Isaiah 45:7
- "One of you will say to me: 'Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?' But who are you, a human being to talk back to God? 'Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?" Romans 9:19-21

Prayer Focus:

- **Adoration:** Worship God as sovereign ruler over all creation.
- **Confession:** Confess the times we forget God's sovereignty and give way to worry and fear.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for being in control of all the circumstances of our lives, and our ability to trust him to take care of us.
- **Supplication:** Ask God to help us trust him and submit to him as king.

Discussion Questions:

- Can anyone stop God from doing something?
- Can anyone make God do something?
- Does anything happen outside God's will?
- How can God be good and sovereign, and there still be sin in the world?
- If God is in control, are we still held responsible for our sin?
- What should our response to God's sovereignty be?