

Chapter One

Is God Sovereign?

Whenever people don't understand why they are going through pain, chaos or hardship, they usually say: "nothing happens but what God allows", "God is sovereign; therefore, His will shall always come to pass no matter what, because He controls everything." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Our lack of understanding should not result in slandering and blaming God as the One who is sovereign and therefore in control of everything that happens in our lives. Although, this may bring temporary relief to suffering people, it is at the expense of God's integrity and loving nature. It slanders God and holds Him responsible for everything that happens. How wrong this is!

The word "sovereign" doesn't exist anywhere in the King James Bible. It is used in the NIV over 300 times, but even then, it is not used the way religious people have taken it to mean. Religious people say God is sovereign, above all in power and authority; therefore, He controls everything that happens. This is simply not true.

- a) God is sovereign, if that word is used as the dictionary defines it, not as the religious people use it. The word "*sovereign*" means *supreme, paramount, above all in power and authority*. The doctrine of God's sovereignty, meaning "in control of everything" has brought great damage to the church.
 - i) It's the greatest faith-killer and opens the door for Satan to come in and steal, kill and destroy.
 - ii) It renders people inactive and extremely passive. They develop the mentality of "whatever will be, will be." Oh, how I hate that thinking!
 - iii) What's the point of doing anything if God controls everything?
 - o Why believe?
 - o Why give?
 - o Why seek God?
 - o Why get saved?
 - o Why love people?
 - o Why do anything if God ultimately controls everything?
- b) If that's true, then it makes no sense for God to instruct or command us to do anything because "He ultimately controls everything." Do you

see something desperately wrong with that thinking? I do. This thinking has doomed many because the assumption is that one doesn't have to believe on Jesus as Lord and Savior because nothing happens unless God controls it, allows it and is responsible for everything that happens.

God, in His sovereignty, limited Himself. God is sovereign in the bounds that He can do anything within His own will, character, nature, and Word. There are some things He cannot do. He cannot break His Word, He cannot lie, and He cannot sin.

Some say God always gets what He wants and whenever He wants. Even God does not always get what He wants. God in His sovereignty chose to limit Himself by giving us a freewill. The Word of God teaches that God doesn't always get what He wants (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4). These verses show that man does have a freewill and he exercises it as well (Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15, 22; Judges 10:14).

Did you know that love is not love once it has no free will? Forcing yourself on someone else or demanding that they love you is not love. Genuine love has free will. Did you know that when you get married, you keep your freewill? This is also true when someone is born again.

God does not make decisions for you. You have a free will and it comes with responsibility.

There are two main things I have learned about sovereignty:

- a) God is the owner or has ownership.

Ownership doesn't necessarily mean control. You can own something, yet delegate control and rulership to someone else. Many people mistake ownership for control, rulership and stewardship. God chose to delegate the rulership, stewardship, and dominion of the earth to man.

- i) *"For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof."*—1 Corinthians 10:26
- ii) *"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."*—Psalm 24:1
- iii) *"If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof."*—Psalm 50:12

iv) *“The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them.”* —Psalm 89:11

b) Man is the steward or has rulership

Although God has the ownership, He delegated stewardship, dominion, and rulership to man. Because of this, many bad things happen because of the one in stewardship and rulership but not because of the owner, God. **Simply put, God allows what we allow.** This is how God works together with man here on earth—through dominion and stewardship. Man has the lease of the earth until the return of the Lord.

As an example, I currently as Director of Andrew Wommack Ministries Uganda make certain decisions as steward and as one who has responsibility, yet it is not Andrew Wommack who made them.

He delegated authority to me which came with responsibility. He should not be the one to blame if I were to make bad decisions as one who has been entrusted as a steward.

- i) *“And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”* —Genesis 1:26-28
- ii) *“Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:”* —Psalm 8:6
- iii) *“The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.”* —Psalm 115:16

God gave these to His body:

- Authority and power over all the power of the enemy
- Name of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit living on the inside of us.

- Faith of God
- Power to bind and loose
- Better covenant established on better promises
- Commission to do greater works than Jesus
- His written Word

If God is truly in control, or is controlling, all of the events on earth, why did He give His church the above tools to destroy the works of the

devil? (1 John 3:8). The Church has a major part to play because of the delegated authority God has given her. We have been heavily equipped for success—glory to God!

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

—2 Peter 3:9

- i) *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* —Matthew 7:13-14
- ii) Look at the two verses above. One verse (2 Peter 3:9) says God wills none to perish but repent, while the other (Matthew 7:13-14) says they are perishing and heading full speed to hell. Why is it so, if God controls and is responsible for everything? This is because God doesn't control everything. People have a choice on how they want their life to play out.

“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”

—Deuteronomy 30:19

- i) In this verse, we see God giving us a free will or right to choose what we want, but He went ahead and gave us good guidance on how to choose. He says to choose life.
- ii) Notice, you have to choose. He doesn't choose for you.
 - o With choice comes responsibility.
- iii) God is not responsible for everything that happens in our lives because we get to choose.
 - o For God to be responsible for all our choices or things we go through, He has to be the one choosing for us.
- iv) Each of us has a free will to choose. For that reason, things happen that are not God's fault. He doesn't make us or force us to choose; people go to hell because they choose it. It's their own choice that sends them into eternal damnation.
- v) It's not God who is responsible, controls, and ordains everything. Many things that happen to us are as a result of our choices, which cause problems and disorder, in addition to attacks of Satan.
- vi) We have a whole lot of responsibility laid at our feet. We can't just shrug it off and say God is responsible because He is sovereign. We must take responsibility lest we perish.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

—James 4:7

- i) Notice that this verse tells us to “*resist*” the devil. This verse gives us the responsibility to do so.
- ii) If God is sovereign in the sense that He controls everything and is responsible for all that happens, why does His Word tell us to resist the devil? Why resist if God controls everything?
- iii) The word “*resist*” is not a passive word, but an active word. It's saying that we must actively fight against the devil.

“And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.”

- i) Notice that this verse says He could not do, not He would not do.

- ii) God was willing, but the unbelief of the people hindered Him from healing them.
 - If God controls everything and is sovereign, why couldn't He heal them all?

- iii) Think about this: If God was responsible for everything and controlled it all, then why didn't these people receive their miracles? It's simple. It's because they had a part to play in this and God couldn't do it for them.

*“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**” (emphasis mine)*

—James 1:12-17

- i) Because of the unbiblical doctrine of sovereignty, people believe that God is responsible for all the bad and evil things. They believe that since He is sovereign, He can stop everything and He controls it all. The verses concerning man's free will dismantle the belief that God controls everything, or that He is responsible for everything.

- ii) James 1:12-17 tells us that it is good that comes from God. It does not say evil comes from Him.

- iii) God tempts no man. Man is tempted by his own lust.
 - If God controls everything or is sovereign then He is responsible for every bad thing as well?

- iv) What comes from God is good and perfect gifts, not evil. These verses should settle that. God is not responsible for the bad things and evil in our lives.
- v) Death, sickness, divorce, calamity, suffering, poverty, destruction, loss, brokenness, misery; all these are neither good nor perfect gifts. No one would wrap these as birthday or Christmas gifts for someone else as a blessing.

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

—Acts 10:38

- i) The teaching of sovereignty says that sickness and oppression are from God and He allows, controls and is responsible for it.
- ii) That kind of thinking makes Satan look good and makes God the bad guy. However, this Scripture among many others clearly says the very opposite.
- iii) Those who were sick were oppressed of the devil, not of God. There is a devil out there and he is responsible for all the evil.
- iv) Jesus was healing those that the devil was busy oppressing. So, God is not responsible for the evil that happens. He was about good.
- v) He is good and goodness is His nature.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

—John 10:10

- i) If God controls and is responsible for everything, then why does this verse say that Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy while God brings abundant life.

- ii) God is not the One responsible for the bad things that happen to you. Neither is He the One who controls nor allows it. God is a good God and the devil is a bad devil all the time.

- iii) God is the answer to all our problems, while Satan, our choices, and the imperfect world we live in are the causes of our problems, not God. It's so simple.

Let me end with this thought that God gave me years ago while I was study- ing and thinking about this subject. In the word “good” you find the word God
and in the word “devil”, you find the word evil.