



GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Winter Quarter - Lesson 9 - Week of March 12, 2023

Lesson: **NONE LIKE HIM! (God is Sovereign)**

Bible Verses: I Chronicles 29:11-12; Romans 8:28; I Corinthians 10:13; I Timothy 1:17;
I Timothy 6:15-16; Psalm 93:1; Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 115:3

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- What impact has the Growth Group had on your life?
- What has suffering taught you about yourself?

DISCUSSION

Read I Chronicles 29:11-12. What do we learn from these verses?

Someone once said that Satan may power the ship of calamity, but God steers it to serve His own purposes. And when it comes to God's purposes, we have His promise that nothing will be allowed in our lives that is not for our good or that is too hard for us to bear (Romans 8:28; I Corinthians 10:13).

But when we say that God allows Satan to do the things he does, it isn't as if Satan twists God's arm and He hesitantly grants permission. Nor are we to imagine that once God grants permission, He then nervously runs behind Satan with a repair kit patching up what he has ruined. The Lord is never forced into a corner. The Lord is never backed against a wall. Not only is God not frustrated or hindered by Satan's schemes, but He also uses the devil's deeds to advance His kingdom and bring glory to Himself.

Today, we will be studying God's sovereignty. Sovereignty means complete authority. So, if God is sovereign, do human beings really have any choice? The truth is that God is sovereign; yet he also gives us freedom to choose. That is what the two trees in the Garden of Eden were about (see Genesis 3). God did not need to put the forbidden tree there, but he desired that people would choose to love and obey Him. Yet God, being sovereign, knows all things. Does He know everything you have done and will do? Of course. Somehow beyond our comprehension is the fact that we have a choice. Yet God still knows everything. Both can be true at the same time because God is sovereign.

Many people try to fit God into some kind of box so they can say they understand Him. But God is beyond understanding. If He wasn't, He would not be God.

1. Can we comprehend God's sovereignty?
2. What other verses speak of God's sovereignty?

The New Testament is equally emphatic about the universal sovereignty of God. Paul writes of the King eternal, immortal, invisible, and the only God (I Timothy 1:17). And in the same letter, he speaks of God as the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see (I Timothy 6:15-16). These and many other passages can be summed up in three words, THE LORD REIGNS (Psalm 93:1).

God works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will (Ephesians 1:11) and nobody and nothing can escape from its all-embracing impact.

1. I have heard people say that God is sovereign, but his sovereignty is limited by man's freedom. Is that right?
2. How do God's sovereignty and human responsibility work together?
3. How do God's sovereignty and free will work together?

We struggle understanding God's sovereignty in the story of Job. Who can summarize the events of Job's story? The book of Job is considered by many bible scholars to have been the first book of the Bible given to man from God. At the beginning of the story, when all of the angels (both the holy and the unholy) came to present themselves before the Lord, God asked Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered, "From roaming about on the earth and walking on it (Job 1:7)." Why was Satan cruising the earth? The answer is clear: Satan roams and walks around the earth to find someone whom he can devour. What does this story teach us about the sovereignty of God?

Because God is sovereign, He does what He wants and achieves all His purposes. Nothing can stop God from doing His will (Psalm 115:3).

Seven Truths About God's Sovereignty in Suffering

1. God's sovereignty extends over all things, including the presence of evil and suffering in this world (Proverbs 16:4).
2. Christians should expect some suffering, hardship, and persecution as a part of their lives in this fallen world (I Peter 4:12-13).
3. When sickness comes, we pray for healing. Yet, in God's providence, it is not always His will to heal (II Corinthians 12:7-9).
4. God uses suffering in the life of the Christian to grow humility, obedience, faith and to equip us to comfort others (Psalm 119:71).
5. In hardship, believers share in the suffering of Jesus so that we, too, might experience the glory of His resurrection (Romans 8:16-18).
6. In God's providence, even evil, sin, and suffering are working for the good of Christians and the glory of God (Romans 8:28).
7. Believers can rejoice in suffering knowing that God's sovereign hand is at work (Romans 5:3-5).

Sometimes it is difficult to trust the sovereignty of God when we are suffering. However, when we recognize that God is always working for our good, it brings us comfort to know that He will heal our hearts in due time.

Prayer Focus: God, help me to understand your sovereignty in my life.