

The Sovereignty of God

The Beginning and the Ending Series

Lesson 9 (7b)



As we have seen "The Will of God" in four (4) different aspects...Purposed Will of God, The Preferential Will of God, The Prescriptive Will of God, and The Permissive Will of God...Let us challenge ourselves to always stay in God's perfect will for our lives

I want to challenge myself concerning my thoughts and teaching on God's permissive will. The premise of God's "*permissive will*" (God *permits/allows to happen*) includes those events or actions of men which are, in and of themselves, sinful.

The word "permissive" has in context of defining the following:

Permissive = "granting or tending to grant permission : tolerant deficient in firmness or control: indulgent, lax

This definition is certainly not what I have in mind when I used the word "permissive" in showing God's permissive will!

God is not or ever will be tolerant of sin. Therefore, I challenge the definition as to "deficient in firmness or control; or, indulgent, lax."

HOWEVER...GOD DOES PERMIT = allow liberty (freedom) to do something. We call it "free-will." Free-Will = the power of acting without the constraint of necessity or fate; the ability to act at one's own discretion.

Remember...

- *When men trust and obey Him, God employs their obedience to fulfill a portion of His plan.*
- *When men rebel and disobey Him, GOD SOVEREIGNLY uses their sin (their disobedience) to further His plan.*

In this way God causes all things to work together for good, to those who are the called according to His plan and purpose (see Romans 8:28, AMP).

Please Note: When you and I choose to follow God's "permissive will" (that which God only permits or allows) we are choosing to:

- ✓ **DISOBEY GOD**, and that is sin! God's permissive will is opposite of God's preferred will.
- ✓ To knowingly disregard God's plan for our lives is **SIN**.
- ✓ Knowingly following God's "permissive will" for our lives is making a choice to **REBEL AGAINST** the one we call our **LORD**.
- ✓ Additionally, we have not only sinned against God in the decision we make, we have also defamed and blasphemed his name by providing an inaccurate portrayal of who He is while we bear His name, the name of "A follower of Christ"/Christian.
- ✓ And...We have testified to everyone around us that God is tolerant of sin creating a false witness of who He is and what he desires of our lives.

Under no circumstance is God tolerant of sin. He hates sin. Yet...God is a God of mercy...He accepts the repentant sinner.

If you desire to truly follow God's specific plan for your life, the only way to find and follow His unique will for you is to live according to His **PREFERRED will for all Believers. That implies regular times of prayer, Bible study, soaking in His Word, and Christian fellowship. These Biblically founded directives were designed to shape and renew your goals and desires, refresh your focus and priorities and clear away the uncertainties that we often face when trying to find God's will for our lives.**

Some people claim that if God is sovereign, He must approve everything before it is accomplished. Does it mean that he approves of sin to accomplish His purpose? NO...NO...NO! Again, God hates sin and will not approve it...He just gives us free-will to make choices...and Satan is good about presenting sin as being the right choice for our situation. Good and evil are opposite of each other...just as God's will and Satan's will are opposite of each other.

So...let's look at God's sovereignty.

The word "sovereign" is not used in the *King James Version* of the Bible.

It is used 297 times in the Old Testament of the *New International Version*, but it is always used in association with the word "LORD."

- ✓ **The dictionary defines “SOVEREIGN” as, “1. Paramount; supreme. 2. Having supreme rank or power. 3. Excellent.”**
None of these definitions means that God controls everything.

Religion has resulted in the invention of a new meaning for the word “sovereign. They have willed it to mean “God controls everything” and “nothing can happen but what He wills or allows.” However, there is nothing in the actual definition that states that.

It is assumed that since God is paramount or supreme that nothing can happen without His approval. That is not what the Scriptures teach.

In 2 Peter 3:9, Peter said, “The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

This clearly states that it is not the Lord’s will for anyone to perish, but people are perishing. *Relatively few people are saved compared to the number that are lost.*

Only 33% (approximate) of the world state they are Christian (Evangelically speaking: Only about 3% of the world are “born again”).

FACT: God’s will for people concerning salvation is not being accomplished. HOWEVER, HE knew that before he made each one of us.

How many abortions have there been in the United States since 1973?
50 million **abortions have been performed** in the **United States since 1973**,
23% have been late-term abortions.
11.5 million late-term abortions.
A Pew Research Center survey taken last year found that 50% of Hispanics, 58% of whites and 62% of blacks now say abortion should be legal in all or most cases. In our life time, our generation has contributed to the genocide of more people than any other time in human history. Guilty as charged.

Who in the world would think that God must approve everything before it is accomplished? NOT ME!!!

All this has and is happening because the Lord gave us the freedom to choose. He doesn't will anyone into hell.

- ***He paid for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2; 1 Tim. 4:10), but we must choose to put our faith in Christ and receive His salvation.***
- ***People are the ones choosing hell by not choosing Jesus as their Savior.***
- ***It is the free-will of man that damns them, not God.***

Did you know?

- 1. People virtually have to climb over the roadblocks that God puts in their way to continue on their course to hell.***
- 2. The cross of Christ and the drawing power of the Holy Spirit are obstacles that every sinner encounters before they obliterate their rights to enter heaven.***
- 3. No one will ever stand before God and be able to fault Him for withholding the opportunity to be saved.***
- 4. The Lord woos every person to Him, but we have to cooperate.***
- 5. Ultimately, the Lord simply enforces the consequences of people's own choices.***

Summary:

- 1. God has a perfect plan for every person's life (Jer. 29:11), but He doesn't make us walk that path.***
 - a) We are free moral agents with the ability to choose.*
 - b) He has told us what the right choices are (Deut. 30:19), but He doesn't make those choices for us.*
- 2. God gave us the power to control our destinies.***

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31

