

## Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God

The following statement is NOT true.

“Because God is sovereign, everything that happens has a DIVINE purpose and is either caused or allowed by God”

This sounds good...even religious  
But the deadly conclusion is:  
Everything that happens to us is God’s will.

**THIS IS FATALISM** → *a doctrine that events are fixed in advance so that human beings are powerless to change them*

### I If we believe that lie:

- A We will have a FALSE concept of and fearful relationship with our Father.
- B We will accept things that are not from God, making us a punching bag for the enemy.

### II Where does this lie originate?

- C Inventions/traditions of man
- D Misapplication of the Word of God
  - 1 By Satan “Hath God said?”
  - 2 By Christians: Misuse of Word

### II Misuse of Scripture

#### A JOB

- 1 Job lived when Satan had dominion.  
→ We are free from Satan’s power.
- 2 Job did not have a covenant with God.  
→ We have a covenant with God based on superior promises even to the Old Covenant (which provided protection for obedience).
- 3 Job could not call upon the provision of divine healing from Jesus’ wounds.  
→ We can declared, “By His wounds I WAS healed.”
- 4 Job said, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away,”  
→ We say, “If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely GIVE us all things? ” **Romans 8:31-32**
- 5 Job had no way to resist Satan’s power.  
→ We say, “It is the THIEF who comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. JESUS came that I may have life, and that I may have it more abundantly.” **John 10:10**
- 6 → We say, “I will submit myself to GOD, resist the devil and He will FLEE from me.”  
**James 4:7**

#### B Romans 8:28

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.—*

→ This verse does NOT say that all things are God’s will, but that no matter what happens (His will or not) He will work it out for our good.

#### C 2 Corinthians 5:17

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.—*

→ This verse is referring to what God did through Christ, not that all things that happen are of God. We must be careful not to “lift” a verse out of its context.

**D 1 Thessalonians 5:18.**

*In*

***everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

→ We are told it is God’s will to give thanks **IN** everything, not **FOR** everything. We should **NEVER** thank God for evil, but we can rest that He will work it for our good.

**THE TRUTH SETS FREE**

**III Not everything that happens is God’s will.**

**A** It is not God’s will that anyone perish. People do.

**2 Peter 3:9**

***The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***

→ If people who are going to get saved do and those who aren’t don’t, then there is no need to share our testimony, preach the word, or give to missions.

**B** We are instructed to know what God’s will is.

**Ephesians 5:17**

***Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.***

→ ***IF everything that happens is God’s will, then there is no need for us to understand what His will is (as it would automatically happen).***

**C** Jesus taught His disciples to pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

→ There is no need to ask God that His will be done **IF** everything that happens is His will.

**D** We are to pray according to His will.

**1 John 5:14-15**

***Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.***

→ There is no need to pray according to His will if His will automatically happens.

**E** We are told to resist the enemy’s work.

**1 Peter 5:8-9**

***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, steadfast in the faith.***

→ If everything that happens is God’s will, there is no need to resist anything.

**IV Why do things happen that are not God’s will?**

**A** God has given mankind a free will (the right to choose).

**B** Mankind often does **NOT** do God’s will.

**C** The devil and his angels still seek to steal, kill, and destroy (which is not God’s will).

**D** Non-believers are under the power of the evil one and frequently do not do God’s will. John 8:44

**E** Many Christians do not know what the will of God is and accept enemy attacks.

**V THE TRUTH THAT SETS FREE**

**A** God **IS** sovereign. Sovereign means “to rule over”. He rules over His kingdom.

**B** God’s kingdom is established on principles that **HE** sets.

**C** We need to know these principles.

**D** We are members of and participators in His kingdom.

**VI KINGDOM PRINCIPLES**

- A God is love. **1 John 4:16**
- B He loves mankind. **John 3:16**
- C He wants all men to be saved. **2 Peter 3:9**
- D He is no longer holding men's sins against them, but they must still receive His Son to be saved. **2 Corinthians 5:17-19, 1 John 2:2**
  - 1 **Blaming God for natural disasters to punish sin, etc.**
  - 2 **Blaming God for the evil of men (Men do evil and we give God the blame.)**
- E It is impossible for God to lie. **Hebrews 6:18**
- F He keeps His promises by grace through faith. **2 Corinthians 1:20**
  - 1 **Initial and continual forgiveness of sin 1 John 1:7-9**
  - 2 **Provision for our needs Matthew 6:33**
  - 3 **Divine healing 1 Peter 2:24**
- G He speaks to us through His Son NOT the Law and Prophets. **Hebrews 1:1-2; John 1:17**
- H He leads us by His Spirit NOT circumstances. **Romans 8:13**
- I God is FOR us NOT against us. **Hebrews 6:18**
- J We learn what His will is and what His promises are by knowing what is in the New Covenant. **Ephesians 5:17**
- K When it is not clear from Scripture what His will is, we can ask Him directly for wisdom. **James 1:5-7**
- L As members of His kingdom, we are invited to participate in His kingdom:
  - 1 Through loving one another
  - 2 Through prayer
  - 3 Through ministry
  - 4 Through resisting the enemy steadfastly
  - 5 Through confidently asking that His will be done when we pray.