

One Lord –One People – One Voice

Acts 4:23-31 | PART TWO

Introduction

Five Necessary Elements of Churches that have *Power*

- I. They fear God more than man (vv18-20)
- II. They gather together and lift their voices in prayer (v23)
- III. They embrace a sovereign view of God (v24)
- IV. They define their situation with biblical accuracy (vv25-28)
- V. They confidently make their request known to God (vv29-31)

III. They embraced a sovereign view of God – v24, 27-28

"And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them." v24

Embracing a sovereign view of God is not a disincentive to pray. It energizes prayer.

"Pray as though everything depends on God, and work as though everything depended on you." Augustine

Sovereignty: "The exercise of God's power over all creation including its determination and progress. There is nothing which has occurred, will occur or is occurring which is not caused, controlled and sustained by God."

John 1:3; Psalm 33:6; Isaiah 45:12; Isaiah 45:18; Colossians 1:16-17

"he upholds the universe by the word of his power." Hebrews 1:3

"Of all the doctrines of the Bible, none is so offensive to human nature as the doctrine of God's sovereignty." J.C. Ryle

"This sovereignty of God is the ground of peace and confidence to all His people." Charles Hodge

Sovereign Predetermination

"for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place." vv27-28

"predestined" from Gk *horizo*; 'boundary, limit. To mark out definitely. To determine, resolve, decree.'

"this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men." Acts 2:23

“definite/predetermined (NAS) plan/determined purpose (NKJ)” same Gk root horizo.

Can God will something that is abhorrent to Him? Apparently, yes.

Isaiah 53:4,10

“The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.” Proverbs 16:4

Nothing is random. Nothing occurs by chance or happenstance.

Evil does not change the plan. God uses evil to accomplish His purposes.

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart, but the counsel of the LORD, it will stand.” Proverbs 19:21

Job 23:13-14

Lamentations 3:37

“No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the Lord.” Proverbs 21:30

Isaiah 46:10

James 4:13-16

Predestination is the personal prerogative of the sovereign God who chooses as He wills.

Ephesians 1:3-6

Ephesians 1:11

Since God chose before the world was made, when He alone existed, it is His solitary act as Sovereign.

God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility juxtaposed in salvation.

John 1:12-13

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Acts 13:48-49

John 6:63-65

The sovereignty of God is a great source of comfort and contentment.

Psalms 33:8-12