

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (11)

One of the questions that arise on the matter of prayer and the sovereignty of God is the question, “Why should Christians take the time to pray if God is sovereign?” Over and over again the Bible reveals that God is totally and completely sovereign over all things. As Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer said, “In approaching the sovereignty of God there can be no retreat from recognizing that it is absolute and all-inclusive. Anything less than this would be unworthy of an infinite God” (*Systematic Theology*, Abridged Edition, Vol. 1, p. 155).

When one realizes that the Bible teaches that God is totally and completely sovereign, then the question is raised, “Why bother to pray since God is so sovereign that He already knows the end from the beginning and decrees all things that actually come to pass?” On the one hand we believe and promote a view that God has absolute sovereignty and on the other hand we solicit prayer. How do we resolve this seeming paradox?

Before we attempt to answer this, it is well for us to consider just how sovereign God is when we pray to Him:

- 1) **Job 14:5** - God’s sovereignty determines and controls the time frame of every human being.
- 2) **Job 23:13** - God sovereignty does whatever He wants it to do.
- 3) **Proverbs 16:1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 33** - God’s sovereignty controls everything that happens in regard to every human being.
- 4) **Isaiah 46:9-11** - God’s total and complete sovereignty separates Him from everything.
- 5) **Jeremiah 1:5** - God’s sovereignty is very personal and very individual (**I Samuel 2:2-8; Psalm 139:14-16**).
- 6) **John 19:8-11a** - Jesus taught God’s sovereignty in terrible things happening to Him.
- 7) **Acts 2:23; 4:23-28** - God’s sovereignty orchestrated the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- 8) **Acts 4:29-31** - The early church prayed depending on God’s sovereignty for boldness.
- 9) **Acts 15:7, 11, 18** - God’s sovereignty made known grace truth to certain people.
- 10) **Acts 17:25-31** - God’s sovereignty sets God apart from everything.
- 11) **Romans 8:28-34** - God’s sovereignty causes salvation and gives security to the one saved
- 12) **Romans 9:14-24** - God’s sovereignty determines individual salvation (**I Peter 1:1-5**).
- 13) **Ephesians 1:3-4** - God’s sovereignty is foundational to worshipping and praising God for who He is.