

## BIBLICAL PRAYER (12)

These are just a few of the many passages which speak of God's sovereignty. If we are to pray and expect God to move on our behalf, our prayers must begin with a proper perspective and acknowledgement of who God really is. As we have previously stated, it is God's sovereignty that really becomes the whole basis for prayer. When we pray, we automatically assume God is so sovereign that He can move and do whatever He wants, wherever He wants, whenever He wants.

Having considered this important attribute that God is completely and totally sovereign, we now must consider a seemingly perplexing matter when it comes to prayer. Dr. Thomas Constable clearly presents the heart of the matter, "The problem that prayer raises with these various doctrines is this: If God has a plan that includes whatever comes to pass, what good will it do to pray? Will not an event come to pass if it is part of God's plan or not come to pass if it is not part of His plan, regardless of whether a believer prays about it" (*What Prayer Will and Will Not Change*, p. 103)?

Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer gives one of the best answers to this question that will ever be put in written form: "Why, then, should prayer be offered? Only because of the fact that the divine purpose, which the answer to prayer represents, includes the prayer feature. It is as much decreed that it shall be done in answer to prayer as it is decreed that it shall be done at all. We must add to this that true prayer is not merely human, but sustained and carried on by the Divine Spirit as the Spirit of prayer, and that it has to such an extent a prophetic character, in which the Providence of God is one with the presentiment of man" (*Systematic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 256).

The sovereignty of God is at such a remarkable magnitude that it actually works through and with and in harmony with prayer. It is very clear from God's Word that failing to pray will result in God not granting what He would have granted had there been prayer (**James 4:2**). **The simple answer to "Why pray when God is sovereign?" is that prayer is part of His sovereignty.** As Thomas Constable said, "The person who prays becomes a partner with God in the execution of His plans and the accomplishment of His will on earth" (Ibid, p. 104).

The fact is, most will not really take prayer seriously, until they realize God is much greater and much bigger than that for which I am praying. When one believes he is bowing his head and aiming his prayer at an Infinite, Sovereign, Omnipotent God who knows all and can do all, it puts new life into the prayer life.

Dr. John Hannah said, "Prayer is essentially an act of worship wherein homage is given to God alone through praise, adoration, confession or request" (*Prayer and the Sovereignty of God*, p. 352).