

## Hebrews 6:3

### If God Permits...

What portion of our lives is in the hand and control of God? Is there anything that is out of His power? Anything that is out of His control? Is there anything that we can do which is contrary to the counsel of God, the purpose of God and the secret will of God who is over all things? This verse is a clear statement of submission... the primary focus of this verse aims back at verse 1, going on to perfection of understanding,

ie: Growing in grace and becoming mature.

This is obviously a good thing, and something that in general we can agree God must want... However, this is not always the case. Sometimes for reasons best known to Himself, God permits us to wander from the truth in practice or theory for a season... in a simple statement, the writer of Hebrews shows us the path of balance and wisdom that will allow us to faithfully walk this

narrow path of truth. Here is the point in a nutshell - We cannot carry our best resolutions into practice unless God permits us to do so.

## **I. ARROGANT PRESUMPTION -**

Sometimes God does NOT permit... the cultivation of the ground yields nothing unless God wills and actively permits. To presume otherwise is to arrogantly pretend to possess power and knowledge that you do not.

- a. Power to exert your will
- b. Knowledge that no possible circumstance will ever arise that will change your mind and will...
- c. You possess neither.

## **II. IT IS ALL GOD'S**

All of life is subject to this truth...

- a. Every single aspect of our lives is subject to this truth... God is on His throne, and He gives

absolutely NO portion of His power, authority or will to anyone, ever, for ANY reason!!

Psalm 115.3

Psalm 33.8-15

b. Thus, there is no part of life that is free from God's sovereign control...

i. Preparations and words

Proverbs 16.1

ii. Plans –

Proverbs 16.9

1. Note that these plans left to man's own ways are always going to lead to death!

Proverbs 16.25

2. Note that NOT ONE person will EVER seek God

**Romans 3.10-12**

3. Further note that no plans will ever come to pass except what God has decreed.

**Proverbs 19.21**

- iii. Even "chance" itself –

**Proverbs 16.33**

- c. This means that all of our ability to do ANYTHING is dependent upon God's permission and express will. For He has already ordered ALL things according to the express intent of His own perfect will...

**Ephesians 1.3-14**

- d. This includes without reservation the proclamation and efficacy of the gospel itself...

### 1Corinthians 3.6-7

<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

- i. It is God alone who can open a man's eyes and bring life to his dead understanding.

Ephesians 2.1-3

1 Corinthians 2.14

### III. AIM WELL, SUBMIT FULLY –

We ought to purpose to do what is right and true to the best of our ability

- a. That purpose MUST be cast fully upon the strength and good pleasure of God - for we can do nothing apart from His purpose and power

b. Fully intend, with all true power of our being ... but understanding that God alone has the power and knowledge to do all that is needed for us to go forth. Further, there must be a humility in this, for God must ALLOW us, SUFFER us to do as we purposed. Therefore keep it all loosely...

### James 4.13-17

c. Pay attention to the issue here... arrogance and pride are EVIL!! God will not allow His children to walk in pride and arrogance. Knowing this, to pretend otherwise is SIN.

## IV. LEADERSHIP MATTERS

Those in authority must LEAD in this - not just speak it.

a. Notice that the writer is determined in his own present intent, but yields to the sovereign will of God in the result...

- b. Paul gave us many examples of just how he put this into practice in his own ministry and life...

1 Corinthians 16:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.

Acts 18:21 (NKJV)

<sup>21</sup> but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus.

1 Corinthians 4:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup> For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

- c. David showed us this applies even to the most sacred of duties and how in our passion to perform we get it wrong even when we say we are aimed aright...

## 1 Chronicles 13.1-11

1. It was right in the eyes of the people...
2. They did not inquire of the Lord
3. They did not do according to His WORD
4. They presumed in many ways and Uzzah paid the price for His own presumption as well.

- d. It is important for us to keep plainly before our arrogant minds that God has both the right and the power to cross our intentions when they go awry of His will and purpose. We must know that we might not be able to fulfill our promise or purpose unless permitted and enabled by God Himself.
- e. This will increase our humility, our success in all things and our ability to fulfill what we have already promised... for we do not then put ourselves at cross purposes to God.