

God and His Sovereignty

By Dave Roberson

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12: 1-2).

Probably one of the most misunderstood attributes of God would be His sovereignty, especially when it comes down to the will of man. In His sovereignty, God knows exactly what you will be doing ten years from now, yet it is still up to you what that will be.

God has the power to calculate what will happen even to the end of your life. With every changing thought you have, He can tell you exactly what you will be doing ten years from now, twenty years from now, all the way until you go home to be with Him; BUT IT IS STILL UP TO YOU AS TO WHAT THE OUTCOME WILL BE. You are the one who will decide.

If someone asked, “What if I married Joan?”—God would answer, “Then you would be doing this...”

“And what if I married Susie?”—God would answer, “then, this is what you would be doing.”

So how do you change your destiny? You do it by changing the way you think; and by allowing the Holy Spirit to do His works in you and begin to transform your mind by renewing it to the Word of God and in truth.

There’s a lot of knowledge in the world—facts that are truth, and information that is valid—but there is only one truth that is absolute, infallible, and unchanging. That is everything the Word of God speaks. Let me give you a real-life illustration of God’s sovereignty, your will, and how changing your thinking can change your destiny.

There is a woman at the Family Prayer Center, here in Tulsa, who was raised in a church with her brothers and sisters while growing up. We would say she was “raised under the pew.” Although she continued to serve God, her brother never did—and had never been born again. Years later, both she and her brother lived in the same town and one day her brother’s house caught on fire. She rushed over only to find that he had died in the fire.

Allow me to tell you that several years before this happened, I had broken into a level of private worship that drastically affected my understanding of how much God really loved people. Armed with this understanding, I was able to aggressively turn people over to be saved. We have a prayer box on the altar of our church, and this woman called her brother’s name out of God for salvation and put his name in the prayer box.

Well, she arrived at her brother’s house just after her sister. To their knowledge, their brother was not saved when he died and it was not until she spoke to her sister that she found out something that brought them comfort to both. The fire marshal introduced them to one of the neighbors who told them that they had been having Bible studies in their home and their brother had been attending them. Two weeks before the fire, their brother had been led in the sinner’s prayer and he was then born again!

Because God was able to affect this woman’s thinking, she was able to change her brother’s destiny through her faith, which gave God something to work with in her brother’s life, which changed his eternity. She believed her brother would not be lost, and she was right; God saved him. The question came up, if God had saved him, why didn’t He deliver him from the fire?

What God did was “scanned” to the end of her brother’s life, examining every changing thought he had to try to find a way to rescue him. In a supreme act of mercy and grace, God received him into Heaven because, even though God wanted to rescue him from the fire, He could not because He could not find enough in the man to do it with. There was a good chance her brother would have gone back into the world, not reaching out to God. So God ended up receiving him into Heaven. He did not “TAKE” him. God had nothing to do with the fire, but He

was there FOR him when it happened. The man's sister was believing God that her brother would not be lost; the only alternative God had to guarantee his entry into Heaven was TO RECEIVE HIM THEN!

That is why it is so important to pray for unsaved people, especially our loved ones. When you pray for someone, you are giving God what He needs to send laborers across their path to help change their thinking so that He can come in through His mercy and grace to change their destiny.

When it comes to affecting your own thinking and changing your future, praying in tongues is such a powerful tool that frees the Holy Spirit to move for you on the level of your understanding. The Holy Spirit is your inoculation against deception. He does not just move on your thinking. He moves on your understanding. There are no barriers He cannot transcend—cultural, educational, or otherwise—that can stop the Holy Spirit from revealing truth to you; for HE is the Spirit of Truth.

Can you imagine how powerfully God could change your destiny by changing your thinking? Well, tongues for personal edification is a REVELATION GIFT! You cannot pray in tongues, not even an hour, without Him moving on your mind with the mystery that you prayed, setting the patterns of thought and your destiny.

We can see the impact of this revelation gift on a broader scope by looking at the early church. When we think about these believers, we automatically visualize the congregation sitting in the service holding their Bibles, but that is not so. They were blessed to get Old Testament Scriptures from the local synagogue and have the pastor teach on the scriptures that proved Jesus was indeed the very Christ. Most people could not even read anyway. Revelation knowledge was conveyed from pastor to congregation, and from person to person. They had no Bible to take home with them, but God wanted that to change.

Out of all the New Testament books, Paul wrote fourteen of the twenty-seven, more than half! No wonder he said this about his personal prayer life. **I thank my god, I speak with tongues more than ye all** (1 Corinthians 14:18)! Because Paul prayed in tongues so much, God was able to use him to write epistles that significantly helped establish church doctrine. Once again, PRAYING IN TONGUES IS A REVELATION GIFT.

When you pray in tongues, all three members of the Godhead get involved. When the Holy Spirit stepped into your born-again Spirit, the first thing He wanted to do was pray the mind of Christ for you. That is why Paul said, IF I PRAY IN AN UNKNOWN TONGUE, MY SPIRIT PRAYETH...(1 Corinthians 14:14).

Paul was speaking of his human spirit. The Holy Spirit created the language in Paul's spirit so that it would be Paul praying. It had to be Paul praying. It had to be his spirit because he was using Paul's authority. So the Holy Spirit was creating the language to pray what was in the mind of Jesus Christ.

In other words, the Third Person of the Godhead (Holy Spirit) supplies the language to pray the plan of God for you that is in the Second Person of the Godhead's (Christ's) mind. The First Person of the Godhead, Jehovah (our Father), receives and answers the prayer. So one member of the Godhead is doing the praying, one is supplying the prayer, and the other is answering the prayer. **But what are we praying?**

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue SPEAKETH NOT UNTO MEN,
BUT UNTO GOD... howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries (1 Corinthians 14:12).

The "mysteries" the Holy Spirit is praying has to do with the mystery of everything Christ is in you—the plan for your life, the understandings of everything Christ is in you, and through you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:26-27). Every time you finish praying a mystery up before God, the Holy Spirit will begin to move on the inside of you to cause you to understand the revelation of not just God's Word, but also His personal plan for your life.

So, we should continue to pray in tongues, assimilate the Word of God, and assimilate these prophecies. You will not only change your life, but God will be able to use you more and more to affect people's lives and destinies!

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