

GOD IS NOT IN CONTROL

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So many have been told that God's Sovereignty means that He controls everything that happens to **us; furthermore that everything that happens to us** has some divine reason. We've been told that God's sovereignty means that for the most part we have lives that are predetermined (at least in destiny); therefore, God is allowing this world to do evil, to wreck havoc, and pain. **NOT SO, GOD HAS GIVEN HUMANITY FREEWILL AND WITH IT TRUE CONSEQUENCES. IT'S OUR CONSEQUENCES THAT WRECK HAVOC, EVIL AND PAIN. GOD WILL NOT STOP WHAT MAN WANTS TO DO WITH IT.**

GOD'S INTERVENTION IS THE WORD OF GOD AND ESPECIALLY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

God is not in Control of the people of this world!!!

Does that surprise you? I cringe whenever I'm told that God's controlling everything and everyone. I hear Christians say, "I'm not worried because God is in control!" If God were really in control do you think evil would still be present in this world? Adam and Eve rebelled against God's controlling influence and when they did we lost control of ourselves **and things have been out of control ever since. God's will is not being done, because people are not under God's dominion.** People are willfully, or ignorantly, doing everything but God's will for the most part. The world's present state results from our will not His and it still rests with us.

God gave humanity a legitimate choice and a real responsibility. With it heaven could have been lived on earth; but hell exists instead.

Deuteronomy 30:19,

"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, **that I have set before you life and death**, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, *that both you and your descendants may live.*"

God didn't take it all back when we decided to use dominion for evil. We were meant to reign in life with Him. Instead we have thrown Him out and created chaos.

Gal. 6:7, "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*"

The world is like many of us standing around a lake and throwing rocks into the waters. Each rock creates waves amid ripples flowing into the ripples of other rocks. **With so many ripples converging, crossing, and mingling, we don't even know which came from which now.** Then we raise our fists toward God and blame Him for the confusion and the mess.

QUESTION: If God is all-powerful, surely He could intervene? The answer is yes He is, **but He cannot break His Word**. He gave the world to us for a time to make or break and we have chosen to break it. (Jesus described it as an earth lease in the

parable of the vinedressers from Matthew 21:33-39.)

It is actually wrong to accuse God for the suffering in the world. It's also mistaken to believe He will stop it. If we choose, we can do what we will—even if it leads to death. God will not violate our will.

Think of a video game where the programmer has made it very realistic. People will spend hours and days playing a very sophisticated and challenging game. They enter the video game by picking up a controller. Then by pretending to be someone in the game they live, move and have their being. **The programmer's programming is sovereign.** Anyone playing the game can only move, choose, and experience **what is in the game.** Why do we play such a game if everything is predetermined? Because the programmer has programmed many options with many consequences and with so many choices a player has freedom to act willfully within the game. The more choices and consequences programmed into the game the more compelling, the more freedom to choose, the more independent a player feels while playing—yet, everything is pre-programmed. Likewise, our world is pre-programmed by God and He commands us to choose good, the blessing, obedience, but in His sovereignty He has predetermined that man can and does have freewill to choose other than good choices. This is meaning behind Gal. 6:7 already quoted before.

Now, I have said that God will not stop what people will do in the game of life; but that is not the end of the story. There is another **Covenant** that God will establish with anyone through Jesus Christ. If we understand the dilemma we're in, and seek to find a way out of the curse and the fall, we can come to Christ, surrender our will and become one with Him. This gives God the right to intervene on our behalf; He will protect, guide, provide, save, and heal us within the game of life. This legal arrangement is through the blood of Christ—through the Atonement. It is established and maintained through His promises, His Word, His Spirit, and our faith! Jesus Christ entered this world, this game of life and overcome it for us. He played and won.

God is Sovereign and is in control of the **overall picture**, but he **is not in control of people and what they do--we have freewill**. So it becomes important that we yield, obey, and surrender to his will so that He can be God in our (personal) world (in our participation in the game of life). The importance of a right relationship with God through Christ and prayer cannot be overemphasized!

The truth is, God would stop everything going on in the world right now; But God is not willing that anyone should perish **and is waiting for all who are being saved to come into His kingdom.** The moment He ends the earth lease (stops the game of life), **salvation ends because the time to decide is over.**

Sin nature is causing the problems of this world. Jesus said, *"You must be born again; for that which is of the flesh is flesh, but that which is of the Spirit is Spirit."* (John 3)

GODS PLAN: God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives. However, all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, each of us wants to be in control of our lives. God demands our surrender and recognition of Jesus as Lord of our lives. Jesus came to be one of us, to offer a sacrifice to pay the penalty of our sins.

Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except by Me.*” (John 14:6); **ultimately, we must authorize God to save us.** We must invite Christ into our hearts. **God’s not in control of our life until we give it to Him. It’s that simple.**

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