

# Is God in Control?

“Knowing God Deeper” part 9  
Pastor Bob Johnson, June 13th, 2021

*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.*  
1 Chronicles 29:11 (ESV)

## God's Sovereignty: God is ...

- Over Nature (Psalms 148:8, Isaiah 45:12)
- Over History (Isaiah 14:26-27, Isaiah 46:10-11)
- Over Us: examples ...
  - when and where we were born (Acts 17:26)
  - how long we will live (Job 14:5)
  - what talents we have (Exodus 31:1-3)

## How God's Sovereignty Impacts Me:

### I. Because God is in control, our plans have a ...

*Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.* Proverbs 19:21 (NIV)

*We may make our plans, but God has the last word.* Proverbs 16:1 (TEV)

*Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.* Galatians 6:7 (ESV)

### Attitude to Avoid: P \_\_\_\_\_

*Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.* Proverbs 27:1 (NIV)

*Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup>Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. ... <sup>15</sup>Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." James 4:13–15 (NIV)*

### Attitude to Pursue: C \_\_\_\_\_

*We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.* Proverbs 16:9 (LB)

## II. Because God is in control, our problems have a ...

*“At present you are temporarily harassed by all kinds of trials ...  
This is no accident—it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more  
valuable than gold ...”* 1 Peter 1:6-7 (Ph)

### **Job’s Response:**

*“The Lord gave me everything I had, and they were his to take away.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord.”* Job 1:21 (LB)

### **Joseph’s Response:**

*As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil, for  
he brought me to this high position I have today so that I could save the  
lives of many people.* Genesis 50:20 (LB)

**Our Response: Look P \_\_\_\_\_  
to seek God’s P \_\_\_\_\_.**

*This is the reason why we never collapse ... These troubles (which are  
really so transitory) are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid  
reward out of all proportion to our pain.* 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (Ph)

## III. Because God is in control, our prayers have an ...

*Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will  
receive, and your joy will be complete.* John 16:24 (NIV)

*So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened to you.* Luke 11:9 (NIV)

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish,  
and it will be given you.* John 15:7 (NIV)

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything  
according to his will, he hears us. <sup>15</sup>And if we know that he hears us—  
whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*  
1 John 5:14–15 (NIV)

*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.*  
Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

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## **This Week's GPC Discussion Guide:**

Welcome to the ninth week of our 10 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Knowing God Deeper".

Each week we will reflect on one of the names of God found in the Old Testament. Each of these names are windows into an aspect of God's character.

The more we understand God's character, the deeper we can know God personally, increase our trust in Him and experience His peace.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks.

Each week, we will be using the same set of questions as we focus in on the ten different names of God that will be the focus of this series.

### **Getting Started ...**

In the last seven days or so, what has encouraged you (big or small) that we can rejoice with you over? ... and / or ...

What has challenged you, stretched you, possibly brought some discouragement your way (big or small) ... that we can offer our support and prayers for each other?

### **Quick Review ...**

In this week's description of God, we reflected on the Sovereignty of God and how God is ultimately in control of His creation.

From the passages and insights that were shared on Sunday, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

## **Digging Deeper:**

What does God being “sovereign” mean to you personally?

Has this characteristic of God brought encouragement to you in the past? If so, when? How did it impact you?

What thoughts came out of that experience?

What are some feelings, thoughts, questions or possible struggles that surface in you as you reflect on this description of God?

What do you think God wants you to remember and live in light of about this particular description of God?

What are the needs and desires this description of God might meet in your life if you were fully able to embrace its truth in your heart?

## **Praying Together:**

Let's be sure to spend some time sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.