

Letting God Be God
Series: Getting to Know God
May 9, 2010 Pastor Bill Bump

Sovereignty means: God is in control

1 Chronicles 29:11b (LB) Everything in the heavens and earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as being in control of everything.

HOW GOD'S CONTROL AFFECTS ME:

1. Because God is in control, my plans have a limit.

My plans are tentative.

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

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

A wrong attitude: Presumption

James 4: 13-15 (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." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow... Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

A right attitude: Co-operation

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

2. Because God is in control, my problems have a purpose.

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

Joseph is an example of how we handle it when people hurt us intentionally.

Genesis 50:20 (NIV) You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

My response to problems: Try to find God's purpose

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

3. Because God is in control, my prayer has an impact.

Ephesians 3:20 (LB) ...God...is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinately beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.

1 John 5:14 (NIV) This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

CONCLUSION:

Practical questions to ask because of God's sovereignty:

-Do you include God in making your plans?

-Which of these words best describes your attitude: presumption or co-operation with God?

-Do you look for God's purposes in your problems or just throw a pity party?

-When going through a difficult time do you ever ask: What can I learn?

-Do you take advantage of the privilege of prayer?