



CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

Los Angeles

Dgroup Discussion Guide
July 20, 2014

Let God be God

Word:

Romans 9:6-24

From the beginning God had already decided between Esau and Jacob. God's decision was not based on what they did but rather on what God wanted and who He had chosen. Romans 9:14 says *"If I want to be kind to someone, I will. And I will take pity on anyone I want to."*

This is one of the most difficult and controversial passage of Scriptures, but this is very foundational tackling one of the most important attribute of God – His Sovereignty. God's sovereignty means that He is in complete control of everything – big and small have been predetermined. But understanding this very attribute of God can help us in our Christian walk – our acceptance or non-acceptance of this attribute can actually make or break our walk. This is part and parcel of the glory of God.

Glory is defined as great splendor, magnificence and prosperity --- But what does it mean when we say glory of God?

Glory is God's outmost desire. The entire bible is about God getting the glory. Glory from picking a handful of people from all mankind so they would recognize who He is and give glory to Him. Revelation 4:10-11 says *"the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying "Worthy are You, our Lord and our god, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."* God ordained His creation to declare how great, how almighty and how glorious He is. That is why Psalm 19 :1 says *"the heavens declare the glory of God"*.

We, as His greatest creation, should likewise declare His glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31 *"whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*

So in essence, the glory of God is the "Wow!" people say when they see the splendor and magnificence of God's creation, thereby concluding that there is a great, almighty and glorious God. Like the rest of creation, we can declare the glory of God – when people see us, do they see the great things. . . the "wow" in our lives so that they can see there is a great and mighty God? Unfortunately many times people do not see the glory in our lives because they do not see God's transforming power in our lives.

Let us learn a lesson from the rest of creation. . . they simply reflect what God does with them, they are living out the purposes for which God created them? They do not resist God, and just let God be God to them, for God to do as He pleases and planned with them. God created them for a reason and they just do what God created them to do. . . without any resistance. . . without question. . . without hesitation. They live out the very purpose for which God created them. This is what creation does – they LET GOD BE GOD. . . and as a result the glory of God is seen in them.

Unfortunately we do not yield as easily to God's purposes for us like the rest of creation – why? Because we are creatures of control. We like to be the one calling the shots, to be in control of our own lives. By nature we are selfish and proud. . . enslaved by our sin. Romans 6:23 reminds us that *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* And because of this sinfulness we fall short of the glory of God. We need to understand that God is the one in control of everything and not us. God is absolutely sovereign.

The sad thing is, we do not want a God who is in complete control of us. We want and demand free will . . . and make selfish choices. We would rather have a god of our own design, one who caters to what we want, a god that we can manage. And because of this refusal to accept God's sovereignty that we end up rebelling and disobeying. . . and we sin. Over and over again.

We want to manipulate God so that we can only what we need . . . if we need blessings, if we need to be forgiven of our sins. . . but let God take the reins and control our lives. . . we do not want that.

We continue to deny the absolute control or sovereignty of God. . . then when everything falls apart we blame God and say He is unable to deliver on His promises to blame us and make us happy. Romans 9:6-24 says *"well then, has God failed to fulfill His promises to the Jews? No! for these promises are only to those who are truly Jews. And not everyone born into a Jewish family is truly a Jew! Just the fact that they come from Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children."*

If we want God's glory to shine in your life the first thing we should do is to accept God's absolute control and sovereignty. This is the reality. Without sovereignty God can not be God. If there is one molecule that God does not control, then God ceases to be God. God is in control of everything. Whatever it is that we are facing right now, this is something we constantly have to bear in mind – God is in control. He has not forgotten us, He is not turning a blind eye or deaf ear on us. He knows exactly what we are going through . . . He is in perfect control and he wants us to understand something – that He is God and He is in control.

Daniel 4:35 *"All the inhabitants of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He wishes with the army of heaven and with those who inhabit the earth. No one slaps His hand and says to Him, 'What have you done?'"* God does as He wishes. Ephesians 1:11 *"also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."* It is all about His plan. His purpose.

God, from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass. (Westminster Declaration of Faith)

We have to let God be God. . . Let us embrace this fact – that God is Sovereign.

But what does that mean? This means that God initiates, follows through and realizes His purpose in His timing and ways. Meaning that he does what he pleases, when He pleases, how He pleases and with whoever he pleases according to His purpose and plans. And this also means that we do not have a say in it.

In Romans 9:9-13 *"for God had promised, 'next year I will give you and Sarah a son. And years later, when this son Isaac had grown up and married and Rebecca his wife was about to bear him twin children, God told her that Esau, the child born first, would be a servant to Jacob, his twin brother. In the words of the Scripture, 'I chose to bless Jacob but not Esau.' And God said this before the children were even born, before they had done anything either good or bad. This proves that God was doing what He had decided from the beginning; it was not because of what the children did but because of what God wanted and chose."* This is what you call Sovereign Election and Choice. Paul continues *"was God being unfair? Of course not. For God had said to Moses, 'if I want to be kind to someone, I will. And I will take pity on anyone I want to.'"*

Everything that happens has been ordained and pre-destined. Every single occurrence in the world from births, to marriages, to natural disaster, to accidents, to acts of war. . . every single event in the world has been ordained and pre-destined. . . whether good or bad. . . God has a purpose behind every problem. (Rick Warren) each and every problem – God knows and allowed all things to happen.

As much as we want to take control of our situations because of our selfish desires and prideful orientation. . . we have to accept and admit – we are not in control. Only God is in control. He is completely, 100% perfectly in control of all things in the universe.

Letting God be God is trusting in God alone. D.L. Moody said **"Trust in yourself and you are doomed to disappointment; Trust in your friends, and they will die and leave you; Trust in reputation, and some slanderous tongue may blast it; But trust in God, and you are never to be confounded in time or eternity."**

Let us place our faith and trust in the promise of God alone, and He will not only save us but sanctify us as well. To allow God to be God we have to completely and fully surrender to Him. We should allow Him to direct our lives and direct our paths. Let us allow the

master planner accomplish His plans in and through you. **“Another aspect of a fully surrendered life is trust. Abraham followed God’s leading without knowing where it would take him. Hannah waited for God’s perfect timing without knowing when. Mary expected a miracle without knowing how. Joseph trusted God’s purpose without knowing why circumstances happened the way they did.”** Rick Warren "The Purpose Driven Life"

If we let God be God in our lives. . . if we let go and let God. . .

. . . we become fully surrendered to obey God in all He commands including those that are not easy to obey, those commands that demands selflessness and humility from you.

. . . if we let go and be God. . . we will be blessed as you will see God keep His promise and covenant with you.

It may be difficult to understand. . . in fact there are many things in the bible that are paradoxical and seemingly conflicting but this does not mean that it isn’t true. They are true but there are just some things that are beyond us and we will never truly understand. Deuteronomy 29:29 says *“There are secrets the Lord your God has not revealed to us, but these words that he has revealed are for us and our children to obey forever.”*

We may never truly understand God’s sovereign plan. . . but we know God and we know He can be trusted.

Works: Journaling task

1. Have I fully come to terms with God’s sovereignty in my life?
2. What is holding me back from completely entrusting my life to God? Why can’t I let go and let God?
3. What is it about this message that truly hit home?