

**Satan's Eden no 171**  
*Sovereignty pt 7 - Our Attitude Towards it*  
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Well, good morning, everyone.

This will be Satan's Eden No. 171, and it deals with the Sovereignty of God and our attitude towards it. So let's just read before we go to prayer.

**1 Chronicles 29:11** *"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all."*

This morning, I want to continue our study of the sovereignty of God.

Let's just bow our heads in prayer.

Dear gracious Father, that's the one thing that we need to understand more than anything else, is Your Sovereignty, because no matter what befalls us, what seems to be come upon us, as an end-time trial. Yet, Lord, we know that it's all purposely, it's all planned out.

It's all to bring forth the character that You are looking for in us. It is all to make us more like You. And so, Father, knowing that we will be and are ordained to be conformed to the image of Your firstborn Son, knowing the trials He went through, You're giving us a little taste just so that it'll tweak our characters. And so, Father, we just commit ourselves to Your tweaking. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.  
You may be seated.

Now, so far, we have thoroughly covered this topic on **the sovereignty of God, but today I want to look at our attitude towards it.**

Next week we will begin a miniseries for ten services that will look at the Ten Commandments. However, we will apply these ten rules to Marriage to show you how we can have a better marriage with these rules.

So, the Ten Commandments are actually ten rules that God set down for His Family so we can have a right relationship with Him as our heavenly Father.

Remember, the word Torah means the instructions from the Father. That's the first five books of the Old Testament.

God has laid down these ten rules to govern our lives, and if we are to apply these ten rules to our marriage, we will have a good marriage as well.

And so, I will take them and call them the ten commandments of Marriage and show you how each one was specifically designed to help you develop a more godly relationship in the Marriage.

Now this morning should be our last sermon concerning the Sovereignty of God and so this morning we will show what our attitude should be concerning it.

In understanding the Truth about God and His nature we must come to conclude that *Sovereignty characterizes the whole Being of God.*

*He is sovereign in all His attributes.* And for the past few weeks, we examined our Lord, in His Sovereignty, in both Election and reprobation. We also examined His Mercy and His Grace in light of His Sovereignty.

**No. 1) He is sovereign in the exercise of His power.** *His power is exercised as He wills it, when He wills it, and where He wills it. This fact is evidenced on every page of Scripture.*

**No. 2) God is sovereign in His mercy.** *And is necessarily so, for mercy is directed by the will of Him Who shows mercy. Mercy is not a right to which man is entitled.*

*Mercy is that wonderful attribute of God by which He pities and relieves us who are miserable wretches. God bestows His mercies on whom He pleases and withholds them as seems good unto Himself.*

**No. 3) God is sovereign also in His love.** *He loves who He chooses to Love. That might seem hard for most people to receive, yet it is totally true. But who will receive it?*

In **John 3:27** we read, "*A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven*". When we say **God is sovereign** in His love, we mean that He loves whom He chooses.

God does not love everybody; if He did, He would love the Devil. Why doesn't God love the Devil? Because there is nothing in him to love; because there is nothing in him to attract the heart of God.

Even though they were brothers, God hated Esau, but He Loved Jacob. Why? Because Jacob was a part of God's thinking from the beginning. So, God loves whom He wishes to love. This means that He is sovereign in His Loving.

**No. 4) God is sovereign in His grace.** This is necessary, for grace is favor shown to those undeserving. In fact, it is given to some deserving of His disapproval and punishment.

Grace is the opposite of justice. Justice demands the impartial enforcement of the law. Justice requires that each shall receive what is his due, his reward or punishment.

The Bible teaches that “**Every man will be rewarded according to what He has done in the flesh**”. Yet He totally justifies some as though they never did it. Why?

You know, a judge doesn't have to testify against his wife. You know, he can just absolve her right off the bat.

But justice can do no more nor less than the Judge. Justice bestows no favors and is no respecter of persons. Yet the Judge pardons one and not the other. Justice itself shows no pity and knows no mercy. But after justice has been fully satisfied, grace flows forth. And remember, Jesus died, so you won't have to. So He already took the punishment, so why give you a double jeopardy? Right?

Divine grace is not given at the expense of justice, but **Romans 5:21 says “grace reigns through righteousness”**, and if grace reigns, then grace is sovereign.

Grace has been defined as the unmerited favor of God, And if unmerited, then none can claim it as their rights.

I imagine that doesn't go well with this dumbed-down generation of people who expect everything to be given to them for free.

But if grace is unearned and undeserved, then none are entitled to it. If grace is a gift from God, then none can demand it. In other words, it's not a repayment for your work. Therefore, as salvation is by grace and is a free gift from God, then He can bestow it on whom He wishes to and those He doesn't wish to He does not have to.

So, this morning I would like to examine our attitude towards God's Sovereignty and what ought to be our attitude toward our sovereign God.

**Matthew 11:26** We read. *"Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight".* Now notice His focus is not on what He wishes, but actually, it seems good to You, God. It seems good to You, Father.

Every truth that is revealed to us in God's Word is there not only for our information but also for our inspiration. The Bible has been given to us not only to gratify our curiosity but to edify our souls.

The sovereignty of God is something more than just a doctrine which explains the reason and purpose of God's governance:

**It is designed as a motive for godly fear.** And it is made known to us, so it **promotes righteous living.** And it is revealed to us in order **to bring into subjection the rebelliousness of our hearts.**

A true recognition of God's sovereignty will humble us as nothing else will humble us. It also brings our hearts into simple submission before God. And it causes us to give up our own self-will.

It also makes us to delight in the awareness of God's perfect will.

When we speak of the sovereignty of God we are speaking of the Godhood of God. In its fullest and deepest meaning the sovereignty of God signifies the Character and Being of the One whose pleasure is performed and whose will is executed.

To truly recognize the sovereignty of God is to gaze upon the Sovereign One Himself. It is to come into the August Presence of the "Creator of All things." It gives us recognition of God **"Who is Holy in all His glory"**.

The effects of such a view can be learned from the experiences of the Prophets of God who told us of their experiences, even to this day. The Prophets all described their experiences and views of the Lord God.

Notice Job. He is the one whom the Lord Himself said in **Job 1:8**. *"There is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil"*.

At the end of the book of Job, we are shown Job in God's presence, and how does Job present himself when brought face to face with Jehovah?

He says in **Job 42:5,6** *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee: Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes".*

Thus, the sight of God revealed His awesome majesty. And it caused Job to abhor himself, and to abase himself before the Almighty.

And what about **Isaiah. 6:1-13**. In the sixth chapter, we see a scene brought before us which has few equals even in Scripture. The prophet beholds the Lord upon the Throne, and His Throne is *"high and lifted up."*

And above this Throne stood the seraphim with veiled faces, crying, *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts."* So, what is the effect of this scene on this prophet of God?

We hear him say in verse **5** *"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."*

The sight of God, humbled Isaiah into the dust, bringing him to a realization of his own nothingness.

Once more let's look at the prophet Daniel. Toward the close of his life, this man of God beheld the Lord in His **"theophanic"** manifestation. He appeared to His servant Daniel in human form, *"clothed in linen"* and with loins *"girded with fine gold"*.

This was symbolic of God's Holiness and Divine glory. We read that, *"His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning."*

*And his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like it was the color to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude."*

So, Daniel tells the effect this vision had upon him and those who were with him.

We read in **Daniel 10:6-9** *"And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves."*

*Therefore, I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me. For my comeliness, was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength."*

*Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground".*

Once more, we are shown that to see the Presence of the Sovereign God with our own eyes, even by vision, causes our own mortal strength to turn to powder. Dry up. And results in men being humbled into the dust before their Creator.

**What then Should be our attitude toward the Supreme Sovereign Lord?** We reply,

**No 1) One Of Godly Fear.** Why is it that, today, the masses of people are so utterly unconcerned about spiritual and eternal things? They appear to be as God describes them at this end time to be, "*lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God*"?

Why is it that even on the battlefield, multitudes are so indifferent to their soul's welfare? Why is people's defiance of heaven becoming more open, and more resistant?

We find our answer in **Romans 3:18** "*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*"

Again, why has the authority of the Scriptures and of a vindicated prophet of God become so blatantly repulsive in recent years?

40 years ago, you didn't hear anybody that was in this message speaking against the prophet. Now they speak very arrogant, and they speak like Brother Branham was a worm and they are some type of great man. Well, it's just totally disrespectful, for one. But why so much in the last years?

Why is it that even among those who profess to be the Lord's people, Message believers, there is so little real understanding and therefore no subjection to His Word?

And why are His Opinions, and His values, and His judgments so lightly esteemed and so readily set aside? You know, that's His Doxa. Why wouldn't you want the one thing that He guaranteed in praying to the Father? He said, Father, give them Thy Doxa, which You gave Me. Your opinions, which You gave Me. Your values, which You gave Me. Your judgments, which You gave Me? He prayed that we would be one, even as He and the Father were one. So why do they disrespect so much, His doctrine, His opinion, His values?

Why is it that a man of God, can condemn sin in the pews, and yet the people walk out in anger not even having the decency to want to be right with God?

Ah! But what needs to be stressed today is that God is a God to be feared. And the people are just ignorant of that one thing.

**Proverbs 1:7** tells us our answer, and they are not teaching what it says, It says "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*".

Happy is the person who is awed by God's majesty, and has seen a vision of God's greatness, and His unsurpassable Holiness, along with His perfect righteousness, His irresistible power, and His sovereign grace.

Some people might think, "***But is it only the unsaved, those outside of Christ, who need to fear God***"? Then the sufficient answer is that the saved, those who are in Christ, are admonished to work out their own salvation with "***fear and trembling***."

There used to be a time when we referred to a real believer as a "***God-fearing man***." But this saying has become nearly extinct, and this shows how far we've fallen and departed from Scripture.

But God Who changes not, once said in **Psalms 103:13** "*Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him*". You want His pity, fear Him.

When we speak of "***godly fear***", of course, we do not mean a fear like a slave has for his master, which attitude seems to prevail among the heathen in connection with their gods.

No, we mean **that attitude which God pledges Himself to bless**. The attitude which Isaiah spoke of when he said in **Isaiah 66:2** "*To this man will I (the Lord) look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my Word*".

This is what the apostle Peter had in mind when he wrote, **1 Peter 2:17** "*Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king*".

And nothing will foster this godly fear like a recognition and understanding of the Sovereignty of God.



What then ought to be our attitude toward the Sovereignty of God? We answer again,

**1.One which shows Implicit Obedience.** A real view of God leads to the realization of our littleness and nothingness, and issues in a sense of dependency and of casting ourselves upon God. Now, you all seem kind of somber today, but you wait till the end of the sermon. You'll understand.

The real view of **The Supreme Judge** promotes the spirit of godly fear. This, in turn, begets an obedient walk. This then is antidote for the evil of our hearts. And only if Congress was fearing God, you wouldn't see all the shenanigans take place that are taking place today.

Naturally, man is filled with a sense of his own importance. With his greatness and self-sufficiency. Which is his pride and rebellion. Just like his daddy Satan, in the beginning.

But, the great corrector of our attitudes, the great tweaker of our spirit, is to behold the Mighty God Unveiled before us. For this alone will really humble us. So, you will glory either in yourself or you will glory in God.

You will live either to serve and please yourself, which we see everybody do today, or you will seek to serve and please the Lord. Jesus said, ***"None can serve two masters."***

***Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***

**But listen to this, Irreverence begets disobedience.** It was a haughty pharaoh who said in ***Exodus 5:2 "Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord; neither will I let Israel go"***.

But to Pharaoh, the God of the Hebrews was merely a god, one among many. A powerless entity who needed not to be feared or served. And so Why?

Because his own gods were only make-believe in his own mind. They were that way and that is all he knew. And so is it today among the people.

How sadly mistaken he was. How bitterly he had to pay for his mistake, which he soon discovered. But what I want you to see is that Pharaoh's defiant spirit was **the fruit of irreverence and ignorance**. And it was His ignorance.



And **his own irreverence was the consequence of his own ignorance** of the authority of God's Omniscient and Omnipotent Being.

The old proverb says, "**Fools will walk with hobnailed shoes where angels fear to tread.**" And how true that story is even today?

Now **if irreverence begets disobedience**, then **true reverence will produce and promote obedience**. Why do you think the people who left off with believing in the Message of Malachi 4, are so haughty? It is because in their own ignorance, they refused to search the scriptures to see whether they were even in the Faith.

How I tried many years before they rejected this Message to have intelligent heart-felt discussions with many of their leaders. Yet they outright rejected and turned away from the Doctrines of this Message.

*To realize that the Holy Scriptures are a revelation from God, communicating to us His mind and defining for us His will, is the first step toward practical godliness.*

To recognize that the Bible is God's Word, and that its precepts are the precepts of the Creator Himself, will lead us to see what an awful thing it is to despise and ignore His precepts.

To receive the Bible as addressed to our own souls, given to us by the Creator Himself, will cause us to cry out as David did in the Psalms.

**Psalm 119:36,133**, "**Incline my heart unto thy testimonies... Order my steps in thy Word**".

Once the sovereignty of the Author of the Word is apprehended, it will no longer be a matter of choosing from the precepts and statutes of that Word, and selecting only those which meet with our approval.

But it will be seen that nothing less than a wholehearted submission is becoming to the individual. What ought to be our attitude toward the Sovereignty of God? We answer, once more,

**No 2) One Of Entire Acknowledgment and Acceptance.** A true recognition of God's Sovereignty will exclude all murmuring.

This is self-evident, yet we ought to more deeply dwell on it. It is natural to murmur when we've become ill or afflicted. It is natural to complain when we are deprived of those things that we have our hearts set upon.

Because we think our possessions are ours unconditionally. We feel that when we have carried out our own plans with carefulness and thoroughness, that we are entitled to success.

When we by hard work have developed a "**competency**", we think we deserve to keep and enjoy our prosperity that we have earned.

When we are surrounded by a happy family, we feel no power may lawfully enter the charmed circle and strike down a loved one.

And if in any of these cases disappoint us, like bankruptcy or death, the perverted instinct of the human heart is to cry out against God.

**But in the one who, by grace, has recognized God's sovereignty, such murmuring is silenced. Instead, there is a bowing to God's will, and an acknowledgment that He has not afflicted us as deeply as we deserve.**

I know I can say amen to that. I say I am very thankful that He only afflicted me this much. I mean, He could have just wiped me out, and I would have deserved it. Okay, but God is God. He's a God of mercy.

A true recognition of God's sovereignty will avow God's perfect right to do with us as He wills. I've never complained about this. I'm sorry. But, you know, I would like to be 100%. But you know what?

I'm willing to live with it, because not my will, but His will be done. I mean, having this affliction has actually caused my heart to search Him deeper. And there's been, what, 90 some sermons ever since.

A true recognition of God's sovereignty will avow God's perfect right to do with us as He wills. The one who bows to the pleasure of God will acknowledge His absolute right to do with us as seems good to Him.

If He chooses to test us through poverty, or test us with sickness, or test us through bereaving our loved ones. Even while the heart is bleeding at every pore in us it will say, "**Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right!** As Job said.

Often there will be struggle. The carnal mind seems to remain in the believer to the end of his earthly days. Such is the body of this death.

But though there may be a conflict within our mind, nevertheless, the one who has really yielded himself to this blessed truth, the voice of Jesus can be heard as when He spoke to the sea, "*Peace be still*".

And the storm that was raging within will be quieted and the subdued soul will lift a tearful but confident eye to heaven and say, "*thy will be done*."

A striking illustration of a soul bowing to the sovereign will of God is furnished by the history of Eli the high priest of Israel. Now listen to this story.

In **1 Samuel 3:1-21** Here we learn how God revealed to the young child Samuel that he was about to slay Eli's two sons for their wickedness.

In the night Samuel communicates this message to the old priest. It is difficult to conceive of more appalling intelligence from the heart of a pious parent.

The announcement that a son was going to be stricken down by sudden death would under any circumstances, be a great trial to any father.

But to learn that his two sons in the prime of their manhood, and who were unprepared to die, were to be cut off by God's judgment. It must have been overwhelming.

Yet, what was the effect upon Eli when he learned from Samuel the tragic tidings? Did He cry out to God to change His mind? No, so what reply did he make when he heard the awful news?

He didn't cry out to God to spare his boys. In **1 Samuel 3:18**, We read what his reply was. "*And he said, It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good*".

Yeah. Could you do that if God took your son? Huh? It is the Lord. Let Him do what He seems good.

And he spoke not another word on the subject. What a wonderful submission! What Sublime resignation! What manifestation of the power of divine grace to control the strongest affections of the human heart.

What love for God to subdue his own will and bring it into a totally submissive state to the sovereign God.

Another example, equally striking, is seen in the life of Job. As we all know, Job was "*one that feared God and eschewed evil*". He hated it.

If ever there was one who might reasonably expect God's providence to smile upon him, it was Job. Yet, how well did it go with him?

For a time, all seemed to go his way. The Lord filled his quiver by giving him seven sons and three daughters. He prospered in his business affairs until he owned great possessions.

But all of a sudden, the sun was hidden behind dark clouds. In a single-day Job lost not only his flocks and herds, and he had thousands of sheep, thousands of camels, everything else, but his sons and daughters as well.

News arrived that his cattle had been carried off by robbers, and his children slain by a cyclone. And how did he receive this report? Listen to his words: "*The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away.*"

He bowed to the sovereign will of God. He said, the Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be His Name. He bowed to the sovereign will of God. He traced his afflictions back to their First Cause. He looked behind the Sabeans who had stolen his cattle.

He looked beyond the winds that had destroyed his children and saw the hand of God. But not only did Job recognize God's sovereignty, he rejoiced in it, too.

To the words he said in **Job 1:21** "*The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away*", he added, "*Blessed be the name of the Lord*". Again, we see a sweet submission! Sublime resignation!

A true recognition of God's sovereignty causes us to hold our every plan in a holding pattern waiting for God's will.

It causes us to heed the words we read in **James 4:13-15** "*Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:*

*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that".*

It makes us recognize that God has absolute power over the clay and molds it according to his own will.

Yes, it is, to the Lord's will, we must acknowledge. It is for Him to say where I shall live. It is for Him to determine under what circumstances I shall live. Whether it be wealthy or in poverty.

Whether in health or sickness. It is for Him to say how long I shall live. It is for Him to say where I should be when the church doors open. It is for Him to say whether I shall be cut down in youth like the flower of the field, or whether I shall continue for three score and ten years. It is not my will, but Thy will be done. But do we even recognize His Will?

To really learn this lesson is, by grace, to attain unto a higher level in the school of God, and even when we think we have learned it, we discover, again and again, that we have to relearn it all over again.

**No 3) Our attitude should be One of deep Thankfulness and Joy.** The heart's apprehension of this Truth of the sovereignty of God, produces something far different than a sullen bowing to the inevitable.

The philosophy of this perishing world knows nothing better than to "make the best of a bad job". *"Had the princes of this world known who He was, they would not have crucified the lord of Glory."*

But with the Christian, it should be far different.

Not only should the recognition of God's supremacy produce within us godly fear, complete obedience, and entire resignation.

But it should cause us to say as David said, *"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name".*

Apostle Paul said in **Ephesians 5:20?** *"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"*

Can you thank the Lord for allowing you to go through trials, illnesses, and

afflictions?

It is at this point the state of our souls is so often put to the test. Why? Because there is so much self-will in each of us.

When things go as we wish them, we appear to be very grateful to God; but how do we act when things go contrary to our plans and desires?

We take for granted when the real Christian takes a trip by airplane. And upon reaching their destination, they devoutly return thanks unto God. And of course, they know it is God who controls everything; Otherwise, they would thank the pilot, the mechanic, the baggage handlers, etc.

Or, if in business, at the close of a good week, gratitude is expressed unto the giver of every good (temporal) and of every perfect (spiritual) gift. And of course, because God directs all customers to your shop.

So far, so good.

But imagine the opposite takes place. Suppose my plane is delayed for hours, did I fret and fume; suppose it had a problem and crashed. Or are we thankful that the delay was for our good?

Or suppose I've had a poor week in business, or that lightning struck my shop and set it on fire, or that burglars broke in and stole everything in it. Then what: do I see the hand of God in these things?

Take the case of Job once more. When loss after loss came his way, what did he do? Did he grouse about "bad luck"? Did he curse the robbers? Did he murmur against God? No; he bowed before Him in worship.

There is no real rest for your poor heart until you learn to see the hand of God in everything. But for that to happen, our faith must be mature. But what is faith? Is it a blind gullibility? Is it a giving in to fate?

No, far from it. **Faith rests on the sure Word of the living God**, and therefore we can say as in **Romans 8:28** "*We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose*".

And therefore, faith will give thanks always for all things. Faith is expressed when we can as we find in **Philippians 4:4**. "*Rejoice in the Lord always*."

Notice how this recognition of God's sovereignty is expressed in godly fear, implicit obedience, entire resignation, and deep thankfulness and joy was supremely and perfectly exemplified by the Lord Jesus Christ.

In all things, the Lord Jesus has left us an example that we should follow in His footsteps. But are the words "*godly fear*" ever linked with His name? You think of Jesus, and you think of godly fear.

Now remembering that "*godly fear*" signifies not a servile terror, but rather a filial subjection and reverence, and remembering too that "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*". And He was wisdom incarnate. Therefore He was fear incarnate also of Papa.

Would it not rather be strange if no mention at all were made of "*godly fear*" in connection with the one who was wisdom incarnate! A Firstborn Son that was to be the example for all sons.

What a wonderful and precious word we have in **Hebrews 5:7** "*Who in the days of his flesh, having offered up prayers and supplications with **strong crying and tears** unto him that was able **to save him from death**, and having been heard for his godly fear*".

What was it but "*godly fear*" which caused the Lord Jesus to be "*subject*" unto Mary and Joseph in the days of his childhood? Was it not "*godly fear*" a filial subjection to and reverence for God that we see Him display?

As Brother Branham said, I can do anything I want, but all I want to do is to please Him. God doesn't make me do anything, but if I love Him, I want to do whatever He wants.

**Luke 4:16** "*And he came to Nazareth where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.*"

Was it not "*godly fear*" which caused the incarnate Son to say, when tempted by Satan to fall down and worship Him, "*It is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve*"?

Was it not "*godly fear*" which moved Him to say to the cleansed leper, in **Matthew 8:4** "*Go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded*"?



How perfect was His obedience that the Lord Jesus offered to God, the Father! And in reflecting upon this let us not lose sight of that wondrous grace which caused Him, who was in the very form of God, to stoop so low as to take upon Him the form of a servant.

And thus, be brought into the place where obedience was becoming. As the perfect servant, He yielded complete obedience to His Father.

It was said of Him in **Isaiah 42:19** *Who is blind, but my servant?*

Now can you imagine having a blind servant? You would end up serving him?

*or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? Who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?*

In other words, He was blind and deaf to everything but God's except for what commandments to Him.

Paul said in **Philippians 2:8** *"He became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"*.

This was a conscious and intelligent obedience.

**John 10:17-18** *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself."*

It's My choice, not yours.

*"I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received from my Father"*.

And what shall we say of the absolute resignation of the Son to the Father's will when between them there was entire oneness of accord? Jesus said in **John 6:38** *"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me"*.

That's My whole mission in life.

So, whose will are you serving today? Your own or your Heavenly Father's will?

And how fully He spoke of that claim in the Scriptures. Notice His behavior in Gethsemane! The bitter "cup", held in the Father's hand, is presented to His mind.

Notice His attitude taught us how to be meek and lowly in heart. Remember that in the Garden we see the Word become flesh in a perfect man. And He was a pattern for all sons.

His body was quivering, every nerve on edge, in contemplation of the physical sufferings which awaited Him. His holy and sensitive nature shrank from the horrible indignities which would be heaped upon Him.

His heart breaking at the awful "reproach" which was set before Him. Can you imagine being spurned by everybody? You turn this way, you're spurned. You turn that way, you're spurned. Everybody hated Him.

His spirit greatly troubled as he foresees the terrible conflict with the Power of Darkness. And above all, His soul is filled with horror at the thought of being separated from God Himself.

Thus, He pours out His soul to the Father, and with strong crying and tears, He sheds great drops of blood. And now observe closely and listen.

Listen to the words which fell from His blessed lips in "**Luke 22:42** " *Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.*

Here is the submission personified. Here, is the resignation to the pleasure of a sovereign God matchlessly displayed. Jesus our older Brother has left us an example that we should follow in His footsteps.

He was tempted in all points like we are, to show us how to act out our mortal nature! Yet He sinned not.

What shall we say of Christ's absolute resignation to the Father's will"? Our answer is here, as everywhere, He was unique, peerless. In all things, He has the preeminence."

In the Lord Jesus, there was no rebelliousness to be broken, but there is in us.

In His heart, there was nothing to be subdued. but there is in us. Was not this one reason why, in the language of prophecy, he said, "*I am a worm, and no man*" **Psalms. 22:6**

A worm has no power of resistance! It was because in Him there was no resistance that He could say, "*My meat is to do the will of him that sent me*" **John 4:34**.

Was it because He was in perfect accord with the Father in all things that He said, "*I delight to do thy will, O God; yea, thy law is within my heart*" **Psalms. 40:8**.

Do you believe the Father heard His prayers? Did not He pray to the Father in Gethsemane for us to have the same Doxa, the same opinions, values and judgments as He had received from the Father?

God has to put His laws into our minds, and write them in our hearts **Hebrews 8:10**, but His law was already in Christ's heart!

What a beautiful and striking illustration of Christ's thankfulness and joy that we find in **Matthew 11:1-30**.

**Next**, we learn of the discontent of the people: satisfied neither with the joyous message of Christ nor with John's solemn one in **Matthew 11:16-20**.

**Third**, we have the non-repentance of those favored cities in which our Lord's mightiest works were done in **Matthew 11:21-24**.

And then we read, "At that time Jesus answered and said in **Matthew 11:25** "*I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes*".

Note the parallel passage in **Luke 11:1-54** it opens by saying, "*In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee,*" etc. Ah, here was submission in its purest form.

Do we thank God when the trials come upon us, for taking the trial to mold us to be in the image of His Son?

Here was one by which the worlds were made, yet, in the days of His humiliation, and in the face of His rejection, thankfully and joyously bowing to the will of the "*Lord of heaven and earth*".

Notice how Old Testament prophecy also declared that "*the Spirit of the Lord*" should "*rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of*

***counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord" Isaiah 11:1-2.***

And why did He promise in **Ephesians 1:18** to give us that same *Spirit of Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him*? Did he give it to us to produce a different result in us? Or did He promise this to produce in us the same response?

God made us to be like Himself. Little creators. Not looking at Life from a box, but to think outside the box. It doesn't take the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding to think like the rest of humanity. That's what good-intentioned parents and grandparents try to do with their children and grandchildren.

Raise the child up to live in a box. Give the kid everything, and instead of an opportunity to develop His creative little mind. He is born into this world as a little creator; to create scenarios of his own.

It reminds me of a story Brother Don told me years ago. When His Son Joshua was tested for school. Now, you probably don't remember this because you were too young, they sat him down in front of a labyrinth box and said the object is to get that little ball from the starting point to the finish line.

Of course, most kids will think in the box and they think, well, there's which way do I go with this little ball? And they try, this one doesn't work. They try, this one falls in the hole. They try this one, but it just doesn't go nowhere. And so they struggle.

But little Joshua, he looked at that ball, saw all the Obstacles set between start and finish, and instead of doing what other children had done, before him. He picked up the ball and placed it at the finish line. He did that in seconds. The Job was done in seconds vs the time it would take to do it their way. That's thinking outside the box. That's the way God created us to be.

And I think that was just like Brother Don was, he was a little creator. He could take junk steel and create a car. He could take the wind foil off a semi-truck and make the body for his car. He was a man that used his God-given brain to be creative and enjoyed creating things and fixing things.

Let me tell you a story that Ronald Reagan told. He said, there was a research center, and they took troubled kids in and studied them. One parent brought in a

child that was always so negative. They thought they would change his attitude, so they set him up in a room full of toys.

After a full day's session, they went into the room with his parents, and all the toys were broken, and discarded sitting in heaps.

They asked the boy why he was still so sour and negative about everything, and he said the plastic toys all broke, the wheels came off the toys, and the batteries stopped working. The Windup springs all broke. And various other reasons.

So, then another child was set down in a room full of Horse manure. They left him all day and when they came back the kid was just having the time of his life. They saw him throwing pieces of manure everywhere.

He had dug through the pile and moved it to where you didn't even recognize it had been a pile. He was just so happy throwing manure pieces all over the place, wee, wee, wee, that is what he was saying. They asked him why he was so happy, and he said I just know I am going to find that pony somewhere.

We think we can buy happiness because our parents didn't have much to give. But give your child a Spoon and a pile of dirt and watch him go into action. That spoon becomes an imaginary digger. He gets out in the sand pile, and he's got a digger. He fills it up, and then he uses it like a truck carrying dirt to where it has to go. Or it becomes a hauler to carry the dirt over to the next pile. Or it becomes a flying saucer. In his creative mind, he's thinking about flying saucer. Little creators, like our older Brother, all right.

Or it becomes a microphone, and he becomes a singer, or preacher. Or that spoon is a stick shift for his imaginary Lamborghini. and he's driving his Lamborghini. He's shifting up the Lamborghini.

Or that spoon becomes a joystick in front of an imaginary screen, and he drives his race car through the curves in a racetrack. Or that spoon becomes an airplane. Or one of the various other imaginary devices.

That is what we were created to be. Little creators like our older Brother Jesus. When life gives you lemons we should be making lemonade.

So, what ought to be our attitude towards God's trials be, when He is a sovereign God Who works out all things for our good? Everything that you go through in this life is for testing. Either you're allowing God to mold you into the image of His Son, or you're resisting by being sour.

**1 Peter: 3-7** Tells us. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

**4** *To an inheritance (Wow.) incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

**5** *Who are kept by the power of God through faith (Which is revelation) unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

**6** *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, **if need be**, ye are in heaviness through manifold (testing's) temptations:*

**7** *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

**8** *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

**9** *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (not mine, His) **29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

**30** *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

There's a need for justification.

**31** *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*

And then Apostle Paul goes on to say, can peril? Can all these other things? Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

So instead of looking at your trials in a negative way, Oh, I've got diabetes. Oh, I've had a stroke. Oh, I got hit in the mouth with an instrument. Think of it as storing up gold, storing up treasure.

Think of all the ways how that God will surprise you by helping you through your trials. And the outcome He has for you. In other words, not looking to say, oh, God, if you can just do it my way, it'll be done right. No, no, no. You say, oh, God. I am looking forward to you surprising me, the way you're going to change this thing all around.

**So, what should our attitude be towards a God who is sovereign?**

**No. 2) It should be One Of Adoring Worship. God's** Sovereignty is not the sovereignty of a tyrannical despot, but the exercised pleasure of one who is infinitely wise and good! And if He's infinitely wise and good, you think He's going to make a mistake?

Because God is infinitely wise, He cannot err, and because He is infinitely righteous He will not do wrong.

Here then is the preciousness of this truth. The mere fact itself is that God's will is going *to produce all things for our good*. Should that fill me with fear of the unknown? Absolutely not. But once I realize that God wills only that which is good for me, my heart is made to rejoice.

Then we find the final answer to the question. What ought to be our attitude toward the sovereignty of God? The becoming attitude for us to take is that of **godly fear, implicit obedience**, and unreserved resignation and submission and joy to know He loves me and is looking out for my best interest and is willing to develop in me, Himself.

But not only so, but the recognition of the sovereignty of God, and the realization that the Sovereign Himself is my Father, ought to overwhelm our heart and cause us to bow before Him in adoring worship. At all times we should echo, "*Even so, Father, for so it seems good in thy sight.*"

Let's just bow our heads in prayer.

Gracious Father, we are so, so thankful, Lord, that You are our Father and You have our best interest in all that happens to us. And you know, we know that all things will work together for the good.

So surprise me, Lord, by working things out the way You are for my good. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.