



Maranatha Baptist Church  
Equip University  
Christian Living Track  
Fearing and Following God

## Class 8 – Remember God's Sovereignty in Decision-Making

### Introduction

#### God is Sovereign

All things are under God's rule and control. Nothing happens without His direction or permission. God works not just some things but all things according to the counsel of His own will.

Let's notice some aspects of God's sovereignty:

1. *God is sovereign over our circumstances (Genesis 50:20).*
2. *God is sovereign over our past and our future (Isaiah 46:10).*
3. *God is sovereign over our decisions (Psalm 33:10-11).*
4. *God is sovereign even over our hearts (Proverbs 21:1).*

## God's Goal is to Glorify Himself

Notice some examples from Scripture:

1. He made people for His glory (Isaiah 43:7).
2. He rescued Israel from Egypt for His glory (Exodus 9:16).
3. He rescued Israel from Babylon for His glory (Ezekiel 36:22).
4. He sent Jesus to earth for His glory (John 1:14).
5. He saved us for His glory (Ephesians 1:11).
6. Jesus is coming back for His glory.

## Man's Responsibility in Decision-Making

We are responsible for our actions (Matthew 12:36-37).

We are responsible to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

## Motivated by Faithfulness

We are to be faithful as stewards of what God has given us.

We are not motivated by results.

## Motivated by Meaning

God's sovereignty gives meaning to our decisions in two ways:

1. *Meaning for what we do.*
2. *Meaning for how we do what we do.*

How does God's sovereignty give meaning?

1. God gives meaning to the mundane (Matthew 10:29-31).
2. God gives meaning to all of our relationships (Acts 17:26-27).
3. God gives meaning to our work (Ephesians 6:5-7).

## Conclusion: Restful Decision-Making

As we grow in our reverence for God's sovereignty and goodness, we will not live in fear of ruining God's will or thwarting His purposes. Instead, we will want to be faithful to Him as a good steward of His resources. We will seek to make decisions that glorify Him and move forward with restful confidence in His sovereignty.

## Additional Resources:

- Ed Welch, *When People Are Big and God Is Small*
- Lou Priolo, *Pleasing People: How not to be an Approval Junkie*
- Ed Welch, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry and the God of Rest*
- John Murray, *The Fear of God: The Soul of Godliness*
- Kevin DeYoung, *Just Do Something*
- Tony Payne & Philip Jensen, *Guidance and the Voice of God*
- James Petty, *Step By Step*

## Class Outline:

1. What is the fear of man?
2. What is the fear of God?
3. How do we fear man? We fear that people will expose us.
4. How do we fear man? We fear that people will reject us.
5. How do we fear man? We fear that people will harm us.
6. A new vision for life: loving God and loving neighbor
7. Anxious or Restful?
8. God's Providence
9. God's Will
10. Faithfulness
11. Tools of the Trade Part 1: God's Word, Prayer, Counsel
12. Tools of the Trade Part 2: Circumstances and Feelings
13. Panel Discussion—Fearing and Following the Lord