

Assurance of Salvation
Part 14

The role of God's sovereignty
and human responsibility (2)

**MISSION
MOMENT**

"I am sending you on a mission." - Jesus



The beginning
of a life-long
mission.

(except for Judas)

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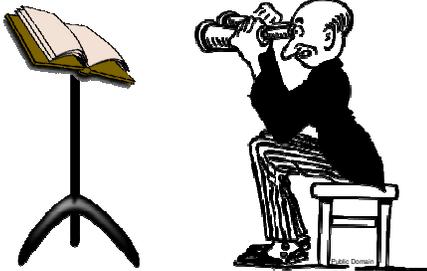
SOVEREIGNTY
AND
RESPONSIBILITY



(continued from last week)

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A short review, then a look at a few
more Scripture passages.



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The **world** teaches us that
sovereignty and responsibility work
against each other



"If God is
sovereign, how
can I be
responsible for
my actions?"*

* (Stop "clowning around"
with the world's lies!)

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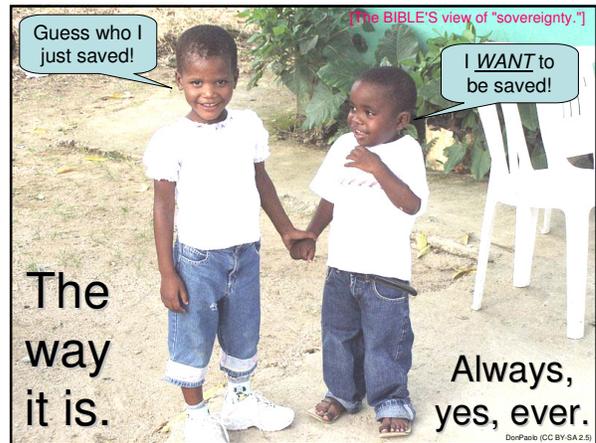
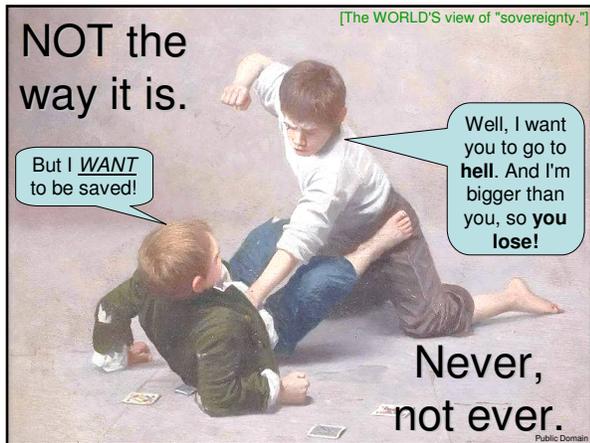
The **Bible** teaches us that
sovereignty and responsibility work
with each other



"Since God *is*
sovereign, I *am*
responsible for my
actions.

God guarantees it will
be that way, and *the
devil cannot stop it!*"

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A passage that shows sovereignty and responsibility working together.

John 3:5-8 (WEB)

Jesus answered, "Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water and spirit, he can't enter into the Kingdom of God!

That which is born of the flesh is flesh. **That which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Don't marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.'

The **wind blows where it wants to**, and you hear its sound, but don't know where it comes from and where it is going.

So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Here is the "God's sovereignty" part

(continued)

A passage that shows them working together (continued).

John 3:16, 20-21 (WEB)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish, but have eternal life.

For **everyone who does evil** hates the light, and doesn't come to the light, lest his works would be exposed.

But **he who does the truth** comes to the light, that his works may be revealed, that they have been done in God."

Here is the "human responsibility" part

Different passages may emphasize different aspects of this truth.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things **God works for the good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

God's sovereignty: What God does for those who love him (= those who obey him, John 14:23-24)

James 2:17 (NIV)

In the same way, **faith by itself**, if it is not accompanied by action, **is dead.**

Human responsibility: The importance of our actions

Scripture is full of passages that mention things related to either sovereignty or responsibility.

- We just need to open our eyes and be willing to accept them **all** (since **all** are true)!



↑
RESPONSIBILITY

↑
SOVEREIGNTY



Luke 6:39b (KJV)
"Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

We don't notice them, until God opens our eyes.

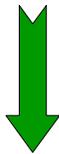
Until then, we tend to ...

- **Ignore** the verses that go against our views.
- **"Reinterpret"** them in a way that fits our views.

We do things the way the world taught us... something like "the blind leading the blind."

So how does this apply to "assurance of salvation"?

(I'm glad you asked!)



Together, these concepts form a solid foundation.

2 Tim. 2:19 (NIV)

(Today we might say, "Two sides of one coin.")

Nevertheless, **God's solid foundation** stands firm, sealed with this inscription:

"The Lord knows those who are his,"

← God's sovereignty

and,

"Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

← Human responsibility

And they are the **FOUNDATION** on which our assurance is built!



Combining all that we've learned...

- *The Spirit of God* (= "sovereignty") will **guarantee** that certain things will be present.
- *We* (= "responsibility") will be **willing** to do those things.
- ****And those things will grow in us, as we grow in Christ.****



- If the growth **IS NOT** present what must you do?
 ** IF you're really interested in salvation **
 📖 **Cling to both God's sovereignty and your responsibility.**
- If the growth **IS** present, what must you do?
 📖 **Cling to both God's sovereignty and your responsibility. (Same thing!)**

- ### Because of sovereignty
- [if **no** growth] There is **hope** for you.
 – Maybe your interest indicates that God is beginning a work in your life!
 - [if **growth**] You have **no reason to boast.**
 – You give God the credit for your growth, since he made it possible.

Because of responsibility

- [if **no growth**] You have **no basis for making excuses** about your sin.
 - Use the opportunity to look to Jesus and repent!
- [if **growth**] You are **doing things that result in growth**.
 - You can thank God for it!



Face reality and respond to it!

(Let God worry about his part.)

- If you have chosen to follow Jesus, you can **rejoice in God's sovereignty**.
 - God is using all things to accomplish good in your life! (Romans 8:28)
- If you **aren't** following Jesus, you need to **deal with your sin**.
 - God's sovereignty *guarantees* that you will "reap what you sow." (Galatians 6:4-9)

Credits (1)

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