

Assurance of Salvation
Part 66

Self-Denial
&
Sovereignty and Responsibility
Cause and Effect

- SELF-DENIAL -
One of the ways we express
love for God and neighbor.

**** It will characterize the lives of
God's people. ****

This is *guaranteed* because of
the connection between
God's sovereignty and
human responsibility.



But let's start with a little logic lesson:

The difference between
CAUSE & EFFECT



ooh ooh
eee eee
aah aah *

* Means:
"Not that difficult!"
in "monkey language."

CAUSE = falling
coconut



**Cause
&
Effect**

EFFECT =

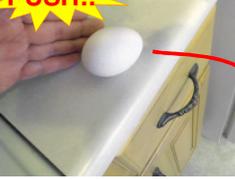


eek eek
ook ook
oo oo ooh *

* Means: "I have a
headache!!!"
in "monkey language."

CAUSE =

PUSH!!



**Cause
&
Effect**

EFFECT =



SPLAT!!
*

* Means: "Not having
a good day!!!"
in "egg language."

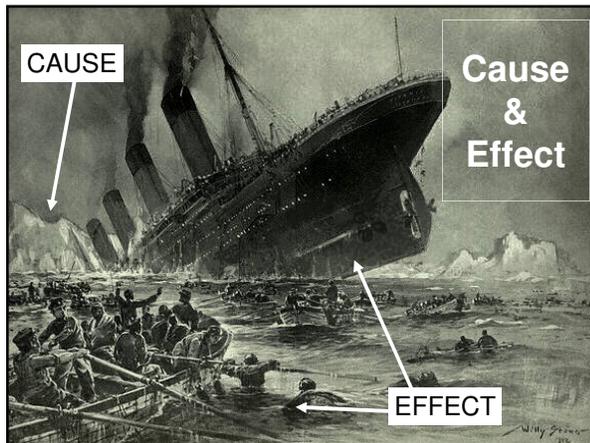
CAUSE =



**Cause
&
Effect**

EFFECT =





It would be foolish to think ...

- That the monkey's headache ... caused the coconut to drop.
- That the broken egg ... caused the egg to fall.
- That the stacks of lumber ... caused the trees.
- That the sinking ship ... caused the iceberg.

It would be more foolish to think ...

- That our works ... caused our salvation.

For we are **God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared** in advance for us to do.

Ephes. 2:10 (NIV)

MY work is what saves you!

And made you able to do good works!

Cause & Effect

CAUSE = God/Jesus saves us.

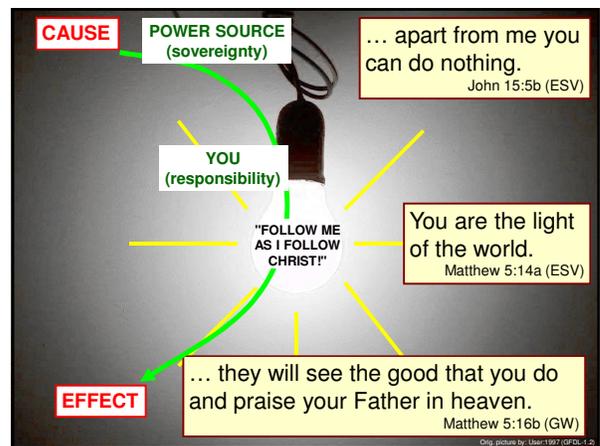
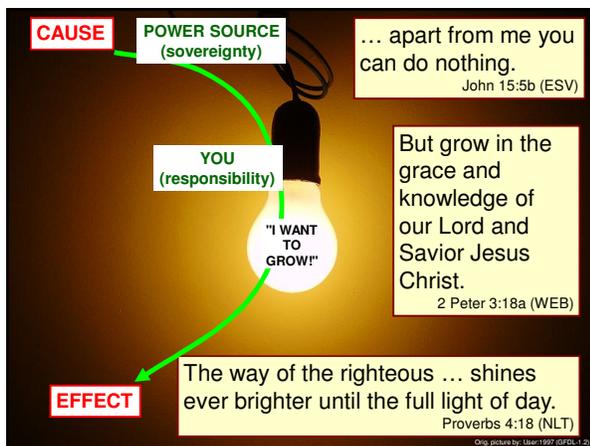
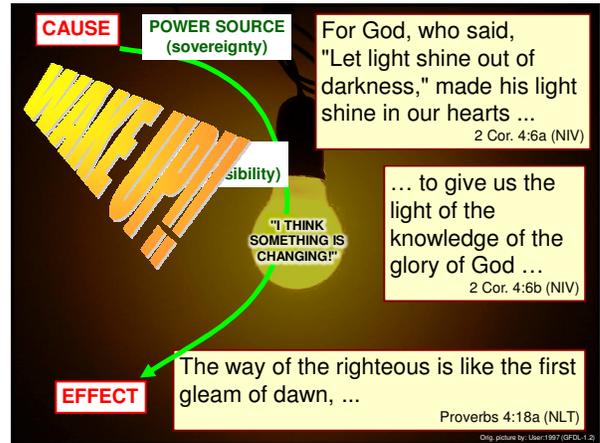
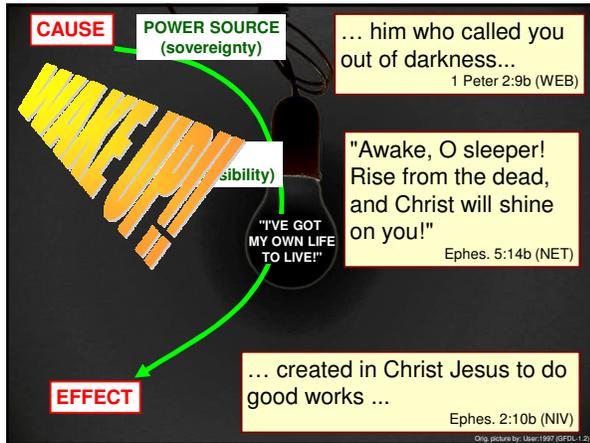
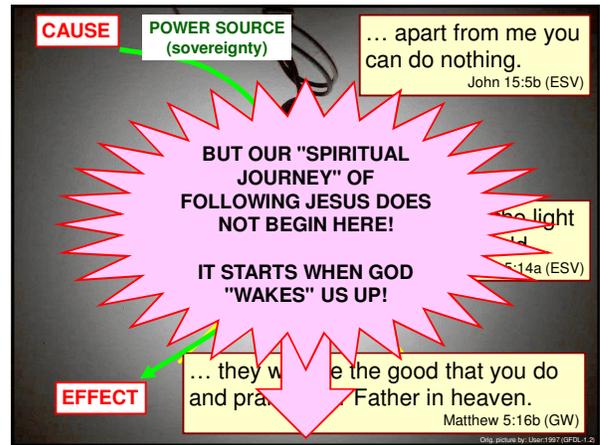
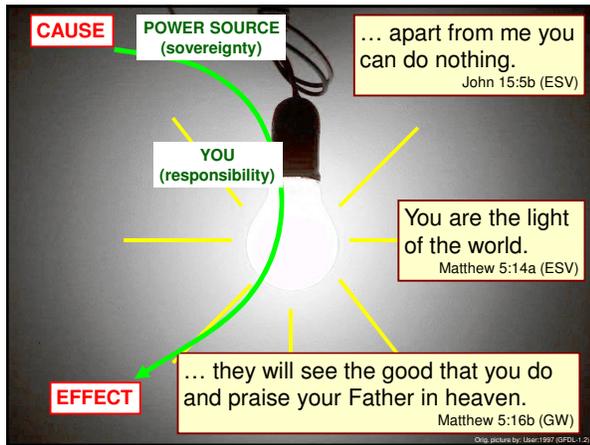
EFFECT = We choose to do works that are called the "fruit of salvation."
 – Why? Because we love God!
 – This fruit is evidence that we are saved.

Cause & Effect - related to God's sovereignty & human responsibility

- **Cause** = Connected to the **sovereignty** aspect.
 "God saved me; God changed me."
- **Effect** = Connected to the **responsibility** aspect.
 "That's why you see changes in my life, and it's not just empty talk about changes!"

What does this mean?

- **[CAUSE]** Without Christ, we cannot be saved.
 - He is the SOURCE (cause) of our salvation.
 - He, not we, does the saving.
- **[EFFECT]** Without love for God and neighbor, we are not saved.
 - NOT because love "earns" (= causes) salvation.
 - Rather, because love is the "fruit" (= effect) of salvation.



The BIG PROBLEM: We don't want this.



- **By nature, we don't want self-denial.**
 - *On our own, we never will want self-denial.*
(nor any of the other changes that come with salvation)
- **We may want our conscience eased,** because we know we deserve judgment.
 - We may "go to church" or do other things.
 - *But we will still reject God's way of salvation.*

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but *men* loved darkness instead of light* because their deeds were evil.

John 3:19 (NIV)

* (women also)

**** We who now follow Jesus
were once in this group. ****

All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. *Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

Ephes. 2:3 (NIV)

WHAT HAPPENED??



The BIG SOLUTION: God's mercy and grace!

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in **mercy**, *made us alive with Christ* even when we were dead in transgressions --it is by **grace** you have been saved.

Ephes. 2:4-5 (NIV)

God is at work in us!



YOUR MISSION

- **If you do have life in you...**
 - Learn to live your life... BREATHE!
 - Do the things that are a part of growth!

You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14,16 (NIV)

YOUR MISSION

- **If you don't have life in you...**
 - Reach out and receive the life God offers you!
 - Come and rejoice in Jesus, the ultimate "light of the world"!

Jesus: "I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12b (ESV)

Credits (1)

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