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PASTORAL INSPIRATION FOR BIBLE STUDY

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The Sanctification of Prayer recognizes every provision of the Father as perfectly tailored to satisfy what He has Sovereignly purposed for one's life.

The Sanctification of Prayer directed by the Order of God defines how we petition our Heavenly Father and Sovereign King when we pray. **(Matthew 6:10-11)**

Nestled in the Truth expressed in the above definition is the Character of God.

The Sovereignty of God questions what we believe about His Character.

The Character of God upholds His immutable Credibility that can never be deemed less than Immutably and Eternally Trustworthy.

The Character of God is the unalterable and unhindered Honor that shapes the outcome of everything He permits and prevents.

While "**Sovereign**" is an expression of the Noun of God, "**Sovereignty**" is an exhibition of the Verb of God. While Sovereign discloses His Identity, Sovereignty displays the limitless diversities by which He demonstrates Himself as Sovereign.

These two terms are problematic in every believer's life because while Sovereign is the disclosure of who God is and Sovereignty is the demonstration of His Intentions, the two often appear to conflict with each other.

- He is the Sovereign Healer, yet His Sovereignty **PERMITS** sickness and disease to attack our and our loved ones' bodies.

Psalm 34:19 says, *"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all."*

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 says, *“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.”*

- He is the Sovereign Deliverer, yet His Sovereignty **PREVENTS** deliverance from some of life’s most sudden attacks and severe afflictions.

Job 3:25-26 says, *“What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.”*

Mark 15:34 says, *“At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama Sabathani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

- *He is the* Sovereign Strengthener, yet His Sovereignty **PERMITS** weakness and frailty to run a course in each aspect of our lives.

Psalms 27:1-2 says, *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries, and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.”*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 says, *“And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

- He is the **Sovereign Holy One**, yet His Sovereignty **PREVENTS** human perfection in an imperfect world, enabling us to live imperfect lives with no desire to live an immoral life.

Ecclesiastes 7:20 says, *“Surely there is no one righteous on the earth who continually does good and never sins.”*

Romans 7:19-20 says, *“For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.”*

From YOUR Lane of Life, how do you define the Character of God?

I once gathered with a family in the hospital due to a devastating traffic collision that left their loved one’s life in question by so many medical minds. On my drive to the hospital, I prayed, and the Lord challenged me to consider whether everything He permits is essential to accomplishing His Will and fulfilling His Purpose.

Considering the circumstances at the time, the Character of God was nowhere on the radar of my mind due to the magnitude of my compassion and concern for the person whose life was now filled with trauma and his family who desperately desired deliverance and restoration of a qualitative life.

I didn't realize it, but my compassion and concern for the person and people had shaped my petition to the Lord for an outcome with little, if any, regard for the Honor of His Intentions independent of my limited awareness.

All I knew was that this person would live or die, and this family would either be left to contend with unimaginable grief at their loved one’s transition or they would offer unceasing Glory to God for sustaining their loved one's life. It was just that clear to me until I was confronted with the Honor of God's Intentions.

What role does the Honor of God’s Intentions (His Character) occupy in shaping Your petitions of Him?

My answer to this question altered my immediate petition to the Lord from “Lord, please sustain and restore the life of this person, and let him and his family expand Your Glory through this testimony” to “Lord, let the Honor of Your Intentional Will be done during this time as You settled it in Eternity.”

Through the question, I was confronted with what I believed about the Character of God.

It is impossible to define Sovereign and Sovereignty with respect to the Identity and Intentions of God without considering His Character's role in our petitioning of Him when we pray.

Conclusively, Everything God permits is essential to the fulfillment of His Purpose!

The Sanctification of Prayer by the Order of God's Kingdom **DEMANDS** that our petitions of the Lord are not hindered by Situational Sovereignty.

James 4:3

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

- Situational Sovereignty may be viewed as the alternative to Sacred Sovereignty. Situational Sovereignty views God as Sovereign through the lens of Situations that determine how His Sovereignty should be demonstrated.
- Sacred Sovereignty views God as the Controller of every Cause that will inevitably lead to the Honorable Conclusion of what He permits to happen and prevents from happening.

Deuteronomy 32:39

See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand. 40 'Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, and say, as I live forever, If I sharpen My flashing sword, and My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, and I will repay those who hate Me. I will make My arrows drunk with blood, and My sword will devour flesh, with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired leaders of the enemy.

Situational Sovereignty and Sacred Sovereignty is shaped by my view of the Character of God unveiling His Authority to permit situations that appear uncharacteristic of Him of His Identity that cannot diminish the Honor of His Intentions.

The Sanctification of Prayer by the Order of God's Kingdom views the outcome of the Situational and Sacred Sovereignty as uncompromising to His Character and unalterable to His Purpose.

In Malachi 3:6a, the Lord establishes His Immutable Identity by saying,
"For I am the Lord, I change not.."