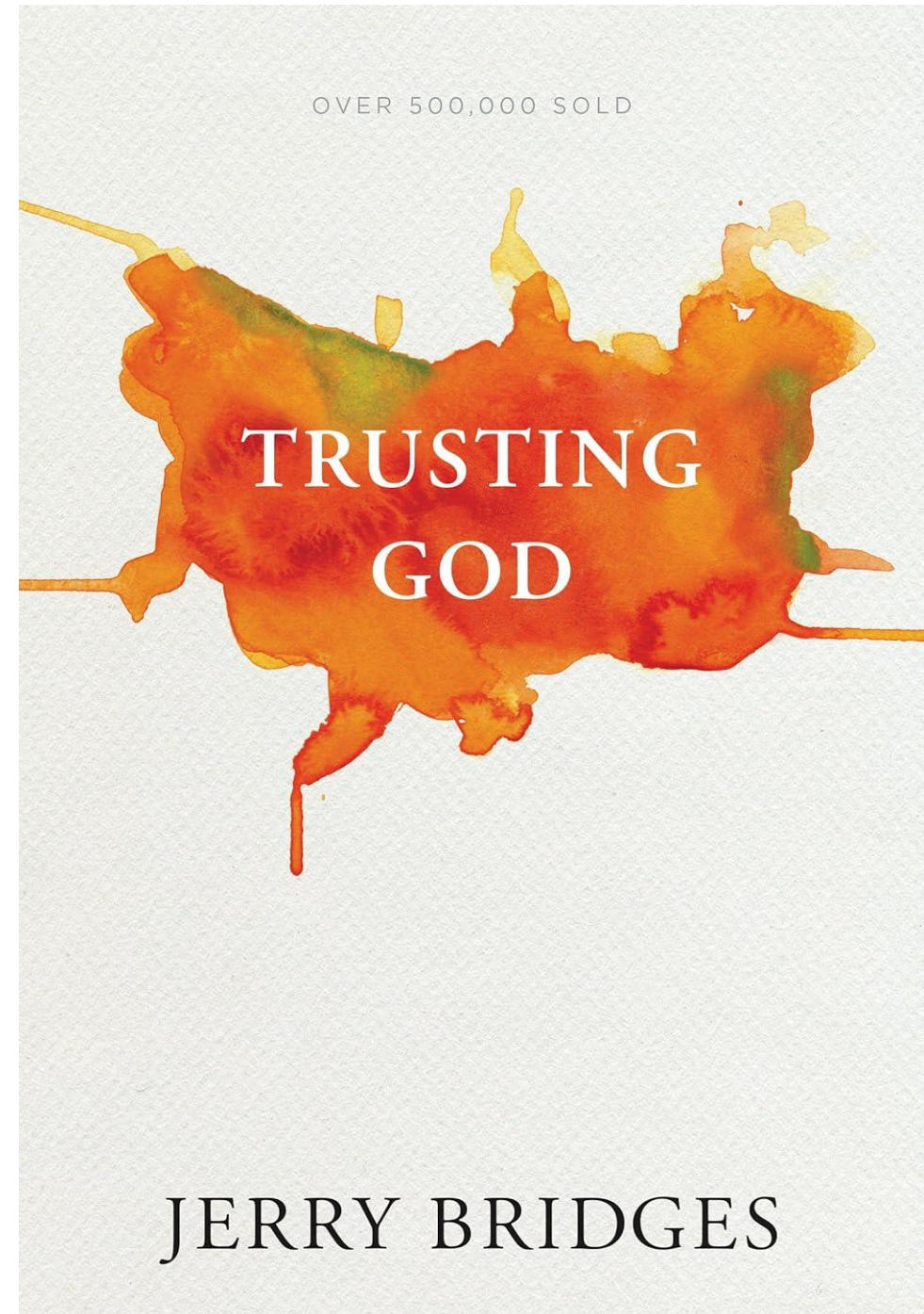


**Chapter 2:
Is God in Control?**

September 15, 2024



“He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see.

To Him be honor and eternal might! Amen.”

(1 Timothy 6:15b-16, LSB)

“Not to us, O Yahweh, not to us,
But to Your name give glory

Because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth.

Why should the nations say, “Where, now, is their God?”

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.”

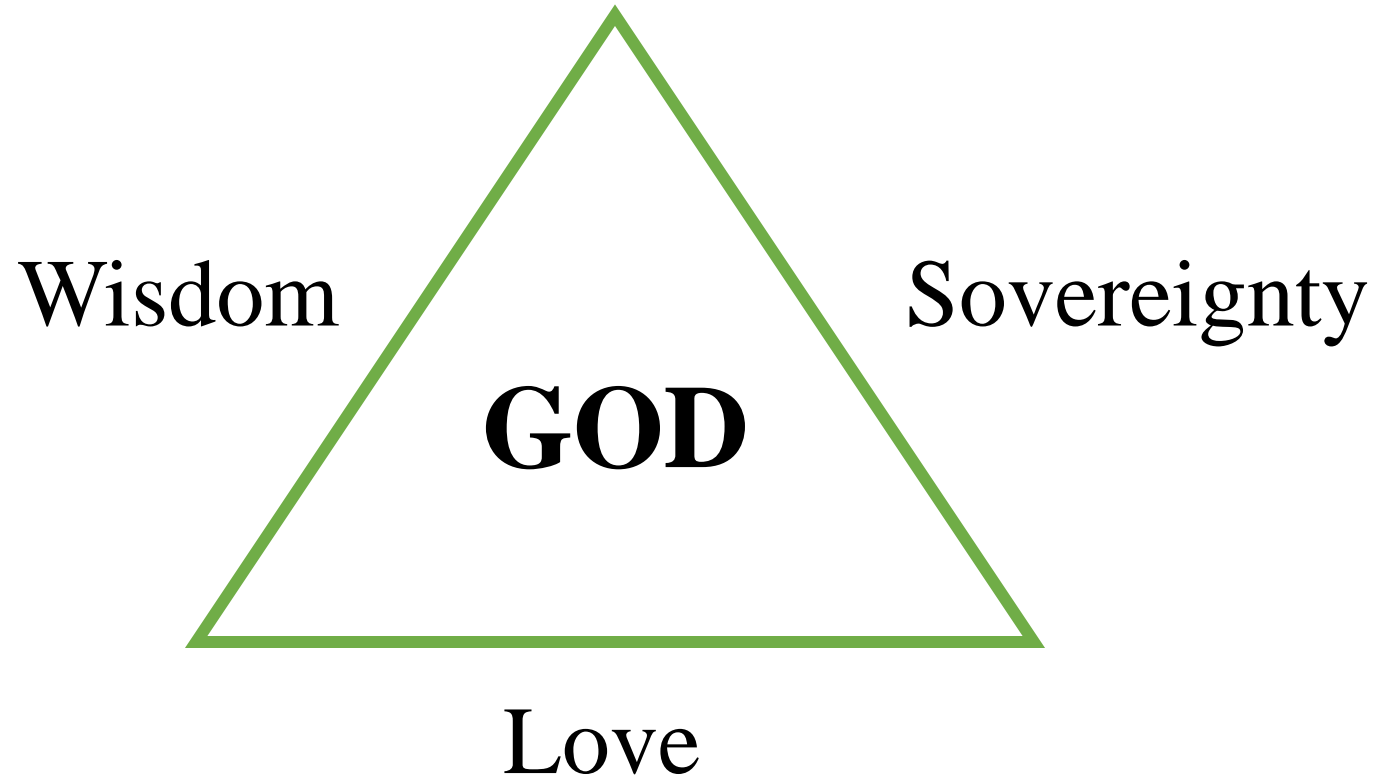
(Psalms 115:1-3, LSB)

“For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”
(Romans 11:36, LSB)

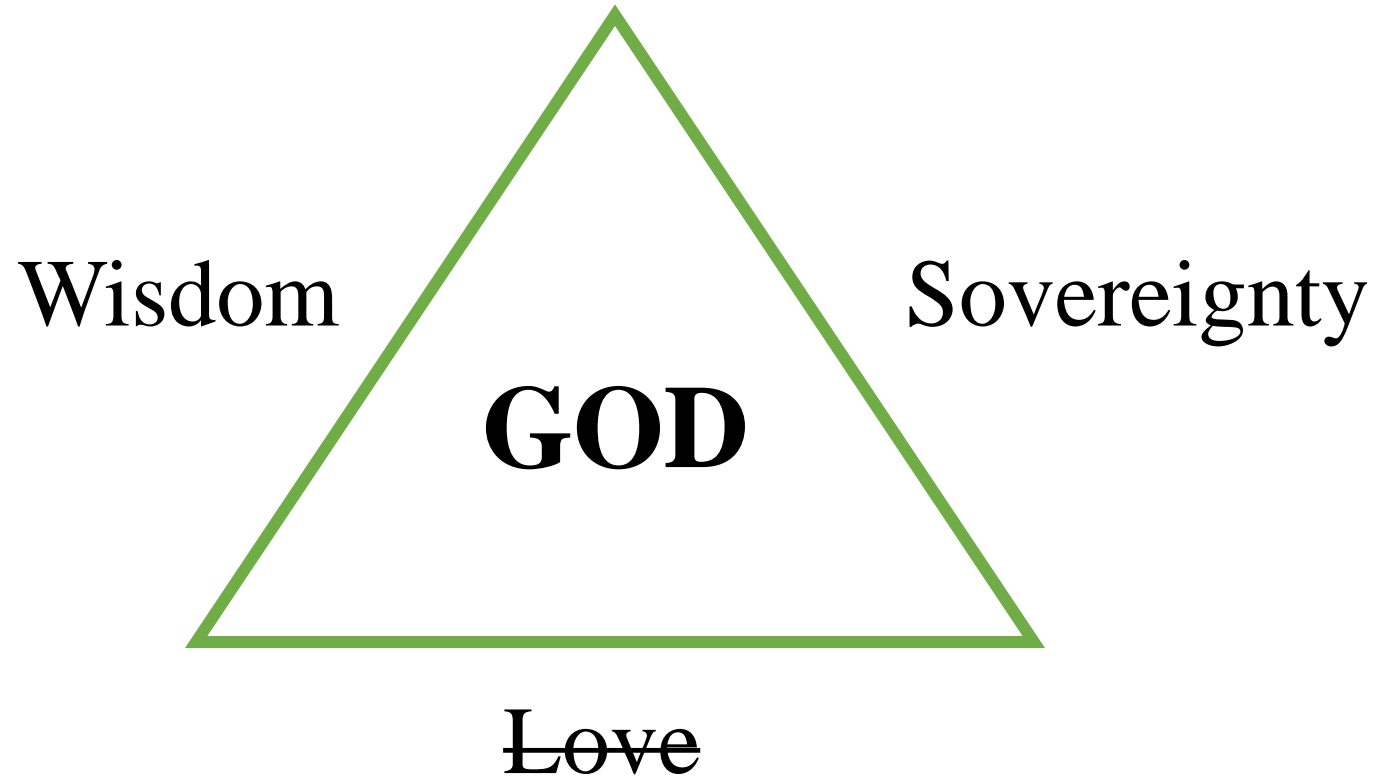
Outline

- Objections
- The Providence of God
- God Sustains
- God Governs
- God or Chance
- Good but Not Sovereign?
- Questions & Application

Objections

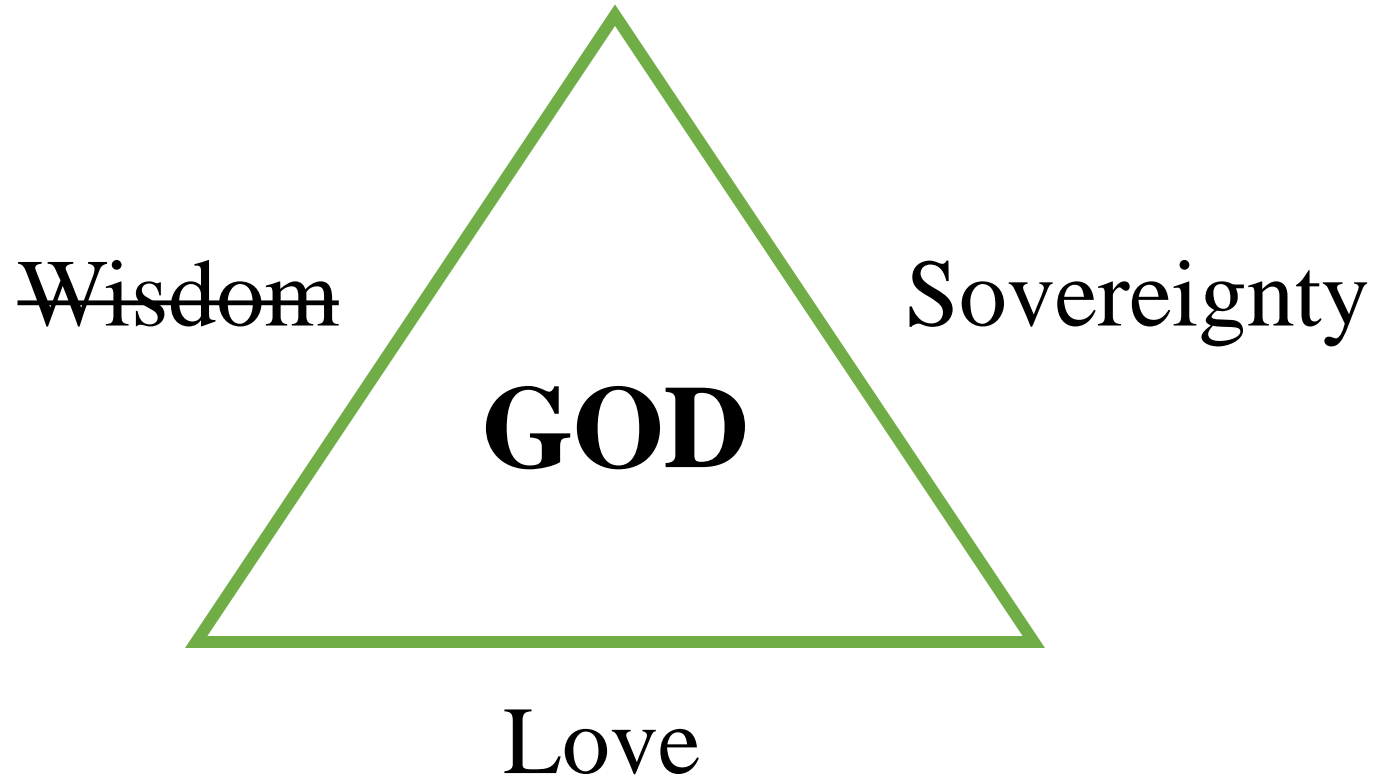


Objections



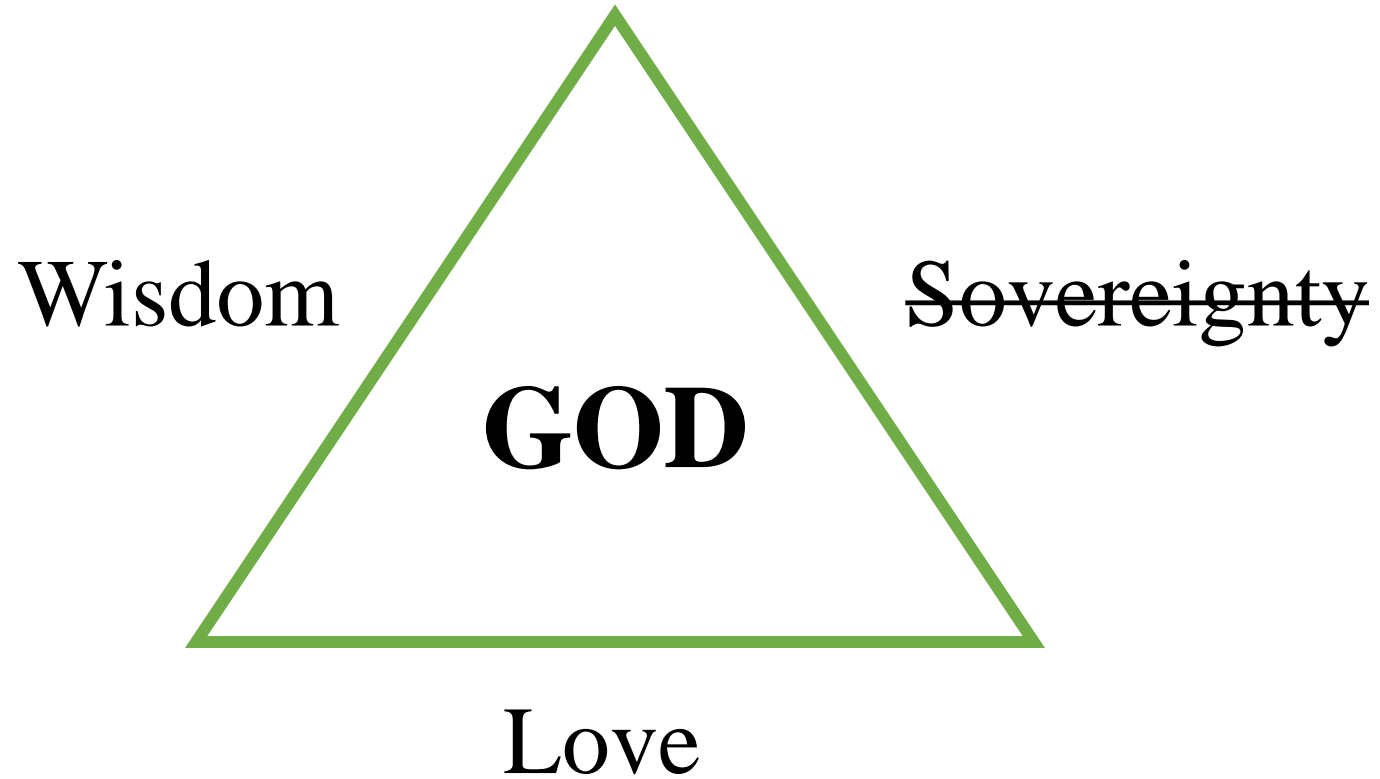
We don't exist!

Objections



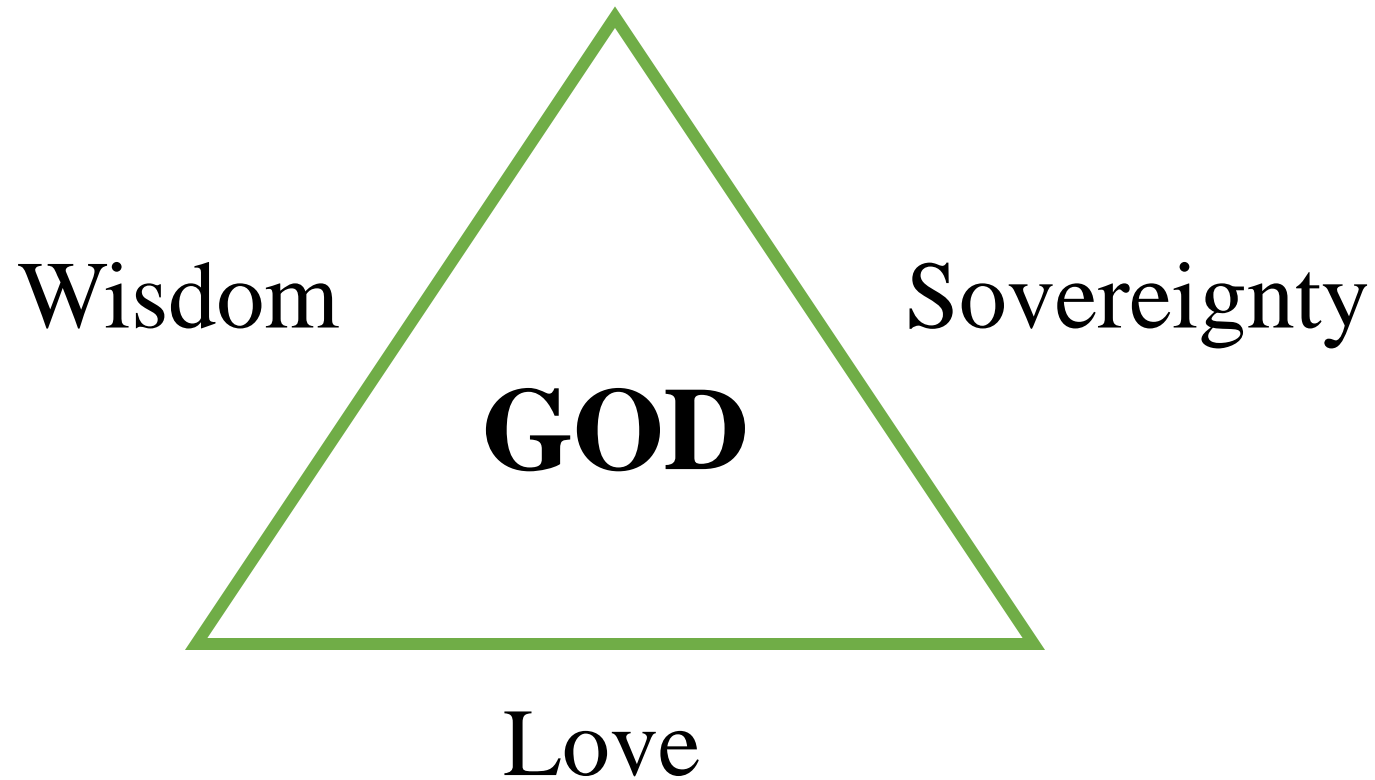
A God who errs

Objections



Weak and Ineffective

Objections



““The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”

(Deuteronomy 32:4, LSB)

Objections

““And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And
among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can strike against His
hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’””

(Daniel 4:35, LSB)

“On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to
God? WILL THE THING MOLDED SAY TO THE MOLDER,
“WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS”?”

(Romans 9:20, LSB)

The Providence of God: Ultimate Goodness

*“Great is Yahweh, and highly to be praised,
And His greatness is unsearchable.”*

*“On the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on the words of Your wondrous deeds, I will muse.”*

*“The eyes of all wait on You,
And You give them their food in due time.*

*You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing.
Yahweh is righteous in all His ways And holy in all His works.”*

(Psalm 145:3, 5,15-17, LSB)

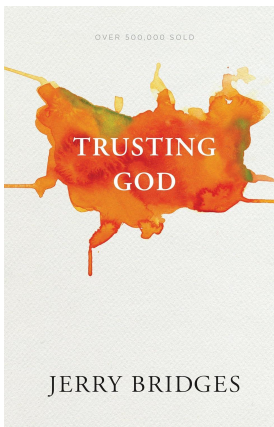
The Providence of God: Ultimate Purpose

“But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**”

(Ephesians 2:4-7, LSB, with emphasis)

The Providence of God

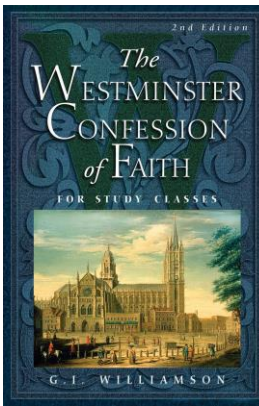
*“God’s providence is His constant care for
and His absolute rule over all His creation
for His own glory and the good of His people.”*
(Bridges, p.13)



The Providence of God

“God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by his most wise and holy providence, according to his infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.”

(Westminster Confession of Faith 5.1, 1647)



God Sustains: The Universe

“And He is before all things,
And in Him all things hold together.”

(Colossians 1:17, LSB)

“Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars,
The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all
by name; Because of the greatness of His vigor and the strength
of His power, Not one of them is missing.”

(Isaiah 40:26, LSB)

God Sustains: The Earth

“He is the One who covers the heavens with clouds,
The One who provides rain for the earth,
The One who makes grass to sprout on the mountains,
Who gives to the animal its food,
And to the young ravens which call out.”

(Psalm 147:8-9, LSB)

God Sustains: You

“Yahweh sustains all who fall
And raises up all who are bowed down.”
(Psalms 145:14, LSB)

God Governs

“Who is there who speaks and it happens,
Unless the Lord has commanded it?
Is it not from the mouth of the Most High
That both calamities and good go forth?
Why should any living person or any man
Complain because of his sins?
Let us search out and examine our ways,
And let us return to Yahweh.”
(Lamentations 3:37-40, LSB)

God or Chance

“You should view and plan for the inevitability of crisis.”

(Steven Fink, Crisis Management: Planning for the Inevitable)

“Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.”

(Murphy’s Law)

“Murphy was an optimist.”

(O’Toole’s Commentary on Murphy’s Law)

God or Chance

““I am Yahweh, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, That they may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am Yahweh, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating darkness, Producing peace and creating calamity; I am Yahweh who does all these.”

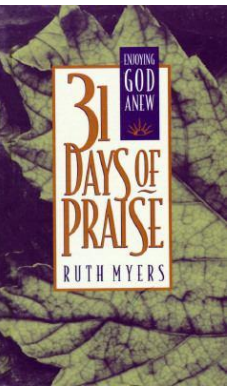
(Isaiah 45:5-7, LSB)

Why God does things is not always known to us;
that He does them is certain.

God or Chance

“I praise You for Your sovereignty over the broad events of my life and over the details. **With You, nothing is accidental, nothing is incidental, and no experience is wasted.** You hold in Your own power my breath of life and all my destiny. And **every trial that You allow to happen is a platform on which You reveal Yourself**, showing Your love and power, both to me and to others looking on. Thank You that I can move into the future non-defensively, with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead, for You hold the future and You will always be with me, even to my old age..and through all eternity.”

(Ruth Myers, 31 Days of Praise, pp. 50-51, with emphasis)



Good But Not Sovereign?

Is God frustrated and unable to help? No! We must process our experiences through the truth of God's word, not vice-versa.

“All people—believers as well as unbelievers—experience anxiety, frustration, heartache, and disappointment. Some suffer intense physical pain and catastrophic tragedies. But that which should distinguish the suffering of believers from unbelievers is the confidence that our suffering is under the control of an all-powerful and all-loving God; our suffering has meaning and purpose in God's eternal plan, and He brings or allows to come into our lives only that which is for His glory and our good.”

(Bridges, pp. 21-22)



“There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them. There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all creation — the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands — the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...it is God upon the throne that we love to preach. It is God upon His throne whom we trust.”

(Charles Spurgeon)



Q & A

- Of God's Love, Wisdom, and Sovereignty, which do you most struggle to trust. Why?
- What is the ultimate purpose of God's sovereignty?
- In what areas of God's sovereignty do you struggle most to trust?