

# *Trusting God* Sunday School Series

Chapter 7: God's Sovereignty  
and Our Responsibility

# Lesson Agenda

God's Sovereignty and Prayer

God's Sovereignty and Prudence

God's Sovereignty and Our Failures

# Three Key Truths

1. The Bible affirms both God's sovereignty and man's responsibility without any contradiction.
2. God's sovereignty, when rightly understood, encourages the Christian to fulfill his responsibility, not to neglect his responsibility.
3. Though God normally provides for his people through certain ordained means, Christians must not ultimately trust in the means but in the God who makes those means effective or ineffective.

# God's Sovereignty and Prayer

God commands us in the Bible to pray (1 Thes 5:17)

God promises to hear and respond to our prayers with new action (Ps 50:15; Mt 7:11; Jn 15:7)

But are these promises misleading?

God's eternal decree never changes, but God ordains that his people's prayers will bring about God's actions and thus God's eternal decree

This should motivate us in our obedience to pray!

Compare James 4:2-3

God's sovereignty gives similar confidence in evangelism

# God's Sovereignty and Prudence

“To act prudently, in this context, means to use all legitimate, biblical means at our disposal to avoid harm to ourselves or others and to bring about what we believe to be the right course of events.” (Bridges, 102)

Example: David before he became king

Prayer and prudence should always go together

Examples: 1 Chronicles 5:18–20 and Nehemiah 4:9, 20

True prudence comes from a trust, not a lack of trust in God

Psalms 127:1–2, farmer analogy

We are to make the most of means but not to trust in means ultimately but instead to trust in the God sovereign over those means

# God's Sovereignty and Our Failures

1. We must not blame God or excuse our failures by God's sovereignty (James 1:13–14)
2. Some godly sorrow/lament over our failures is appropriate
3. We must seek to make right with God and others our failures
4. We must learn from our failures and genuinely seek to change
5. We must rest in the fact that, in Christ, our failures do not frustrate God's plan but will bring about God's glory and our good in the end (Rom 3:8, 8:28–29, Gen 50:20)

Comments and Questions?