



**A Biblical Worldview the Nature of God!**

Lesson 20

God Is Holy & Eternal

God Is Sovereign & Immutable

God Is Omnipotent & Love

God is clearly separate from His creation based on His nature and attributes.

**Holiness** is the foundation of all other aspects of God’s character. Revelation 15:4 says of God, “You alone are holy.”

Revelation 4:8 describes the four living creatures who sing to God day and night, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

It is God’s holiness that makes Him the “consuming fire” that will judge all sin (Hebrews 12:29).

It is important to understand that God is an **eternal spirit** (John 4:24).

He is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) who has always existed as three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

He does not have a physical body (although the Son became incarnate).

A doctrine is false if it denies the Trinity, views God the Father as a man, or denies the humanity and deity of Christ (see 2 John 1:7).

God is also, by nature, **sovereign**. He is judged by no one and has absolute authority over the entire universe and everything in it.

His sovereignty is expressed in many ways, including His omnipotence. All of His ways are right (Psalm 145:17), and whether mankind believes God’s ways to be “fair” is irrelevant.

The Lord God is not constrained by time or place. He has a plan, He has had it from eternity past, and His purpose will be accomplished (Daniel 4:37; Psalm 115:3).

**His immutability** . He does not change, being the same “yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). He states outright in Malachi 3:6, “I the LORD do not change.”

Because of His unchanging nature, we can depend on His blessings: “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows” (James 1:17).

**Omnipotence** speaks to His ability to do so. He also knows everything, from eternity past to eternity future, everything we think, do, and say.

He has personal knowledge of every person who has ever lived or will live, knowing them intimately in every way. It is encouraging to hear God’s words in Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you before you were born I set you apart.”

**Love** is more than an attribute of God; He is literally the essence of love. This is stated clearly in 1 John 4:8, “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” God’s love is eternal. Because He is immutable, His love never changes. His love is perfect and holy.

God is an objective person who is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is perfect in every way and is especially characterized by his holiness, his righteousness and his love. He has eternally existed, and reveals himself to mankind in three distinct personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three manifestations are co-equal expressions of one God

**Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one.” A.W. Tozer**

## 1. [What does it mean that God is sovereign? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

God’s sovereignty is one of the most important principles in Christian theology, as well as one of its most hotly debated. Whether or not God is actually sovereign is usually not a topic of debate; all mainstream Christian sects agree that God is preeminent in power and authority. God’s sovereignty is a natural consequence of His [omniscience](#), [omnipotence](#), and [omnipresence](#). What’s subject to disagreement is to what extent God applies His sovereignty—specifically, how much control He exerts over the wills of men. When we speak of the sovereignty of God, we mean He rules the universe, but then the debate begins over when and where His control is direct and when it is indirect.

God is described in the Bible as all-powerful and all-knowing ([Psalm 147:5](#)), outside of time ([Exodus 3:14](#); [Psalm 90:2](#)), and responsible for the creation of everything ([Genesis 1:1](#); [John 1:1](#)). These divine traits set the minimum boundary for God’s sovereign control in the universe, which is to say that nothing in the universe occurs without God’s permission. God has the power and knowledge to prevent anything He chooses to prevent, so anything that does happen must, at the very least, be “allowed” by God.

At the same time, the Bible describes God as offering humanity choices ([Deuteronomy 30:15–19](#)), holding them personally responsible for their sins ([Exodus 20:5](#)), and being unhappy with some of their actions ([Numbers 25:3](#)). The fact that sin exists at all proves that not all things that occur are the direct actions of God, who is holy. The reality of human volition (and human accountability) sets the maximum boundary for God’s sovereign control over the universe, which is to say there is a point at which God chooses to allow things that He does not directly cause.

The fact that God is sovereign essentially means that He has the power, wisdom, and authority

to do anything He chooses within His creation. Whether or not He actually exerts that level of control in any given circumstance is actually a completely different question. Often, the concept of divine sovereignty is oversimplified. We tend to assume that, if God is not directly, overtly, purposefully driving some event, then He is somehow not sovereign. The cartoon version of sovereignty depicts a God who *must* do anything that He *can* do, or else He is not truly sovereign.

Of course, such a cartoonish view of God's sovereignty is logically false. If a man were to put an ant in a bowl, the "sovereignty" of the man over the ant is not in doubt. The ant may try to crawl out, and the man may not want this to happen. But the man is not *forced* to crush the ant, drown it, or pick it up. The man, for reasons of his own, may choose to let the ant crawl away, but the man is still in control. There is a difference between *allowing* the ant to leave the bowl and helplessly watching as it escapes. The cartoon version of God's sovereignty implies that, if the man is not actively holding the ant inside the bowl, then he must be unable to keep it in there at all.

The illustration of the man and the ant is at least a vague parallel to God's sovereignty over mankind. God has the ability to do anything, to take action and intervene in any situation, but He often chooses to act indirectly or to allow certain things for reasons of His own. His will is furthered in any case. God's "sovereignty" means that He is absolute in authority and unrestricted in His supremacy. Everything that happens is, at the very least, the result of God's [permissive will](#). This holds true even if certain specific things are not what He would prefer. The right of God to allow mankind's free choices is just as necessary for true sovereignty as His ability to enact His will, wherever and however He chooses.

## [2. How does God's sovereignty work together with free will? | GotQuestions.org](#)

It is impossible for us to fully understand the dynamics of a holy God molding and shaping the will of man. Scripture is clear that God knows the future ([Matthew 6:8](#); [Psalm 139:1-4](#)) and has total sovereign control over all things ([Colossians 1:16-17](#); [Daniel 4:35](#)). The Bible also says that we must choose God or be eternally separated from Him. We are held responsible for our actions ([Romans 3:19](#); [6:23](#); [9:19-21](#)). How these facts work together is impossible for a finite mind to comprehend ([Romans 11:33-36](#)).

People can take one of two extremes in regard to this question. Some emphasize the sovereignty of God to the point that human beings are little more than robots simply doing what they have been sovereignly programmed to do. Others emphasize free will to the point of God not having complete control and/or knowledge of all things. Neither of these positions is

biblical. The truth is that God does not violate our wills by choosing us and redeeming us. Rather, He changes our hearts so that our wills choose Him. “We love Him because He first loved us” ([1 John 4:19](#)), and “You did not choose me, but I chose you” ([John 15:16](#)).

What are we to do then? First, we are to trust in the Lord, knowing that He is in control ([Proverbs 3:5-6](#)). God’s sovereignty is supposed to be a comfort to us, not an issue to be concerned about or debate over. Second, we are to live our lives making wise decisions in accordance with God’s Word ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [James 1:5](#)). There will be no excuses before God for why we chose to disobey Him. We will have no one to blame but ourselves for our sin. Last but not least, we are to worship the Lord, praising Him that He is so wonderful, infinite, powerful, full of grace and mercy—and sovereign.

### 3. [What is sovereign grace? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Sovereign grace combines two of God’s attributes, His sovereignty and His graciousness. Both of these characteristics of God are so vast that many volumes have been written about each. Briefly though, the doctrine of sovereign grace is the melding of the two into a thrilling truth that gives us a glimpse into the mind and heart of our great God. The sovereignty of God is His total control of all things past, present, and future. Nothing happens beyond His knowledge and control. All things are either caused by Him or allowed by Him for His own purposes and in accordance with His perfect will and timing ([Romans 11:36](#); [1 Corinthians 8:6](#)). He is the only absolute and omnipotent ruler of the universe and is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

The other half of sovereign grace is grace. The grace of God is His unmerited favor toward those who have not earned it. It is undeserved favor. There are numerous examples of God’s grace in the Bible, both to His people and to those who reject Him. Mary found grace in the eyes of the Lord who bestowed upon her the privilege of bearing the Savior of mankind ([Luke 1:28](#)). She may have been a godly young woman, but nothing she could have done would have made her worthy of such a blessing. She was the recipient of God’s grace, and He sovereignly chose her for the task—sovereign grace. The apostle Paul admits that he was a servant of God only by grace and it was by grace that he labored effectively for the cause of Christ ([1 Corinthians 15:10](#)). Sovereign grace chose to save Paul on the Damascus Road, and sovereign grace showered him with untold blessings.

As Christians we, too, benefit from God’s sovereign grace. “For by grace are you saved through faith” ([Ephesians 2:8](#)). Our very salvation and position in Christ is due to His grace through the faith that He gives us ([Hebrews 12:2](#)). Even those who hate God receive His grace. Every breath God allows them to take is a product of His common grace to all creation: “He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust” ([Matthew 5:45](#)).

Even the atheist enjoys the effects of God's sovereign grace through God's beautiful creation and His provision of the resources necessary for food, clothing, and housing. God doesn't owe these things to us, but He sovereignly provides them to exhibit His grace.

The sovereign grace of God is noted most often by theologians in the matter of election. We see it best explained in [Ephesians 1:5-6](#): "He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves." Here, in the same sentence, we have a reference to predestination (God's sovereignty) and God's glorious grace—sovereign grace. God sovereignly chose those He would save through His gracious act of sending His Son to die on the cross for their salvation. Sinners were unable to save themselves or, like Mary, to merit God's favor because of their transgression of His Law. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" ([Romans 5:20](#)). Therefore, Christians are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 3:24](#)).

God in His sovereign grace has chosen to save those on whom He has set His love ([Romans 9:8-13](#)). They are picked out of the stream of helpless men and women cascading into hell. This is a humbling truth and should result in immense gratitude on our part. Why did God bestow His sovereign grace on believers? Not because we deserve salvation but to demonstrate "the riches of His glory" ([Romans 9:14-23](#)). Our only proper response is to proclaim, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" ([Ephesians 1:3](#)).