

Prayer and the Sovereignty of God

Part A

Which of the following statements are true and which are false ?

1. The extent to which we can expect prayer for something to be answered can be directly compared to our faithfulness and fervency in prayer.
2. God really does change His mind in response to the prayers of righteous people.
3. If God does respond to our prayer for a person to become a Christian then obviously we are at least partly to blame if we don't pray and a person doesn't become a Christian.
4. God predestines us that we should pray for a certain thing and that prayer is the means that God uses to bring about change.
5. If we have enough faith then we will be given anything we ask for in prayer.
6. Prayer brings results. It changes things and therefore the future cannot be entirely mapped out under God's omniscience and sovereignty.
7. If God really does have everything determined before time then simple logic tells you that prayer is a waste of time.
8. It is clear that God does not determine everything that happens because evil exists in the world.
9. The doctrine of predestination leaves people feeling like they are puppets.



Part B

1. What does the Bible actually say about God's sovereignty and our proper response to it ?

<i>Passage</i>	<i>What does this verse tell us about God ?</i>	<i>What is the appropriate response according to the Bible ? (if it is said)</i>
eg Matt 10:29-31	God is in control of even birds and hair	Do not be afraid
Psalm 31:14-15		
Psalm 104:24-35		
Psalm 139:13-18		
Psalm 147:4-7		
Proverbs 21:1		
Isaiah 45:5-10		
Daniel 4:34-37		
Mark 14:35-36		
Acts 17:24-31		
Acts 2:23		
Romans 8:28-31		
2 Corinth 12:7-9		
Ephesians 1:3-5,11		

2. How does this understanding affect our prayers ?

Part C

1. Work out if the statement is true or false by examining the passages that follow.

“God is sovereign, therefore the important thing about prayer is that it changes me not God or His plans.”

What do these passages teach us about God and His relationship with humans ?

Genesis 18:22-32, 19:29

Exodus 32:7-14

Jeremiah 7:12-16, 14:11-12

Amos 7:1-9

Luke 11:9-13

Luke 18:1-8

1 John 5:13-15

James 4:1-3

James 5:16-18

2. How does the understanding that came from the last question affect our prayers ?

Part D

Explain how God can have things worked out before the creation of the world and yet respond in a real way to our prayers.

