God’s Church is Supposed to Establish God’s Sovereignty

**Experience God’s sovereignty in and around you**

**Monday**

Read Ephesians 3:7-13, Philippians 3:20-21, Matthew 6:9-10

* *God has a pretty unusual plan. He wants to establish His sovereignty through you since you are part of His church.* ***Journalize*** *the things that impact you, which need more of God’s sovereignty.*

**Tuesday**

Read Colossians 1:15-23

* *Write down all the arguments and thoughts that make you doubt that God can’t change your impossible situations. Now* ***meditate*** *on today’s scripture.*

**Wednesday**

Read Acts 3

* ***Pray*** *and ask God to show you what sovereign influence you can have on your world today.*

**Thursday**

Read 1 John 5:14-15, Proverbs 8:34, Romans 10:17, Mark 11:22-24

* *The formula for seeing God’s sovereignty working in your life every day is: 1. Inquire what the Lord’s will is 2. Wait on God (watching for Him and listening to Him) 3. God speaks a promise to you 4. You have faith and believe what God tells you 5. God does what He promised He would do*

**Friday**

Read Acts 4:23-31

* ***Study*** *what these believer’s prayed and their general attitude and what they believed regarding God’s sovereignty and what happened as a result.*

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**2 Chronicles 20:6 New International Version (NIV)**

You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.

**Phil 3:20**But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21**who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

What is God’s sovereign desire now in the present?

**Ephesians 3:10**His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Matthew 6:9** “This, then, is how you should pray:

“‘Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come,

your will be done,

    on earth as it is in heaven.

Its God’s choice is to establish His sovereignty on earth through His church.

Let’s make it more personal:

Its God’s choice is to establish His sovereignty on earth through through you.

If we allow God to use us, His sovereignty will be experienced here on earth.

If we refuse for God to use us, His sovereignty will not be experienced here on earth.

So who is responsible for:

God’s sovereignty to be brought back into schools?

God’s sovereignty to stop the opioid epidemic?

God’s sovereignty to irradiate child abuse?

God’s sovereignty to eliminate abortions that don’t endanger a mother’s life?

God’s sovereignty to make sure everyone know’s about the salvation Jesus provides?

God’s sovereignty to oppose racism and discrimination?

God’s sovereignty to stand up for the sanctity of marriage?

Let’s read this scripture again:

**Ephesians 3:10**His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms

It is the church’s (eklesia - gathering of believers) responsibility to enthrone God’s sovereignty in this world.

The mess the world is in right now is not God’s fault. It is our fault.

How influential did God see His church being in this world?

**Matthew 16:18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

**Matthew 28:18**Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20**and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

God doesn’t want us to just make a ‘dent’ in the problem but to provide the solution to the problem. Jesus is the answer everything.

He is the solution to:

* The raging forest fires in California
* To the epidemic of homeless that we are seeing
* To the ridiculous politics we hear about ever day
* To the incessant violent shootings
* To the tragic decline in education of our children
* To the complexity of our immigration policy

You think Jesus doesn’t know how to take care of these challenges, or worse still doesn’t care about these issues?

**Colossians 1:15**The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16**For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. **17**He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18**And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**19**For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20**and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

So what do you call the church through which God enforces His sovereignty here on earth?

**Matthew 3:2 English Standard Version (ESV)**

**2**“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

What does it look like for God to display His sovereignty on earth through His church?

**Luke 11:20** But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

**Acts 3:1** One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Jesus wants to use his church to:

* Heal people of bi-polar disorders
* Restore broken marriages
* Provide for you when the money runs out
* Have peace in your heart
* Replace depression with joy

But you say, how can I do all of this? During this age of the church, God discloses and establishes His sovereignty and His earthly dominion through faith-full prayers and obedience.

**Matthew 6:9** “This, then, is how you should pray:

“‘Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come,

your will be done,

    on earth as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

You prioritize God’s sovereignty in your own life and say, “what I want more than anything else is for God’s sovereign will to be done in my life, in my family’s life, in my kids school, in my workplace, in my city and in my country.”

Stop trying to line God’s sovereignty up with your desires and start lining up your passion to see God’s sovereign plan fulfilled.

Become a kingdom activist.

If you will pray, you can be sure that you will see God’s sovereignty around you: answered prayers, people set free, relationships healed.

But if you don’t pray, you leave things up to chance or even worse the influence of evil.

Is there is a sure fire formula to see God’s sovereignty through you every day?

1. Inquire of the Lord - “What do You say about this situation?”
2. Listen for God and to God. Wait for God.
3. God speaks a promise into your heart
4. You have faith and believe what God tells you is true
5. God does what He says He is going to do

**1 John 5:14**This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. **15**And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Proverbs 8:34 New International Version (NIV)

34

Blessed are those who listen to me,

    watching daily at my doors,

    waiting at my doorway.

Generally, hear are some signs that you have heard a sovereign message from God:

The message brings hope

The message is empowering

It aligns with the written word of God

It is confirmed by other godly people

It is purposeful

It is humbling and exalts God

It comes out of left field

Romans 10:17 New International Version (NIV)

17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Mark 11:22 “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. 23 “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Every day get up and listen, wait, watch for God’s sovereign will. Inquire of the Lord. Once you hear from God, believe what you hear, rest in what you hear, pray what you hear, declare what you hear, journalize what you hear.

Now the following verses make a little more sense to us:

**Matthew 18:18**“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

**19**“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20**For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

**Matthew 10:1**

**10**Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

**Luke 10:19 New International Version (NIV)**

**19**I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

John Piper - nothing. Nothing! in the universe exists for its own sake.  Everything from the bottom of the oceans to the top of the mountains, from the smallest particle to the biggest star, from the most boring school subject to the most fascinating science, from the ugliest cockroach to the most beautiful human, from the greatest saint to the most wicked genocidal dictator — everything that exists, exists to make the greatness of Christ more fully known — including *you*, and the person you have the hardest time liking.