

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND AUTHORITY

*“Forever, O LORD,
Your Word is settled
in heaven.” Psalm 119:89*

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How is God's sovereignty described in the Word of God?

Gen. 1:1-2: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

Isaiah 46:9-10: “For I *am* God, and *there is* no other; *I am* God, and *there is* none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.’”

Psalm 115:3: “But our God *is* in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”

Psalm 135:6: “Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places.”

How true and secure is God's authority?

Psalm 119:169: “The entirety of Your word *is* truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.”

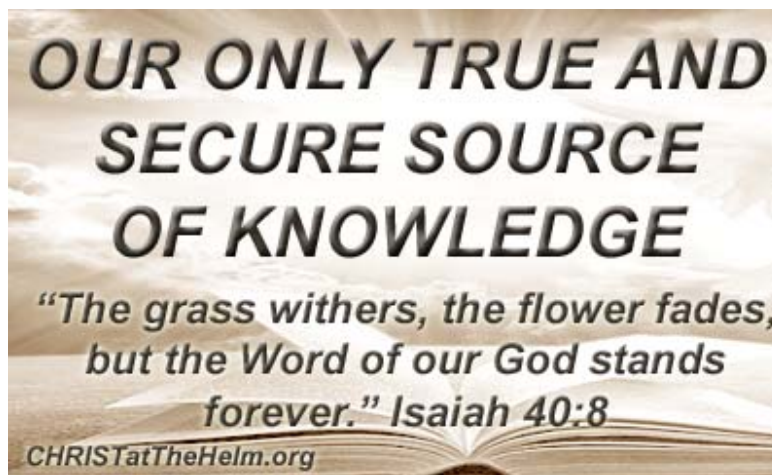
Why?

Num 23:19: “God *is* not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

The very reason Jesus said in Mat 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Introspection: Do I recognize and submit to God's authority for my life?

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Why is the Word of God our true and only secure source of knowledge of God’s will and design for our lives?

Prov. 30:5-6: “Every Word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”

Heb 4:12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

What does the Word of God accomplish in our lives?

2Tim 3:16-17: “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

In John 8:31-32, Jesus said, “If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

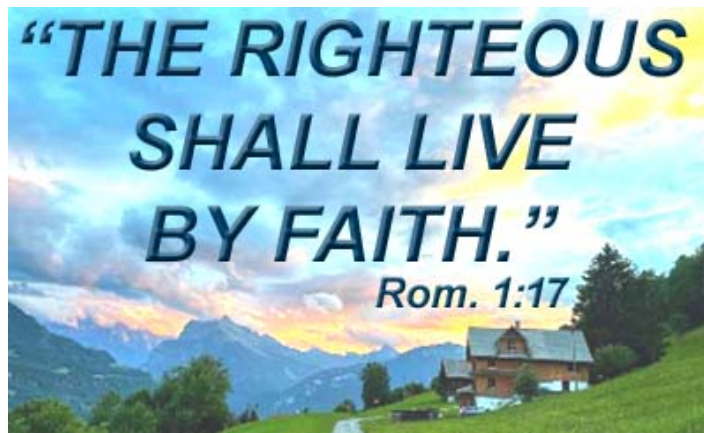
How powerful is God’s Word?

John 6:63: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.”

Ps 119:105: “Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Introspection: How faithful am I to draw knowledge through God’s Word in submission to God’s authority?

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It is evident that faith is the prerequisite element for anyone to believe in Christ, as well as to live according to His Word.

Why is faith the important prerequisite to have access to God?

Hebrews 11:6: "Without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:3: "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

What are the blessings granted from having faith in God?

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

1John 5:4-5: For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God."

How do we sustain our faith?

Rom 10:17: "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."

Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Introspection: How strong is my faith in Christ right now?

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If God is to be sovereign in our lives, we must clearly focus our hearts in such a way as Christ takes precedence over all actions, words and thoughts we entertain.

How is that accomplished?

Mat 22:37: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Mat 6:33: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it."

Psalm 1:1-2: "Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night."

2Cor 10:5: "Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Why must Christ be the focus of our life?

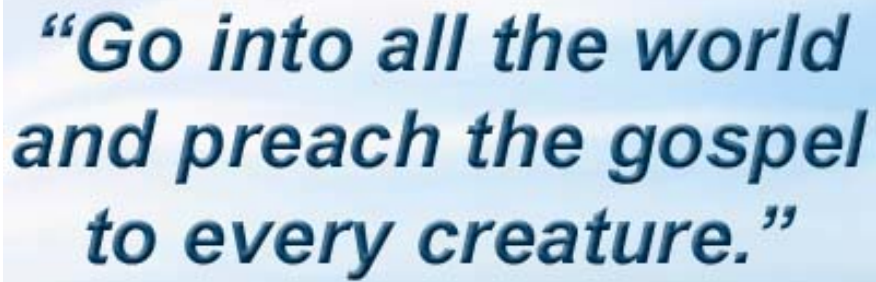
Luke 12:34: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

What then should the attitude of our hearts be?

Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Introspection: Is my heart in the right place with God in following Christ?

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**“Go into all the world
and preach the gospel
to every creature.”**

Mark 16:15

As believers in Christ and in submission to the authority of God, we were given the mission to go and be His witnesses to a lost and dying world.

How is that accomplished?

1Peter 3:15: “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.”

2Tim 4:2: “Preach the Word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

Col 3:16: “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Why must I be a witness for Christ?

Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”

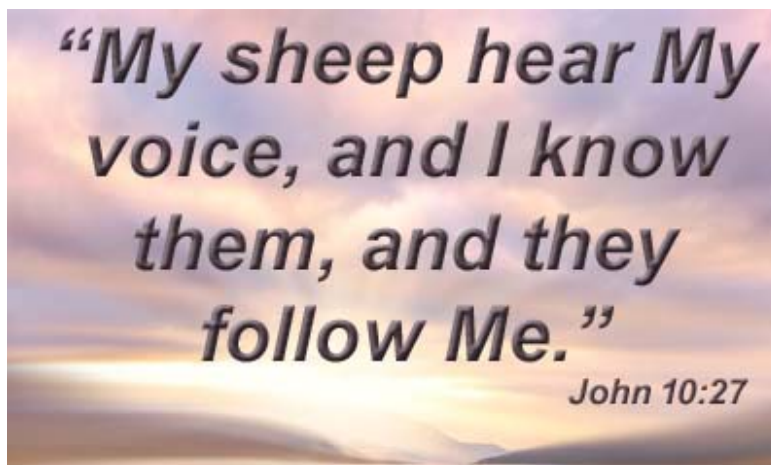
1Cor 1:18: “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

What’s more?

Acts 1:8: “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Am I carrying out the mission that Christ gave to all believers?

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Discipline is an ever necessary attitude of behavior to accomplish our goals or projects in life.

How does this apply to our faith in God and our walk to follow Christ?

Rom 12:1-2: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

1Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

2Tim. 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Why?

Eph 4:14-15: "That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head, Christ."

Mark 8:36: "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

Do I steadfastly discipline myself to seek God in all aspects of my life and be submitted to the teachings of Christ?

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