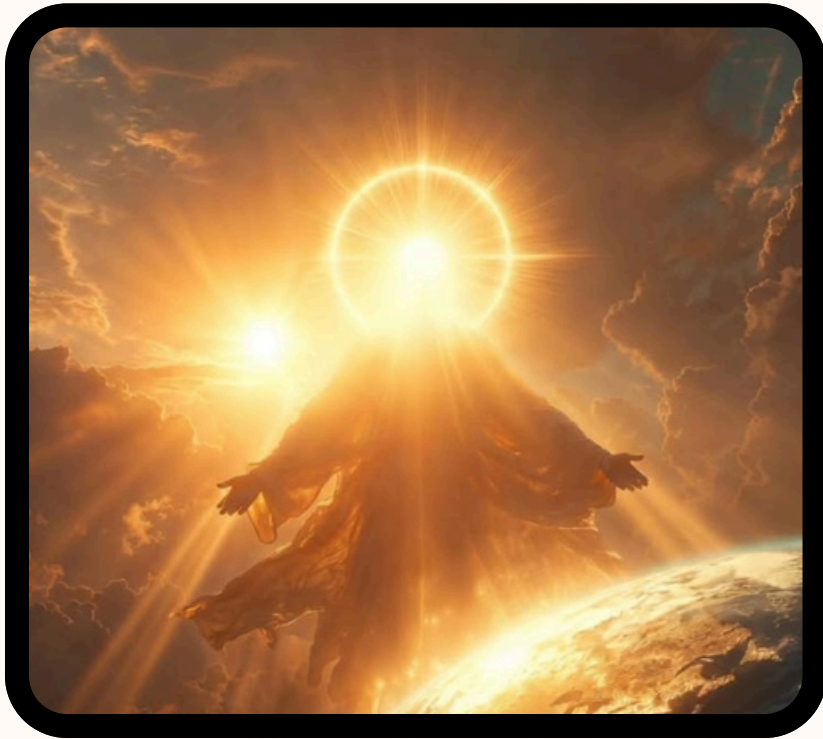




THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD



KEY SCRIPTURE: ACTS 10:28 AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, YE KNOW HOW THAT IT IS AN UNLAWFUL THING FOR A MAN THAT IS A JEW TO KEEP COMPANY, OR COME UNTO ONE OF ANOTHER NATION; BUT GOD HATH SHEWED ME THAT I SHOULD NOT CALL ANY MAN COMMON OR UNCLEAN.

Sovereignty means God has the final say—even over the rules what might have previously been established. While God's character never changes, the way He interacts with us often depends on our dedication, our relationship with Him, and the specific assignment that He has assigned to us. The sovereignty of God means He has the absolute right to govern His creation as He sees fit. Sometimes, we view God's laws as static "paper and ink," but this study explores how God's relationship with His people is dynamic.

1. The Weight of Relationship/Devotion

Your dedication to God can change how He accounts for your failings. Just as we forgive a loyal friend because their value in our lives outweighs their mistakes, God's mercy often covers those who are sold out to Him and completely devoted to fulfill God's desires to Him. There are instances where individuals were so dedicated to God that their errors were covered by His grace, while others faced immediate consequences to their actions.

•**The Example of Abraham:** In Genesis, Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister. By human standards, this was a failure of faith. Yet, God didn't just forgive him; He vindicated him and protected him. Genesis 20:1–18 (In Gerar with King Abimelech)

•**The Example of Elijah:** Under the Law, killing is a grave matter. Yet, when Elijah executed the prophets of Baal, it was seen as a divine act of cleansing the land, not a sin of murder. While the Law says "Thou shalt not kill," God viewed this through the lens of kingdom-related necessity. (1 Kings 18:40)



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2. What has been "Written" Meets with the "Revealed"

In Acts 10 9-16, Peter relied on the written Law which forbade eating "unclean" animals. He wasn't being rebellious; he was simply obeying the law as written in the scripture. Peter resisted because he was being faithful to the written Word. However, God was doing a new thing! God told Peter, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." (Acts 10:15). This wasn't just about food; it was about people. God was changing the "rules" of engagement to include the Gentiles (Cornelius). Sometimes, God changes the "paper" (the old method or rule) to fit the "case" (the new soul or nation being reached). If Peter had stuck strictly to the letter of the Law without the revelation of the Spirit, he would have missed the opportunity to minister to Cornelius and the Gentiles.

The Word of God gets brighter and brighter. What was "No" yesterday might be "Yes" today based on God's sovereign timing. This explains why experiences vary & brings to mind questions like;

- Why does God say "Yes" in one season and "No" in another?

This is because God's sovereignty allows Him to act based on specific circumstances and the specific persons involved. He is not bound by a formula, but by His own wisdom. Hallelujah!

The IWMI Mandate

As intercessors in this ministry, we are called to the nations, Jeremiah 1:10. We cannot afford to be like Peter in his initial hesitation, labelling people as "unclean" or "too far gone." we do not select who is worthy of prayer or help based on their "goodness" or "badness." In this ministry, we don't just call things unclean, rather we make them clean through intercession and the power of God.

Reflection: Are you building a "weighty" relationship with God that prioritizes His kingdom above all else?

Further Reading : Acts 10:1–35