



SUMMER AT COMMUNITY OF FAITH

WEEK 1

1. God Is Absolutely Sovereign

9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.' **Isaiah 46:9-10**

[God] does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: "What have you done?" **Daniel 4:35**

- The sovereignty of God is not a **threat** to believers; it is our **hope**.

2. Human Beings Are Truly Free.

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live. **Deuteronomy 30:19**

- Free will: The God-given ability to make **real choices** for which we are responsible

How Do God's Sovereignty and Human Freedom Work Together in a Fallen World?

- a) There are things that happen in the world that God **does not** desire.
- b) God Uses **Everything** to Accomplish His Purposes.

18 "Behold, we are your servants."

19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"

20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. **Genesis 50:18b-20**

3. Can We Cause God to Change His Mind?

We cannot **change** God's nature, His character, or His eternal purpose, yet God has chosen to work **in response** to the prayers of His people. *Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.* **Exodus 32:14**

I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you... I will add fifteen years to your life.
2 Kings 20:5-6 (NIV)

*God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind.
Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?* **Numbers 23:19**

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. **Acts 4:27-28**