

Sermon Questions: Word of the Week  
Sovereignty

Philippians 1:12-26

1. Describe a time when you did something that you believe God was prompting or leading you to do. How did it turn out?
2. Can you recall a time when something good came out of a disappointment or a negative experience?
3. The word of the week is "Sovereignty," and when it is applied to our Christian Faith, it means that God is in control. What is the difference between "God is in control" and "God causes everything that happens"?
4. Pastor Mark points out that we are not puppets on a string, and God is not a Puppet Master. We have free will. And yet God does call us, lead us, and inspire us to take certain actions. How do you discern the difference between "my will" and "God's will?"
5. Pastor Mark also points out that not everything that happens to us is caused by God or sent by God. But if God allows it, He can use it if we cooperate. Do you agree or disagree, why or why not?
6. Read Philippians 1:12-19. The apostle Paul wrote these words while in prison facing possible execution for preaching about Jesus. How could he be so confident that God would his circumstances for good?
7. In what specific ways had Paul identified that God was already working good out of his circumstances?
8. In Philippians 1:21, Paul declares, "to live is Christ, to die is gain." What do you think he meant by that? How can this perspective impact the way we interpret the difficulties in our lives?
9. Pastor Mark talks about God's ultimate sovereignty. Even though God doesn't cause everything, God works all things together for good in the lives of those who trust him. God is like a chess master, who knows how to

use every move on the chess board to reach victory. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

10. Pastor Mark suggests that the best way to live in light of God's Sovereignty, is to seek to be obedient in the midst of our circumstances rather than focusing on our circumstances. Why is this difficult for most of us?
11. What are some common ways that modern day Christians struggle to be obedient to God's will as expressed in the Bible?
12. How does obeying God open us up to discovering more of God's will for our individual lives?