



Introduction:

- Question: *I understand that it's God's grace that saves us, but what role, if any, does free will play in our salvation?*
- Another great question. Man, you guys are tough! I don't know that anyone can answer this question satisfactorily. But we'll give it our best shot.
- Let's see what Scripture says about each of the concepts of God's sovereignty and man's free will. Based on our findings, we'll draw some conclusions.

God's Sovereignty

The term "sovereign Lord" is used _____ in the Bible.

Therefore, we must conclude that:

G **GOD is** _____ *D*

But what does "sovereign" mean?

Daniel 4:34,35

To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is the Most High, doing according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, so that none can stay His hand or say unto Him "what have you done?"

Psalms 115:3

To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is the Almighty, the Possessor of all power in heaven and earth, so that none can defeat His counsels, thwart His purpose, or resist His will.

Psalms 22:23

To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is "Ruler over the nations, setting up kingdoms, overthrowing empires, and determining the course of dynasties as pleases Him best."

I Timothy 6:15

To say that God is sovereign is to declare that He is the "Only Potentate, the King of kings and the Lord of lords."

Isaiah 45:9; 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6; Romans 9:21

To say that God is sovereign is to affirm that He is the right of the Potter over the clay, i.e., that He may mold that clay into whatsoever form He chooses, fashioning out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor. Such is the God of the Bible.

A.W. Tozer, **The Sovereignty of God**

Some conclusions about God's sovereignty:

- God is sovereign over the _____
- God is sovereign over the _____
- God is sovereign over the lives of _____
- God's sovereignty raises two questions:
 - Does man have _____?
 - Why is there _____?

Man's Free Will

Mark 8:34; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13; I John 5:1

Throughout Scripture the Bible continuously instructs mankind to make righteous decisions by free will. Many persons misinterpret a few verses to arrive at the false idea that mankind does not have a free will to do good or make righteous decisions. But this is not true. Mankind has the responsibility to exercise his free will and is commanded by God to do so.

Biblelife.org/election

Some conclusions about Man's free will:

- The Bible clearly teaches man has a free will to come to Christ for _____
- The Bible clearly teaches mankind is commanded by God to exercise his free will to make _____
- Most people gravitate toward one concept (sovereignty or free will) to the exclusion of the other. But the Bible teaches _____.

God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it. Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so.

A.W. Tozer, **The Sovereignty of God**

Final Conclusion:

Our choices may be our own,
but the consequences of those choices
have already been determined by the
_____.