

Biblical Solutions for Life Issues

Topic 15 – God’s Faithfulness and Sovereignty

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Introduction

Each of us knows of someone who is in the middle of some personal difficulty: perhaps a financial crises, unemployment, personal serious illness or death or that of a family member, chronic illness or painful handicap, grief, heartache, criticism, loneliness, ostracism, etc. This should not be surprising since the Scriptures tell us that all people will experience trouble in their lives

⁷For **man is born for trouble**, As sparks fly upward. Job 5:7

¹Man, who is born of woman, **Is short-lived and full of turmoil**. Job 14:1

Yet, among God’s people there are those that experience particular hardship. Charles Spurgeon noted that God calls some Christians to shoulder extraordinary hardships in this life.

"Spiritual darkness of any sort is to be avoided, and not desired; and yet, surprising as it may seem to be, it is a fact that some of the best of God’s people frequently walk in darkness; ay, some of them are wrapt in a sevenfold gloom at times, and to them neither sun, nor moon, nor stars appear. As the pastor of a large church, I have to observe a great variety of experiences, and I note that some whom I greatly love and esteem, who are, in my judgment among the very choicest of God’s people, nevertheless, travel most of the way to Heaven by night." Sermon on Isaiah 50:10 delivered on Sept 25, 1887

Bringing Biblical care to brothers and sisters going through trials or suffering can be very difficult. If someone is sinning, putting off the old self (repenting), renewing the mind with God’s Word, and putting on righteousness (walking in obedience) in the power of the Holy Spirit fixes the problem. The sin is dealt with even though the consequences of the sin may remain.

It is entirely possible that a dear brother or sister who is suffering may never experience relief from that suffering this side of heaven. However, they have an incredible opportunity to present the truth of the Gospel to the world (to prove their faith) by how they respond to the trial or suffering. Their life can show that Jesus Christ is true and he has made supernatural changes to their heart.

We are beginning a three-part series on trials and suffering. Before we talk specifically of how to glorify God in suffering, we need to lay a foundation of God’s faithfulness and sovereignty. Understanding God’s faithfulness and sovereignty gives us hope in trials and suffering.

There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God’s Sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that Sovereignty has ordained their afflictions, that Sovereignty overrules them, and that Sovereignty will sanctify them all.

There is nothing for which the children ought more earnestly to contend than the doctrine of their Master over all creation—the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands—the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that Throne. Charles Spurgeon in a sermon on Matt 20:15

Faithfulness

God’s faithfulness can be explained as: God will always do what He has said and fulfill what He has promised (Wayne Grudem). He is steadfast, unchanging, perfectly reliable, and utterly dependable. He is 100% reliable, 100% of the time.

Far above all finite comprehension is the unchanging faithfulness of God. Everything about God is great, vast, incomparable. He never forgets, never fails, never falters, never forfeits His word. To every declaration of promise or prophecy the Lord has exactly adhered, every engagement of covenant or threatening He will make good, ... A. W. Pink

Because God is faithful, He can be completely trusted. Because He is faithful we can fully submit ourselves to His sovereignty.

The apprehension of this blessed truth will beget increasing *confidence in God*. ... When we trustfully resign ourselves, and all our affairs into God's hands, fully persuaded of His love and faithfulness, the sooner shall we be satisfied with his providence ... A. W. Pink

Let's examine what the Scriptures declare about God's faithfulness.

1. Faithfulness is part of God's character

⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God, He is God, **the faithful God**, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; Deut 7:9

⁴“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; **A God of faithfulness** and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He. Deut 32:4

⁴For the word of the LORD is upright, And **all His work is done in faithfulness**. Psa 33:4

⁹**God is faithful**, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor 1:9

¹³If we are faithless, **He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself**. 2 Tim 2:13

2. The Scriptures declare that God's faithfulness is:

– Great (abundant in quantity, size, age, number, rank, quality)

²²The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.

²³They are new every morning; **Great is Your faithfulness**. Lam 3:22-23

– Incomparable

⁸O LORD God of hosts, **who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You**. Psa 89:8

– Infinite

⁵Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, **Your faithfulness reaches to the skies**. Psa 36:5

– Unwavering

³³“**But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, Nor deal falsely in My faithfulness**.” Psa 89:33

– Established

²For I have said, “Lovingkindness will be built up **forever**; In the heavens **You will establish Your faithfulness**.” Psa 89:2

– Everlasting

⁸⁹Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. ⁹⁰**Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations**; You established the earth, and it stands. Psa 119:89-90

⁶Who made heaven and earth, The sea and all that is in them; **Who keeps faith forever**; Psa 146:6

3. God's faithfulness is displayed in:

– Forgiving sin

⁹If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins** and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

- The permanence of our salvation
 - ⁸who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **⁹God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.** 1 Cor 1:7-9
 - ²⁴**Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.** 1 Thess 5:24
 - ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, **for He who promised is faithful;** Heb 10:23
- Bringing trials and discipline into our lives
 - ⁷⁵I know, O LORD, **that Your judgments are righteous, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.** Psa 119:75
- Provision in times of trial, temptation, and suffering
 - ¹³No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; **and God is faithful,** who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 1 Cor 10:13
 - ¹⁹Therefore, **those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator** in doing what is right. 1 Pet 4:19
- His providence
 - ¹O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; **For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.** Isa 25:1
- Fulfilling His promises
 - (to Jacob) ¹⁵Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for **I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.** Gen 28:15
 - ¹¹The LORD has sworn to David **A truth from which He will not turn back:** “Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne. Psa 132:11
 - (concerning Abraham) ¹⁹Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; ²⁰yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and **being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.** Rom 4:19-21
 - ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God, **He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments;** Deut 7:9
 - ⁷The works of His hands are truth and justice; All His precepts are sure. ⁸They are upheld forever and ever; They are performed in truth and uprightness. Psa 111:7-8
- Executing His judgments
 - ²⁰“The anger of the LORD will not turn back **Until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart;** In the last days you will clearly understand it. Jer 23:20
 - ²⁹So the land quakes and writhes, **For the purposes of the LORD against Babylon stand,** To make the land of Babylon A desolation without inhabitants. Jer 51:29
- Answering prayer
 - ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! **Answer me in Your faithfulness,** in Your righteousness! Psa 143:1

– Creation

⁵The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁸O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. Psalm 89:5, 8

²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. Rom 1:20

4. God's children are commanded to depend on His faithfulness in difficult times

¹⁹Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall **entrust their souls to a faithful Creator** in doing what is right. 1 Pet 4:19

5. God's faithfulness should be proclaimed

¹⁰I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; **I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation**; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation. Psa 40:10

¹I will sing of the lovingkindness of the LORD forever; **To all generations I will make known Your faithfulness with my mouth.** Psa 89:1

¹It is good to give thanks to the LORD And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; ²**To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning And Your faithfulness by night,** Psa 92:1-2

A. W. Pink describes three results of understanding at the heart level God's faithfulness:

The apprehension of this blessed truth **will preserve us from worry**. To be full of care, to view our situation with dark forebodings, to anticipate the morrow with sad anxiety—is to reflect poorly upon the faithfulness of God.

The apprehension of this blessed truth **will check our murmurings**. The Lord knows what is best for each one of us, and one effect of resting on this truth will be the silencing of our petulant complainings. God is greatly honored when, under trial and chastening, we have good thoughts of Him, vindicate His wisdom and justice, and recognize His love in His very rebukes.

The apprehension of this blessed truth **will beget increasing confidence in God**. ... When we trustfully resign ourselves, and all our affairs into God's hands, fully persuaded of His love and faithfulness, the sooner shall we be satisfied with His providences ...

Three different groups of people should respond differently to God's faithfulness:

1. To His children, called according to His purpose (Rom 8:28), that are walking with Him on a consistent basis by presenting their bodies a living and holy sacrifice (Rom 12:1); God's faithfulness should be a comfort at all times because He will execute His Word perfectly. He provides all we need for life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3) in the easy and hard times.
2. To His children, who walk in willful, unrepentant sin; there is the fearful expectation of discipline (Heb 12:4-13). God will not allow His true children to continue in rebellion; discipline is imminent.
3. To those that reject Jesus; there is the expectation of impending judgment (Psa 96:11-13; Rev 19:11).

Sovereignty

The God of the Bible is the only true God (Isa 45:5, 21-22; 46:9; Joel 2:27; John 17:3). His ways are beyond our ways and His thoughts are beyond our thoughts (Isa 55:8-9).

⁸“For **My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,**” declares the LORD. ⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are **My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.** Isa 55:8-9

God’s sovereignty is a doctrine that eludes full comprehension. It is beyond our natural experience since we desire to be in control of our lives and from our perspective we observe that we are in control of our lives.

No doctrine is more despised by the natural mind than the truth that God is absolutely sovereign. Human pride loathes the suggestion that God orders everything, controls everything, rules over everything. The carnal mind, burning with enmity against God, abhors the biblical teaching that nothing comes to pass except according to His eternal decrees. Most of all, the flesh hates the notion that salvation is entirely God’s work. If God chose who would be saved, and if His choice was settled before the foundation of the world, then believers deserve no credit for their salvation. John MacArthur at <http://www.sfpulpit.com/2007/09/28/gods-absolute-sovereignty/>

The Scriptures declare that God is sovereign:

²⁵“Have you not heard? Long ago I did it; **From ancient times I planned it Now I have brought it to pass,** ... 2 Kings 19:25

²“I know that You can do all things, And that **no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.** Job 42:2

²¹Many plans are in a man's heart, But **the counsel of the LORD will stand.** Prov 19:21

²⁴The LORD of hosts has sworn saying, “Surely, **just as I have intended so it has happened, and just as I have planned so it will stand,** Isa 14:24

⁹“Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰**Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';** ¹¹Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country **Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.** Isa 46:9-11

¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who **works all things after the counsel of His will,** Eph 1:11

The Westminster Shorter Confession states: “The decrees of God are his eternal purpose, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.” (Isa 25:1; 46:11; Eph 1:11) The decree of God refers to His sovereign purpose – His comprehensive plan that includes all events that will ever occur.

Wayne Grudem states that the decrees of God are His “...eternal plans whereby, before the creation of the world, He determined to bring about everything that happens.”

We will collectively view God’s unconditional, eternal plan and His providential work in time and space to accomplish His plan as His sovereignty.

God’s sovereignty is his exercise of rule (as “sovereign” or “king”) over his creation. Wayne Grudem

It is not merely that God has the power and right to govern all things but that He does so always and without exception. John Piper

The doctrine of sovereignty is... “similar to the doctrine of providence, but here we are thinking about God’s decisions *before the world was created* rather than his providential actions in time. His providential actions are the outworking of the eternal decrees that he made long ago.”
Wayne Grudem

“God sustains, nourishes, and cares for everything that He has made.” John Calvin

“God’s providence is His constant care for and His absolute rule over all His creation for His own glory and the good of His people.” Jerry Bridges in “Trusting God: Even when Life Hurts”
“... the conviction that God, in His goodness and power, preserves, accompanies, and directs the entire universe. The Bible speaks of God as one who creates, preserves, upholds, wills, acts, governs, foreordains, elects, calls, predestines, judges, redeems, forgives, reconciles, provides, heals, and loves. That God is directly in command of His universe – past, present, and future, is not merely a supposition of Biblical faith, it is a central motif of the Bible.” Benjamin Farley in “The Providence of God”

God is the supreme ruler – in control of all events. All things are under His rule and control, and nothing happens without His direction or permission (Job 1-2). He works all things (not just some things) after the counsel of His own will (Eph 1:11). God's purpose is all inclusive and is never thwarted (Isa 46:11). Nothing takes Him by surprise.

The Father sovereignly plans and brings about all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psa 145:8-9; 1 Cor 8:6). He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass (Eph 1:11). He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (1 Chron 29:11). In His sovereignty, He is neither the author nor approver of sin (Hab 1:13; John 8:38-47). His sovereignty does not absolve people of their responsibility; people are still accountable (1 Pet 1:17).

1. God’s plan encompasses all things; He is sovereign over all things.
2. God’s plan was formed in eternity past (Eph 1:4, 2 Tim 1:9, 1 Pet 1:20).
3. God’s plan is wise, perfect, and beyond our full comprehension (Rom 11:33-36, Psa 104:24).
4. God’s plan is according to His will (Dan 4:35, Eph 1:11).
5. God’s plan encompasses His directive will (Isa 45:18, Dan 4:35, Dan 2:21, Eph 1:4) and His permissive will through which He brings things about through secondary means (such as the free will sinful acts of men).
6. The purpose of God’s plan is His glory (Psa 19:1; Eph 1:4-6, 11-12; Rom 9:23; Rev 4:11).
7. God’s plan encompasses all things, yet man is responsible for his sin (Rom 3:23).
8. God also uses man to carry out His plan (e.g. election and evangelism) (Acts 10:1-5).

God’s decree includes the means to accomplish that decree. He is sovereign in all things, yet uses various means to bring about that sovereign purpose. God has elected certain individuals for salvation, yet He uses the preaching of the gospel to bring them to Himself (Acts 10). Similarly, God has ordained all things that will come to pass and yet He uses prayer to accomplish them.

God has decreed that certain events shall come to pass, but He has also decreed that these events shall come to pass through the means He has appointed for their accomplishment. God has elected certain ones to be saved, but He has also decreed that these ones shall be saved through the preaching of the Gospel. The Gospel, then, is one of the appointed means for the working out of the eternal counsel of the Lord; and prayer is another. God has decreed the means as well as the end, and among the means is prayer. *The Sovereignty of God* by A. W. Pink

God’s plan is so comprehensive that it not only includes the final destinies of things but also includes the secondary, creaturely processes that work together to accomplish these ends. Pray With Your Eyes Open by Richard Pratt

The Sphere of God's Sovereignty

Over all things

¹⁹The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty **rules over all**. Psa 103:19

²⁸And we know that **God causes all things to work together** for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. Rom 8:28

¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who **works all things after the counsel of His will**, Eph 1:11

Over all of nature

⁶Whatever the LORD pleases, **He does, In heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps.**

⁷He **causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; Who makes lightnings for the rain, Who brings forth the wind from His treasures.** Psa 135:6-7

⁴The **LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm** on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. Jonah 1:4

⁴⁵so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He **causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.** Matt 5:45

²⁶He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then **He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.** ²⁷The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that **even the winds and the sea obey Him?**" Matt 8:26-27

⁷"Furthermore, **I withheld the rain from you** While *there were* still three months until harvest. Then **I would send rain on one city** And **on another city I would not send rain**; One part would be rained on, While the part not rained on would dry up. ⁸So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, But would not be satisfied; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD. ⁹**I smote you with scorching wind and mildew; And the caterpillar was devouring Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees;** Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD. Amos 4:7-9

Over physical laws

⁵But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, my master! For it was borrowed." ⁶Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And when he showed him the place, he cut off a stick and threw *it* in there, and **made the iron float.** 2 Kings 6:5-6

¹²Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon." ¹³So **the sun stood still, and the moon stopped**, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go *down* for about a whole day. ¹⁴There was no day like that before it or after it, when the LORD listened to the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel. Josh 10:12-14

⁷"This shall be the sign to you from the LORD, that the LORD will do this thing that He has spoken: ⁸Behold, I will cause the shadow on the stairway, which has gone down with the sun on the stairway of Ahaz, to go back ten steps." So **the sun's shadow went back ten steps on the stairway** on which it had gone down. Isa 38:7-8

Over angels, Satan, and demons

²⁰Bless the LORD, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, **Obeying the voice of His word!** ²¹Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You who serve Him, **doing His will.** Psa 103:20-21

¹⁵And **God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it**; but as he was about to destroy *it*, the LORD saw and was sorry over the calamity, and said to the destroying angel, “It is enough; now relax your hand.” 1 Chron 21:15

¹²Then the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your power, only do not put forth your hand on him.” So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD. Job 1:12

¹⁴Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and **an evil spirit from the LORD terrorized him.** 1Sam 16:14

⁶And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, Jude 6

Over nations

¹⁰The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. ¹¹The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. Psa 33:10-11

⁷For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with a skillful psalm. ⁸**God reigns over the nations**, God sits on His holy throne. ⁹The princes of the people have assembled themselves *as* the people of the God of Abraham, For **the shields of the earth belong to God**; He is highly exalted. Psa 47:7-9

²⁰Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. ²¹It is He who changes the times and the epochs; **He removes kings and establishes kings**; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. Dan 2:20-21

Over human beings

¹The king’s heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; **He turns it wherever He wishes.** Prov 21:1

⁶The **LORD kills and makes alive**; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. 1 Sam 2:6-7

¹⁵But when God, who had **set me apart *even* from my mother’s womb** and called me through His grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, Gal 1:15-16

Over animals

⁴It shall be that you will drink of the brook, and **I have commanded the ravens** to provide for you there.” ⁵So he went and did according to the word of the LORD, for he went and lived by the brook Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. ⁶The **ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening**, and he would drink from the brook. 1 Kings 17:4-6

¹⁷And **the LORD appointed a great fish** to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17

²⁷However, so that we do not offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.” Matt 17:17

Over "accidents"

³³The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD. Prov 16:33

⁷Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity *has struck* us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. Jonah 1:7

²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And *yet* not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. Matt 10:29

Over free acts of men

²¹I will grant this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and it shall be that when you go, you will not go empty-handed. ... ³⁵Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; ³⁶and the LORD had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Thus they plundered the Egyptians. Ex 3:21; 12:35-36

⁹The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. Prov 16:9

¹⁸So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires. Rom 9:18

Over sinful acts of men and Satan

¹Now again the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and it incited David against them to say, "Go, number Israel and Judah." 2 Sam 24:1

¹Then Satan stood up against Israel and moved David to number Israel. 1 Chron 21:1

⁵Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. Gen 45:5

²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. Gen 50:20

²²"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— ²³this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. Acts 2:22-23

²⁷For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur. Acts 4:27-28

Results of Understanding God's Sovereignty

1. It deepens our reverence for God's character.
2. It puts God in His rightful place and puts us in ours.
3. It magnifies God's grace.
4. It is profoundly humbling.
5. It gives us a sense of complete security.
6. It provides comfort in sorrow.

Biblical Solutions for Life Issues
Topic 15 – Faithfulness and Sovereignty – Additional Study

Re-read the verses on faithfulness and sovereignty in this study.

How does God's glory and sovereignty work together in my difficult times?

What kind of behavior, attitudes, and/or speech are manifested in a person who DOES understand God's faithfulness at the heart level?

What kind of behavior, attitudes, and/or speech are manifested in a person who DOES NOT understand God's faithfulness at the heart level? What would have to change in such a person for him/her to glorify God?

Read Jeremiah 17:5-8

Describe the person who trusts in other things than God (v5-6):

Describe the person who trusts in God (v7-8):

Read 2 Pet 1:3 and explain what God's faithfulness means to believers who are committed to be doers of God's Word.

Read Heb 12:4-13 and explain what God's faithfulness means to those who have decided to continue in willful sin.

Read Psa 96:11-13 and Rev 19:11 and explain what God's faithfulness means to those who have not bowed in submission to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

If I understood faithfulness and sovereignty at the heart level, what would be my response to feelings like: worry, anxiousness, fear, despair, or depression?