

TCCWomen - Fall Conference 2023 - "His Story Our Story"

Guest Speaker: Jane Zempel

Session 1

Is God Really All-Wise?

Introduction:

Another way to say God is SOVEREIGN would be to say, "God is in _____."

"God has the authority, power, and wisdom to do all things that He pleases. Every part of God's creation—all places, objects, creatures, people, events and situations, and even Satan is under God's sovereign will and rule".

"The King of kings and Lord of lords is on His throne bringing about His perfect purposes for His glory and everlasting joy."

My Question: Is God Really ALL-WISE?

His Answer:

Daniel 2:22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness and the light dwells with him.

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and our children forever. . .

Romans 11:33-34 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?

Matthew 10:30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Luke 12:7 Why, even the hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not: you are of more value than many sparrows.

Job 31:4 Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?

Matthew 6:31-32 Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or what shall we wear? For your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Psalm 139:1-4 O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up: you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

Job 23:10 But he knows the way that I take: when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

I John 3:19-20 By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him; for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and he knows everything.

He also knew. . .

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Quotable Quotes:

"God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows." Anonymous

"We get exactly what we need by walking through what we never wanted." Tim Keller

"In regard to God, patience is a submission to His sovereignty. To endure a trial, simply because we cannot avoid or resist it, is not Christian patience. But to humbly submit because it is the will of God to inflict the trial, to be silent because the sovereignty of God orders it - is true godly patience." Puritan Author Stephen Charnock

Recommended Reading:

New Morning Mercies by Paul David Tripp

Feelings and Faith: Cultivating Godly Emotions in the Christian Life by Brian S. Borgman

Taking God at His Word by Kevin DeYoung

The Dynamic Heart in Daily Life: Connecting Christ to Human Experience by Jeremy Pierre

Is God Really in Control?: Trusting God in a World of Hurt by Jerry Bridges

Session 2

Is God Really All-Powerful?

My Question: Is God Really ALL-POWERFUL?

Typical Response: _____ or _____

His Answer:

1 Chronicles 29:11 Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Luke 1:37 For nothing is impossible with God.

Romans 9:20 But who are you, O, man to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?"

Psalms 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! *Nothing* is too hard for you.

Hebrews 1:3 He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 45:9 "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making'?"

Job 42:2 I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

He also knew. . .

We easily fall into one of two ditches regarding our bodies: Over-prioritizing or under-prioritizing.

Common Denominator: _____

Right Response: _____

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Quotable Quote:

"God is supremely good when life is particularly difficult." Joni Eareckson Tada

Recommended Reading:

Heart of the Matter: Daily Reflections for Changing Hearts and Lives by various authors

The Obedience Option: Because God Knows What's Good for Us by David W. Hegg

When People Are Big and God Is Small: Overcoming Peer Pressure, Codependency, and the Fear of Man by Edward T. Welch

What Do You Think of Me? Why Do I Care? Answers to Big Questions of Life by Edward T. Welch
(suitable for a teens and young adults)

Session 3
Is God Really All-Loving?

My Question: Is God Really ALL-LOVING?

His Answer:

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 5:8 But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Psalms 136:26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Zeph. 3:17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save. He will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Deuteronomy 7:8-9 But it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

John 15:13-14 (Jesus, God incarnate, reminded us): Greater love has no one than this; that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Isaiah 43:2-4 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. . . Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

Nehemiah 8:10 The joy of the Lord is your strength.
He also knew. . .

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1. God is _____!
 2. I should endeavor to be a life-long _____.
 3. God is _____ good!
 4. My _____ is not the goal.
 5. Trials help us long for _____.
 6. Take every _____ I have to love the people around me.
 7. Cultivate an "attitude of _____,"
 8. _____ can be a source of suffering.
 9. I must be very aware of my _____ - _____.
 10. I must preach _____ to myself.
 11. In hard times, seek to know how I can become more like _____.
 12. Remember: _____ is in charge of writing our story!! It's not about _____!

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Quotable Quotes:

"Marriage is good, but it can't make us whole. Only Jesus can do that. Instead of expecting a person, career, or anything else to complete us, let's accept God's invitation to let His fullness fill our lives more and more."

"Whatever hardships you face, know that God will pour out His grace and mercy on you. He LOVES you!"

Recommended Reading:

Hidden in the Gospel: Truths You Forget to Tell Yourself Every Day by William P. Farley

Unmet Expectations: Reshaping Our Thinking in Disappointments, Trials, and Delays by Lisa Hughes

Get to know the Puritans!

The Blessed and Boundless God by George Swinnock (Highly recommended! Pastor Dan says that next to the Bible, this is his favorite book!) (Reformation Heritage Books)

Divine Providence: A Classic Work for Modern Readers by Stephen Charnock (R&R Publishing)

Keeping the Heart: How to Maintain Your Love for God by John Flavel (Christian Focus Publications)

God's Battle Plan for the Mind: The Puritan Practice of Biblical Meditation by David W. Saxton (Reformation Heritage Books)

In 2020 Crossway (Good News Publishers) began printing a series of "Short Classics" including:

Heaven Is a World of Love by Jonathan Edwards

The Expulsive Power of a New Affection by Thomas Chalmers

The Emotional Life of Our Lord by B.B. Warfield

Quotes on Sovereignty:

"When you go through a trial, the sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which you lay your head."

Charles Spurgeon

"Most Christians salute the sovereignty of God but believe in the sovereignty of man".

R.C. Sproul

"Prayer assumes the sovereignty of God. If God is not sovereign, we have no assurance that He is able to answer our prayers. Our prayers would become nothing more than wishes. But while God's sovereignty is the foundation of our trust in Him, prayer is the expression of that trust."

Jerry Bridges

"If you believe that God overrules all things for good, and only permits apparently evil happenings for good and the achievement of great ends unbeknown to you, then all is well. All is well because you believe in the sovereignty of God."

Henry Thomas Hamblin

"When we complain about the weather, we are, in reality, murmuring against God."

Arthur W. Pink

"I think to trust in the sovereignty of God does not excuse my personal responsibility, just the opposite - it equips me to be personally responsible".

Max Lucado

"The sovereignty of God is the only foundation for worship in the midst of tragedy."

David Platt

"Some Christians live in such fear, they act as if they believe in the sovereignty of Satan rather than the sovereignty of God."

Steven J. Lawson

"The presence of hope in the invincible sovereignty of God drives out fear."

John Piper

"I don't know how people pray who don't believe in the sovereignty of God to do the impossible. Because all the things I want to happen are impossible. If they're possible, I'll do them."

John Piper

"It is a most blessed thing to be subject to the sovereignty of God."

John Calvin

"Although the sovereignty of God is universal and absolute, it is not the sovereignty of blind power. It is coupled with infinite wisdom, holiness and love. And this doctrine, when properly understood, is a most comforting and reassuring one. Who would not prefer to have his affairs in the hands of a God of infinite power, wisdom, holiness and love, rather than to have them left to fate, or chance, or irrevocable natural law, or a too short-sighted and perverted self? Those who reject God's sovereignty should consider what alternatives they have left."

Lorraine Boettner

"The sovereignty of God is the one impregnable rock to which the suffering human heart must cling. The circumstances surrounding our lives are no accident: they may be the work of evil, but the evil is held firmly within the mighty hand of our sovereign God."

Margaret Clarkson

"To the one who delights in the sovereignty of God the clouds not only have a 'silver lining' but they are silver all through, the darkness only serving to offset the light!"

Arthur W. Pink

"The sovereignty of God is that golden scepter in his hand by which he will make all bow, either by his word or by his works, by his mercies or by his judgments."

Puritan author, Thomas Brooks