



CHURCH IN THE HOUSE EDIFICATION MATERIAL (AUGUST 2010)

Theme: Heavens strategy for all time living
Topic: The Sovereignty of God versus Believer's Faith
Text: I Timothy 6: 13 – 16; Romans 9: 6-29.

Introduction: In our last study (July), we focused on the past, present and future application of faith and the ever needed faith boosters....thinking right, talking right, and living right. The faith we confess and profess must be applied with the necessary ingredient so as to receive the promise God has in stock for us. Romans 4:13–25; 5: 1 – 5.

In Hebrews 11, we have in the hall of faith distinctive heroes, men and women who by their faith loved, obeyed and pleased God. However, some **received not** the promise (vs. 13, 39) while others obtained the promises v 33. The reason for this disparity is the focus of this study. (The sovereignty of God). It is the sovereignty of God that determines who receives the promise of God and who does not. It is not that some are more righteous, more deserving, more prayerful, more favoured or more special than the others.

What is Sovereignty? (Discuss)

Sovereignty is a complete power given to govern a country, or the ultimate and supreme power vested in a state. Therefore the sovereignty of God is God's absolute and complete power to govern our lives and the universe without restrictions or limitations. **Simply put, God has the final say.**

Why is God sovereign? Let's locate a few reasons from the Bible.

1. **Before all things were, HE was:** God was in existence before any other thing came into being – In the beginning God.... Gen 1:1
2. **HE created all things, for His pleasure:** Genesis 1: 2 – 31; Psalm 33:6; 100:3; Job 12:7- 10; Job 33:4; Colossians 1: 15 – 17; Isaiah 43:7; Revelations 4: 11
3. **He is infallible and does not change :** Malachi 3:6; Heb. 13:8
4. **He can not lie;** Heb 6: 17- 18; Num 23: 19.
5. **The Heavens and the Earth are HIS possessions:** Psalm 24:1, Psalm 89:11-12, Psalm 115:16
6. **HIS abode is awesome:** Acts 7: 49-50, Isaiah 66:1-2

Interactive session: Discuss

If indeed the above scriptures are true about God, why then do

- i. We have problem with God's sovereignty and why do we question Him over what He does or does not do?
- ii. Few people who acknowledge God's sovereignty over their lives do so limitedly, they make Him Lord over some, but not all areas of their lives.

Biblical life application. Job chapters 1 and 2 (Lessons)

- Job is introduced as a God fearing man with a fruitful household and business Job 1: 1-5. God started a conversation about Job with Satan. Job was not a party to it neither was he briefed about the action points of the meeting. Job 1: 6 -12.
- All that **Job** had was destroyed by the Devil; even his own skin was inflicted with sores. Job 1: 13-20, Job 2:3-8
- In all these, Job was looking for God and for answers to his predicament. Job 23: 1-10
- Eventually God answered Job, but none of HIS reply seems to answer the question of Job rather, God threw more questions back at Job, questions about God's greatness, awesomeness, majesty and sovereignty. Chapters 38, 39, 40 & 41.

NB: Often, more than not, it's not because of what you have or have not done but the sovereignty of God that is at work.

Conclusion:

We do not have the right to question God's action or in-action in our lives or the lives of others. Romans 9:14-23, Isaiah 29:16. The following should be our attitude when we are faced with situations and circumstances that overwhelm us, we must accept the fact that:

- It is HE who has made us and not we ourselves Psalm100:3
- Our days and times are in HIS hands Job14:15; Psalm 31: 15
- HE knows about all we are going through. Job 23:10
- HE allows them because that is HIS path/will for us. Job 23: 14; 1Thess. 3:3; Acts 9:15&16.
- There is an ultimate good that will come at the end of it all. Job 42:10 and 12-13, Romans 8:28, James 1:2 -4; 5:11.

Prayers

Lord, help me to believe and accept your sovereignty in my life.