

OUR SOVEREIGN LORD

God is Sovereign and in complete control of everything that comes our way.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Many of us have grave situations facing us and our circle of family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. Finances, health, family, politics, careers, relationships and spiritual concerns can bring us to our knees, wondering about our future.
- ❖ Yet the foundation of our hope lies in one simple statement: God is Sovereign and God is in control!
- ❖ We must be able to make this statement in complete faith and trust. God is in total control of everything that comes our way.
- ❖ He is in control of my body. My workplace. My home. My finances. My health. My relationships. My education. My future.
- ❖ God is in control of Canada and our economy. He is in control of every national head of state. God is in control of His church. He is in control of Faith Sanctuary. God is in control of each one of us.
- ❖ Of course, as free moral agents, God allows us to exercise our free will to seize control of our own lives, if we so choose. But when we ask Him to come in and assume His control, He gladly takes the reins and exercises His sovereignty as Lord, Master, Father and King.
- ❖ In Revelation 1:8, John heard Jesus say, "I am the Alpha and the Omega." The translation for these Greek words is given at the end of verse 17: "I am the *first* and the *last*." Going back to verse 8, we see that He is "the Almighty." In chapter four, John had another vision, of "a throne set in heaven and one [who] sat on the throne" (see vv. 1-2).
- ❖ There is a throne in heaven with only one King sitting on it. We know Him by name, and we know Him through relationship. He is our Father and we are His children. Therefore, we can be totally at ease. He is in complete control of everything that could possibly come our way, and nothing escapes His attention.
- ❖ God is in control—of every aspect of our lives—and He constantly reminds us of this truth in His Word.
- ❖ We cannot allow ourselves to get into the mindset of those who ignore the written word of God. We have the Bible in our hands and it is meant for us to read.
- ❖ We need to deliberately set time aside to study His Word. In so doing, we inoculate ourselves against the worldly, godless thinking that destroys faith.
- ❖ Don't fall into the trap of thinking that God's control is only evident in the good times when He is blessing you. (The times we sing "The Lord is blessing me right now; I feel His Spirit coming down.")
- ❖ You might be in a prison cell like Paul and Silas and your back may be beaten and bloody. For them, when midnight came, it was as if they said: "Yesterday was horrible, and we are still feeling the pain of it, but today is a brand-new day. Let's start it with a song of praise and assurance: 'The Lord is blessing me right now.'"

KEY SCRIPTURES: 1 Timothy 6:11-16;
Revelation 1:8, 17, 4:1-2; Psalm 2:1-3;
Genesis 50:20

- ❖ God *is* in control. He is still on the throne. Nothing has changed. So, we never need to live in fear. Nothing is happening that is outside of His foreknowledge or understanding. Whether we are in stocks and bonds or everything seems pleasant and rosy, God is in control.
- ❖ Consider Psalm 2:1-3, (an unintentionally humorous scripture):
Why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, 3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."
- ❖ This is an extremely funny joke. The kings of the earth have met to free themselves of God. They plan to show Him who is really in control. But, as verse Psalm 2:4 states: "He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision."
- ❖ For all of the deliberations of the most powerful in our society, nothing can diminish the control God exercises over the affairs of humanity.
- ❖ Those who are chess players understand how difficult it is to control the movements of 16 pieces on one side of the board all while wary of an opponent who is trying to defeat you with the 16 pieces under their control.
- ❖ If we can have such difficulties with a simple board game, how can we humans set ourselves up against the God who is able to manage 7.5B pieces (people)—the majority of whom are fighting against His stated will and plan?
- ❖ Make no mistake, He has it all figured out.
- ❖ God *is* in control. And He is still on the throne.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you had everything in control, but then everything went wrong? Share with the group.
2. When you believe God is in control of a problem, how does your disposition change?
3. God's control is not only evident in the good times. In what bad experiences have you evidenced God's sovereign control in your life? (At what point did you call upon God and how did the situation change?)

Prayer Time

Lord, You are still on the throne and You are sovereign. Take control of my life, mind, finances, relationships—*everything*.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

✍️ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: Are you a "worrier" and if so, how does it affect you (e.g. nail-biting, sleeplessness, short temper, etc.)?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/wepprayatfaithsanctuary/>

PRAYER FOCUS: F.S. Families: for love, unity, health, financial blessings, worship in our homes, etc.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

February

Sunday 9: FS annual business meeting (after AM service)

Sunday 16: No evening service

Friday 21: Midnight Prayer

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

For email transfers, please use the following address: donate2faith@faithsanctuary.com

LIFE GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

Date: Sunday, February 16th

Place: Conference Room

Contact: Bro. Burnie Spence

MEN'S AND LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

Date: Saturday, February 22nd

Location (ladies): Faith Sanctuary

Location (men): 5555 Eglington Ave. W.

Time: 10:30 a.m. at respective locations

Contacts: Sis. Fredericka Rainford and Bro. Paul Smith

LEGAL INFORMATION

Do you have legal questions you would like addressed?

You can get help to find answers.

Dates: 1st Sunday of each month

Time: After morning service

Place: Faith Sanctuary Board Room

Contact: Bro. Andra'e Shaw

COOKING AND BAKING LIFE GROUP

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Bro. Burnie Spence @ bfs@faithsanctuary.com or in person. Space is limited, so hurry!

2020 Marriage Prep Course (5 Sessions)

Dates: Every Saturday from April 4th to May 2nd, 2020

Contact: Sis. Verona McKenzie

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

"There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand."

Proverbs 19:21 NKJV

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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