

# THE CONFIDENCE OF A DISCIPLE

(How The Sovereignty Of God Produces Great Confidence Within)  
Psalm 93:1-5

September 23, 2001 – The 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday after the New York City  
Terrorist Attacks



## “THE LORD REIGNS”

- ◆ The Resource Of God’s Sovereignty
- ◆ The Result Of God’s Sovereignty
- ◆ The Response Of God’s Sovereignty

“The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters” (Psalm 93:4)

Bill Kirk

# “The Confidence Of A Disciple”

**Text:** Psalm 93:1-5  
**Subject:** “God Is In Control”

## Introduction

- ◆ A survey of Americans was conducted this past week.
- ◆ Here are the results since the World Trade Center attack 12 days ago:
  - 3 out of 5 people are having trouble sleeping.
  - 5 out of 7 people are having trouble concentrating.
  - 4 out of 7 people are afraid.

### (So Much So That...)

...people have cancelled vacations.  
...people have voided their plane tickets.  
...people have expressed great anger and anxiety.  
...people have pulled out of the stock market.  
...people have retaliated against Arabic people.  
...people have stereotyped certain religions.  
...people have also attended church in record numbers, turning to the Lord for answers.

- ◆ One question has crossed the minds of millions these past 12 days:

“Who is in control of the destiny of man?” (or simply)  
“Who is it that is sovereign and ruling over all?”

## All Read I Timothy 6:15

(V. 15) “Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate (or Sovereign) the King of Kings and Lord of Lords”

**Question:** How does Paul describe God?

**Answer:** As the only Sovereign, (not just the Sovereign, but the only Sovereign).

**Question:** What does it mean pastor, that God is Sovereign (the only Sovereign)?

**Answer:** It means that God is over all other royalties and authorities that could challenge his power!

### (God Is Sovereign Means:)

- #1. That God has the right to govern the universe, which He has made for His own glory, just as He pleases.
- #2. God is under no one else’s rule outside of his own will and nature.
- #3. God has no serious competitors for His power and Lordship.
- #4. God cannot be over thrown by anyone, surprised by anything or defeated in any way.

### (Acts 17:24-25 Tells Us)

“God made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is the Lord of heaven and earth...He is in need of nothing and gives life and breath to all”.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ God is in a class by Himself, and all other beings depend upon His power for existence and life!

**Question:** Pastor, what gives confidence to every healthy, growing and reproducing disciple (no matter what goes on in the world)?

**Answer:** Understanding the Sovereignty of God.

**Question:** Why is it important (and very practical) to understand the Sovereignty of God?

**Answer:** Because embracing God's Sovereignty in your life will produce in you a healthy spiritual, maturing, trustworthy and biblical motivation at all times.

### From Psalm 93 "God Is In Control"

- ◆ Psalm 93 is called the Psalm of Omnipotent Sovereignty.
- ◆ It reveals that despite all opposition, Jehovah reigns.
- ◆ It was written when the nation was in danger from outside enemies.
- ◆ It was written so God's people would remember that God is in control.

### (Psalm 93 Has 3 Parts To It)

#### I. The Resource Of God's Sovereignty (Vs. 1-2)

**Question:** What are the first 3 words of Psalm 93?

**Answer:** "The Lord Reigns".

**Question:** What does it mean, "The Lord Reigns"?

1. This is a form of expression.
2. It denotes the authority of the Lord in opposition to the pride of earthly kings.
3. "The Lord reigns" means that the order of His universe cannot be broken.
4. In plain vanilla it means that God is in control!

### (Hear It With Your Heart)

- ◆ Psalm 96:10 "The Lord Reigns"
- ◆ Psalm 97:1 "The Lord Reigns"
- ◆ Psalm 99:1 "The Lord Reigns"
- ◆ Psalm 146:10 "The Lord shall reign unto all generations"
- ◆ Exodus 15:18 "The Lord shall reign for ever and ever"
- ◆ Daniel 2:44 "God of heaven has set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...it shall stand for ever"
- ◆ I Chronicles 29:11 "All that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine"
- ◆ Revelation 11:15 "He shall reign for ever and ever"
- ◆ Revelation 19:6 "Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth"

**Question:** Pastor, what is God in control of?

#### #1. God is in control of the world:

- ◆ Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein"
- ◆ Daniel 4:17 "The most high rules in the kingdom of men"
- ◆ Matthew 28:18 "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"

#### #2. God is in control of the devil:

- ◆ Job 1:12 "The Lord said to satan, behold, all that Job has is in your power, only upon himself, you cannot put your hand".
- ◆ Luke 10:19 "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the devil, and nothing shall by any means hurt you"
- ◆ Luke 4:8 "And Jesus said, get thee behind me satan, for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve"
- ◆ Psalm 37:1 - 2 "Fret not thyself because of evil doers... for evil doers shall be cut off" (Pg. 2 of 5)

**#3. God is in control of life and death:**

- ◆ Deuteronomy 32:39 “I, even I, am He, I kill, and I make alive, I wound and I heal, neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand”
- ◆ John 11:25 “I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”
- ◆ I Thessalonians 4:14 “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him”

**#4. God is in control of eternity:**

- ◆ Revelation 1:8 “I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the Ending”
- ◆ John 14:3 “I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye man be also”
- ◆ II Corinthians 5:1 “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”

**#5. God is in control of the church:**

- ◆ Colossians 1:18 “And He is the Head of the body the church...that in all things He might have the preeminence”
- ◆ Ephesians 5:23 “Christ is the head of the church”
- ◆ Matthew 16:18 “I will build My church”

**#6. God is in control of your journey and your future:**

- ◆ Psalm 37:23 “The steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord”
- ◆ Romans 8:28 “All things work together for good to them that love the Lord”
- ◆ Psalm 121:8 “The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in”

**(Why All The Fuss?)  
Because God Is In Control Of:**

- ◆ The World!   ◆ The Devil!   ◆ The Grave!   ◆ Eternity!   ◆ The Church!   ◆ Your Future!

**II. The Result Of God’s Sovereignty (Vs. 3-4)**

**Question:** Why does the Lord want us to know that He is in control?

**Answer:** Because of what we all face in Verses 3 & 4 of Psalm 93:

- #1. “Floods lift up their voice”
- #2. “Floods lift up their waves”

**Question:** What does the flood represent?

**Answer:** The flood here represents the turbulent times of adversity for God’s people:

- ◆ Anything that opposes your progress.
- ◆ Any suffering that seeks to rob you of your allegiance to God.
- ◆ Unexpected disappointments to derail your confidence that God is in control.

**Question:** Pastor, why does God allow suffering to touch His people? (Floods and waves)

**Answer:** To wean us and reveal to us one thing:

- ◆ Are we riding the glory train because we love the engineer, or because we seek the train’s destination?
- ◆ Do we love God when trouble comes?
- ◆ Are we loyal only when it pays off for us?
- ◆ Do we love God based only on His performance to us (meeting our expectations)?

**Illustration**

- ◆ Dad is begged by his kids to go to Disneyworld,
- ◆ Dad says yes and the kids shout their approval for good O dad. "We love you dad".
- ◆ But what if dad can't go to Disneyworld? What if the answer is "NO"?
- ◆ Can the kids still praise and love dad when a "NO" answer comes?
- ◆ This praise for dad tells dad that the kids love is valid (truly valid).
- ◆ It is not based upon whether the kids get their wants satisfied.
- ◆ It is based upon the character of dad.
- ◆ This is what our Father wants from us! (Why?)
- ◆ Because it demonstrates to the world that God has our vote everyday (regardless of the calamities that come our way).
- ◆ And we can only love God in the floods and waves if we know that He is Sovereign and always in charge!!

**"GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY (By William Cowper)**

God moves in a mysterious way  
 His wonders to perform;  
 He plants His footsteps in the sea,  
 And rides upon the storm.  
 Deep in unfathomable mines  
 Of never-failing skill,  
 He treasures up His bright designs  
 And works His sovereign will.  
 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,  
 The clouds ye so much dread  
 Are big with mercy, and shall break  
 In blessings on your head.  
 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,  
 But trust Him for His grace,  
 Behind a frowning providence  
 He hides a smiling face.  
 His purposes will ripen fast,  
 Unfolding every hour;  
 The bud may have a bitter taste,  
 But sweet will be the flower.  
 Blind unbelief is sure to err,  
 And scan His work in vain,  
 God is His own interpreter,  
 And He will make it plain.

**Charles Spurgeon wrote this about suffering:**

"Suffering is allowed by God to keep successful saints humble, to make them tender towards others, and to enable them to bear the high honors which the Heavenly Father puts upon them"

**Question:** What happens when we refuse to be a Disneyworld disciple?

**(God's Sovereignty Produces)**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| #1. A deep security inside. | #2. A deep comfort in pain, #3. A deep joy within, |
| #4. A deep song of praise,  | #5. A deep sense of reverence.                     |

**III. The Response To God's Sovereignty (V. 5)**

**Question:** Pastor, how do I respond to the Sovereign God (who rules over all)?

**Answer:** (V. 5) "Thy testimonies are very sure, holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, for ever"  
"Holiness becometh thy house O Lord" (Means:)

- ◆ Something is expected of us if we would draw nigh to God.
- ◆ Holiness means: Set apart wholly for God's purpose.
- ◆ It is another invitation to "Narrow our interests".
- ◆ It is a call to ditch anything that divides our allegiance to God.
- ◆ Charles Simeon was born in 1759.
- ◆ He was a great leader in the Anglican church in Great Britain.
- ◆ Simeon's test for all preaching was 4 questions:

- #1. Does it humble the sinner?      #3. Does it exalt the Savior?**  
**#2. Does it build the believer?      #4. Does it provoke us to be holy?**

(In Other Words...)

- ◆ ...Do I allow God to draw me to Himself,  
    ...To humble me before man,  
    ...To wean me away from all interference,  
    ...To set my affections on what promotes my spiritual growth.
- ◆ Hudson Taylor was the missionary God used to open up the interior of China to the gospel.
- ◆ He founded the China Inland Mission.
- ◆ In his biography I found this statement:

**"One who serves a King should expect a King's supply, as long as he operates under the King's command"**

**Question:** Are you operating under the King's command?

**Question:** Have you responded to verse 5?

**Question:** Do you need assurance that God is in control of your life?

- ◆ It only comes to the degree that we make the only Sovereign God – Lord over all.

**Conclusion – All Read: II Kings 6:8-17**

1. Israel was being attacked by Syria.
2. Elisha provided intelligence service through the word of knowledge.
3. The Syrians planned an ambush (v. 8).
4. The enemy was frustrated by Elisha's secret service to the king of Israel.
5. In v. 15, Elisha's servant sees only the multitude of the enemy.
6. In v. 16, Elisha says "Fear Not".
7. In v. 17, Elisha prays "Lord, open my servants eyes that he may see".

(V. 17) "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man – and he saw chariots of fire around Elisha.

**Question:** What was revealed to Elisha's servant after Elisha prayed?

**Answer:** That regardless of what surrounds you, **God is in control?**

Altar Call,  
Bill Kirk, Pastor