



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Philippians 2:14-16

Do All Things

Without Grumbling and Questioning

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Philippians 2:14-16

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain

What is your theology on Sovereignty and Suffering

If you have an unbiblical view of suffering/trials/persecution there is no hope in obeying these verses.

God is sovereign over everything

This does NOT merely mean that He is able to control all things, but it means He DOES control all things

- **Isaiah 46:10** *Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose’*
- **Proverbs 16:33** *The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD*
- **Proverbs 16:9** *The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps*
- **Proverbs 21:1** *The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.*
- **Acts 17:26** *And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,*

What is your theology on Sovereignty and Suffering?

God is sovereign over everything

- **Ephesians 1:4-6** *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*
- **Acts 13:48** *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*
- **Romans 8:28** *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*
- **Genesis 45:8** *So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.*

What is your theology on Sovereignty and Suffering?

God is sovereign over everything

- **James 4:13-16** *Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— 14yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. 15Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” 16As it is, you boast in your arrogance.*
- **James 1:2-4** *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*
- **1 Peter 4:12-13** *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed....v19 Therefore **let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.***

Sovereignty and Suffering

Our understanding of God's sovereignty in all things, including: creation, chance, world, government, kings/presidents, our steps, our salvation, our sanctification, our perseverance, our trials, our suffering, our persecution, our spiritual warfare, and every other aspect of our life, will have a great impact on this verse.

Scripture clearly teaches God is sovereign over all things (every event, including our suffering/trials)

This does not mean God is culpable for evil (James 1:13), and it does not mean we are not responsible.

Do all things without grumbling and questioning

Do you ever find yourself reading “Exodus or Numbers” regarding the people of Israel, and after seeing all God had promised, had done for them and was doing for them, and then seeing their response (doubting, grumbling, complaining); find yourself asking “What is wrong with these people?”

Isn't it easier to see the vileness of their sin, and yet we struggle to see the vileness of the same sin in our lives?

1 Corinthians 10:6-12 *Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11Now these things happened to them as an example, **but they were written down for our instruction**, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*

God is immutable-He is unchanging. He is the same yesterday, today and forever Heb. 13:8)

Do all things without grumbling and questioning

What we find so detestable regarding their sin of grumbling, we should find in our own grumbling and questioning. (God does)

- Possibly even more offensive with us (not all Israel was Israel Rom 9:6)

There is no question that “grumbling” is an offense to God

What is so offensive about it?

Grumbling : a murmuring, a muttering (low voice), an inward displeasure

- Complaining expressed through a bad attitude

We grumble because we expect something different (Wrong expectations)

- The basis of our expectations is that “we feel deserve better”
- What do we deserve?

Do all things without grumbling and questioning

Grumbling : a murmuring, a muttering (low voice), an inward displeasure

- Complaining expressed through a bad attitude
- Knowing what we deserve (wrath) to complain believing we deserve better, makes it even more offensive

Knowing that God is sovereign over all things, and He is working all things together for good, to grumble as a believer is to not believe.

- It is to say to God, “I can’t trust You or Your Word”
- Grumbling is an emotional rejection of God’s will and providence

What kind of things do you grumble about?

- Marriage/Spouse, children, church, not being married, not having children, suffering, how long the trial is taking, “It’s too much/Not fair”, Health, Job
- Do you justify your grumbling? Or excuse a little of it?
- All of it is sin (because all of it is rooted in distrust towards God)
- Grumbling says to God “You’re not trustworthy”

Do all things without grumbling and questioning

Where there is grumbling there will be questioning.

Questioning : inward reasoning, doubting

- When you allow a negative attitude to linger, it breeds questioning/doubting God
- We arrogantly begin to think we know better
- “Where grumbling is emotionally complaining to God, questioning is intellectually debating with God”
 - It is believing we know better (a better way)

Have you ever read the book of Job? Did you think chapter one was enough?

- It wasn't (Human reasoning says it was enough, Divine Omniscience says “What I do is perfect”)
- **Isaiah 55:8-9** *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither 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.*
- **Romans 9:20-21** *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?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay*

Do all things without grumbling and questioning

God has shown His love toward us
in the gospel of Jesus Christ

- He has made Himself known in His Word, and shown Himself to be trustworthy
- He has given countless promises to build our hope, He has revealed the end and shown us that He will persevere us
- He has given us His Spirit, the guarantee of our inheritance, and given all we need for life and holiness
- He has adopted us into His family and made us joint heirs with Christ
- He has NEVER failed us or forsaken us
- He is causing all things to work together for good in our lives

And yet, we grumble and question Him

*Do all things without
grumbling and questioning*

**Take your current grumbling
and current questioning**

And turn to Job 38-42