



## Passive or Co-Laborer?

In society, those who depend on the government often live a lifestyle of passivity. If the government controls everything for equity, why work hard, excel, or be proactive when, in the long run, you receive the same benefits and outcomes as the lazy person regardless of your efforts? Similarly, those who believe God controls everything or that God's will happens automatically may question the need for action. If God controls everything, what is the point of standing on God's promises, praying, resisting the devil, or developing faith when God's will occurs regardless of our beliefs?

Some even go so far as to believe that if God controls everything, He allows evil, sickness, poverty, pain, and death as part of His will. As a result, they passively accept these things, thinking they are a godly device to humble them, grow them, or chastise them. Suddenly, they begin expecting negative events to progress to the next tier of faith and holiness.

It is not God who allows tragedies to happen. Many things occur every day in this fallen world that go against God's will. In many instances, our wrong choices bring us hardship. Additionally, our wrong beliefs and lack of revelation of the Word cause us sufferings. (Hos. 4:6) In other cases, our problems are nothing but attacks from the devil. In some cases, natural forces in a fallen world cause us pain. But one thing is certain: none of these are God's will. Yet many believe that everything negative that happens is God's will—He either allows or authors it. They pray for God's will to heal, prosper, restore, and etc., and if nothing happens, they conclude it must have been God's will. However, this perspective is absolutely wrong.

In my personal life, I prayed for my mother's healing when she contracted COVID-19, but she passed away. I had performed through the Holy Spirit many healings previously as I prayed for people. I didn't understand what had happened and sought the Lord to see where I had missed it. One thing I was certain of at the time, based on God's Word, was that God didn't take my mother's life, nor did He allow the disease to enter her body. Everything that happened to her was not God's will. It's real easy to try to fit our experiences into God's Word instead of judging our experiences by God's Word. Much of this wrong belief stems from people creating doctrines based on their experiences. But God's Word remains true whether we experience its promises or not.

Accepting the belief that God controls everything will not only cause you to live spiritually passive but also allows Satan free access into your life to cause as much harm as possible. Believing "If God allowed this in my life, then it must be God's will" is tantamount to digging

up your own grave because you will eventually attribute every negative event to God's work and passively accept all these things in your life.

**2 Peter 3:9, NIV**

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

The truth is it's not in God's will for anyone to perish yet many do. This means God doesn't control all outcomes nor does God's will automatically happen—His grace must be believed. He requires our cooperation and response to bring His will into our lives and into this world.

*But isn't God sovereign?*

I believe God is sovereign. He is God Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth. But if your idea of sovereignty is that God controls everything, then that's wrong. Though God is supreme, He limited Himself when He created man in His image and gave dominion over the earth to man (Ps. 115:16). From that point on, God worked through His people to accomplish His will. This is why it took five thousand years from the fall of man until Jesus came as a man to redeem what the first Adam had done. He spoke His Word through prophets across generations until the Word, His Seed, manifested and conceived in Mary. God had to do it this way because He couldn't violate His own Word.

**Ephesians 3:20, NKJV**

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”

God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, above, all. There's nothing impossible for God. Every believer in Christ I know agrees with the first half of this verse. But then the majority of the same believers in Christ never see the first half of the verse come to pass because they miss the second half of the verse: “...according to the power that works in us.” God put a limitation on Himself with that phrase. In other words, God will not move independent of us. The reason why we don't see God do exceedingly, abundantly, above, all in our circumstances is because we're not responding with the power that is working in us. Without us, He will not do it.

**1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV**

“For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.”

Once we realize that God will not act without us, a paradigm shift occurs, and we see ourselves as co-laborers with Christ. We are so united in spirit with Christ that we can bring heaven to earth in the name of Jesus—as if Jesus Himself were doing it. That's radical.

The grace of Christ will not cause us to be passive. On the contrary, the more grace you believe, the more you will discover your identity in Christ and the more you will operate the way Jesus operated here on earth to bring the Father's will. Amen.

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