

THE DOCTRINE OF CONCURRENCE

Pastor Donn Jibben

Introduction:

The longer that I live and serve and follow God the more I have come to learn that God is Sovereign and that nothing happens by chance! Also, I see more and more evidence of the hand of God on my life all of the time, both in the good times as in times of trials and pain.

Friends, we are not alone in the Universe. The created universe, which includes our lives, is not run by natural law in and of itself. God our creator is involved in the affairs of mankind and He is on control.

It appears to me that in our current time period there are many who are very sceptic of the existence of God and who is in control. I am here today to say that God who created the Universe is not merely a watchman over His creation.

Illustration: R C Sproul uses the illustration of a mountain climber. He is clinging for life on the side of the mountain several thousand feet above ground level.

“Is there anyone up there who can help me?” Yes, I am here and I can help and I will help. **All you have to do is let go. “Is there anyone else up there?”**

God is personally involved and God is in control. What He creates, He sustains. This, in theological terms is what we call Divine Sustenance.

Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

The Hebrew verb “bara” translated “create” expresses the meaning that what God creates He also holds and sustains of the power of its being. Another words, nothing can exist in and of itself apart from God, (intrinsic power.)

Col. 1:15-17. “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones

or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together.”

- Jerry Bridges – “nothing exists of its own inherent power of being, nothing in all creation stands or acts independently of the Lord’s will.”
- Augustine – “nothing therefore happens unless the omnipotent wills it to happen. He either permits it to happen or He brings it about Himself.”

The providence of God also includes the concept of God that sees all things. The prefix “pro” means “before” or “beforehand.” The root word providence comes from the Latin word meaning “video” and literally means “seeing.”

God therefore sees everything that takes place in the Universe and in our personal lives. He is never caught by surprise and He is not a helpless by-stander!

[Prov. 15:3.](#) “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch over the wicked and the good.”

[Matt. 10:29-31.](#) Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one will land to the ground apart from the will of the Father. Even the hairs are numbered on your head. You are worth far more than many sparrows.”

The providence and sovereignty of God is more often than not invested in the events in life which were by you considered unexpected or unimportant. Why is this?

[Isaiah 55:8-9.](#) For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.

God’s ways and thoughts are indeed much higher than ours!! God is infinite, we are finite, God is unlimited, we are limited! God has the Divine and Eternal in mind we have the temporal in mind.

- Elisabeth Elliot
- “God knows the way that you take; you don’t know His.”

Personal Illustration:

In Jan. 2003 we moved from Southern MO to MN to pastor a new church. It was a very difficult assignment. And it was a very painful time for me. But while there, I met a man by the name of Kevin B. We became good friends. Kevin eventually moved here to DFW to the Southlake to sell Real Estate. He also started attending Gateway Church.

He invited me to come for a visit, I came to visit, the H Spirit spoke to me, I obeyed and stepped out in faith and my family and I relocated here.

Was this by chance that I relocated to MN and that I met Kevin? Was it by chance that I came to DFW to visit? Or did God have His hand upon all that transpired? Was God working out His divine and perfect will for my life in spite of my trials and pain? I will let you decide.

Today I like to instruct you on the Doctrine of Concurrence.

I have two Biblical examples that we will look at that will help us greatly to come to a greater understanding of this Theological truth, The Doctrine of Concurrence.

- They are the examples of Joseph and Jesus Christ.

The fundamental Christian belief is that God has from all eternity, ordained whatsoever comes to pass. Disbelief in God's sovereign governing of all things means disbelief in God himself.

If one allows chance to possibly be responsible for events (good or bad) one is therefore, believing in atheism.

Chance only describes a mathematical concept of probability. It can never ever prescribe anything. Chance can do nothing.

God can all things and nothing is too difficult or hard for Him! God has much greater Divine and Eternal purpose in why he does the things he does and allows the things he allows!

The God we know, we love and serve is a Sovereign God!

Man therefore does not have the right to question God.

[\(Read Dan. 4:34-35.\) His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He](#)

pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him, "what have you done."

When looking at the Doctrine of Concurrence these 3 parts are important;

1. Human choices and actions are part of the overall providential scheme of things.
2. God brings His perfect will to pass by the free decisions of His moral agents.
3. The fact that man's free will decisions fits into the overarching plans of God in no way lessens the reality of that freedom.

The Doctrine of Concurrence defined: A descriptive term that describes what takes place with the God of the Universe and man's free will. It describes but does not explain exhaustively the relationship between man's free will and God's providential sovereign and perfect will.

Let's look closer at two Biblical examples – Joseph & Jesus Christ.

- I. What about Joseph? Read Gen 37:1-28.
 - A. What does the text say the reason was that his brothers sold Joseph as a slave?
Jealousy.
 - B. In 45:1-8 what does Joseph say was the reason?
God sent him ahead to preserve life.
 - C. In 50:15-20, what motive did Joseph attribute to his brothers? Evil against him.
What motive does he attribute to God? God meant it for good to save many lives.
 - D. Did Joseph endure some suffering thru the process and time table of fulfilling God's will for his life
 - E. Was God working behinds the scenes working all things for His glory and the good of Joseph?
 - F. What does the life of Joseph teach us clearly about the Doctrine of concurrence?
- II. What about Jesus Christ?
Read Matt. 26:42; John 10:14-18; Acts 2:23, 4:27-28.
 - A. What part did God play in the crucifixion of Jesus?

God offered up Jesus Christ to fulfill His perfect will for the redemption of mankind.

- B. What part did Herod, Pilate and the Jews play?
They willfully chose to crucify him.
- C. What evidence do you see from scripture itself that the various kinds of people involved acted of their own free will and choices?
- D. What evidence do you see that these people did what God had ordained them to do?
- E. Did Jesus Christ endure some suffering thru the process and time table of fulfilling God's will for his life?
- F. Was God working behind the scenes working our His perfect and divine will?
- G. What does the crucifixion teach us about the Doctrine of Concurrence?

III. What about YOU?

- A. What have you gone thru or what are currently going thru today that has you questioning God?
- B. Does the situation make you think that God has possibly abandoned you?
- C. Have the hands of evil people played a big part?
- D. Do you think that God is possible involved behind the scenes working out His perfect and divine will for your life?
- E. Have you had to endure some hardships and suffering thru the process in fulfilling Gods will for your life?
- F. Do you believe that God will write the final chapter and work all things out for your good?

Rom. 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to His purposes."

- G. Can you see a clearer picture of the hand of God now in your life?
- H. Does this give you greater HOPE to see circumstances thru to the end better now than before ever, even if there is some suffering involved?

In Conclusion:

FRIENDS, GOD CAN HELP AND GOD WILL HELP! NOTHING IS TOO HARD OR DIFFICULT FOR HIM! SO I ENCOURAGE YOU TODAY TO PUT YOUR COMPLETE TRUST IN HIM!

WHY DO SO?

BECAUSE GOD IS PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN YOUR SITUATION AND HE IS WORKING THINGS OUT FOR HIS GLORY AND FOR YOUR GOOD!!

ALL BECAUSE HE LOVES YOU SO VERY MUCH

TAKE COURAGE MY FRIEND GODS HAND IS ON YOUR LIFE AND HIS EYE IS ON YOU JUST AS IT IS UPON EVERY SPARROW! TRUST HIM MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!!

- C S LEWIS
- “HARDSHIPS OFTEN PREPARE ORDINARY PEOPLE FOR EXTRAORDINARY DESTINY.”

John 16:33. “In This world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world.”

Friends, it is by Jesus Christ that all things were created and by him that all things hold together!

IT IS TO HIM WE OWE ULTIMATE OBEDIENCE AND ALLIEGENCE TOO!

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYING TO YOU THRU THIS TEACHING?

JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! (Phil. 2:10-11)

LET US PRAY

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Donn Jibben