

Heartland Christian Center
www.heartlandchristiancenter.com
Pastor Phil Willingham
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PRINCIPLES FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE (Part One)

I. General observation

A. These PRINCIPLES begin and end with **God**.

1. He's **God** and we're **not**.

"But he stands alone, and who can oppose him? He does whatever he pleases." (Job 23:13)

"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted." (Job 42:2)

"Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him." (Psalm 115:3)

"The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths." (Psalm 135:6)

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him." (Psalm 135:19-21)

"He knows what lies in darkness." He sets up kings and then dethrones them. He orders the times and seasons. He even sees the hidden things because the darkness is not dark to him." (Daniel 2:20-22)

"Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. 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?' ... Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble." (Daniel 4:34-35, 37)

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 'Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?' 'Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen" (Romans 11:33-36).

“In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will.” (Ephesians 1:11)

Paraphrase: *“He arranged everything so that all things are working out just as he planned a long time ago.”*

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: ‘Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!’” (Revelation 19:6-7)

2. Every time the Bible writers speak of God’s sovereignty, it always leads them to **praise**.

Lucifer’s realization: *“I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” (Isaiah 14:13-14)*

II. God’s Freedom

- A. He is absolutely **free** to do whatever he wants to do.
- B. He has the **right** to deal with us any way he chooses.
- C. He doesn’t have to **treat** me the way he treats my next-door neighbor.
- D. He doesn’t have to treat me **today** the way he treated me **yesterday**.
- E. He can **answer** my prayers any way he chooses.
- F. He will not tolerate any **rivals** to his throne.
- G. He is not obligated to live up to my **expectations** or to **explain** himself to me.

III. Our Response

- A. We can **reject** the First Principle and decide to **fight** against it.
- B. **Submission** leads on to joyful **praise**.

“Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.” Psalm 115:3

Our basic problem is that we have allowed God to be everywhere but on his throne.

“The Lord is God and there is no other!”