

God's Sovereign Choice

Key Scriptures

Romans 9:6-16 ⁶ But it is not that the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, ⁷ nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

⁸ That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac

¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice with God? Certainly not!

¹⁵ For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

¹⁶ So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

Key Point: God has not abandoned His people, Israel.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- When have you won something unexpected? (a trip, award, money, achievement, office, game etc.?)

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

Take some time as a group to read through Romans 9:1-33. Feel free to note any problems and questions you may have as you read through it.

- What would be the modern Christian equivalent of the statement in v.6-7 "*they are not* all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham?"
- Why does it matter whether or not God's promises have failed?
- In v. 16, to whom is Paul referring when He says, "him who wills nor him who runs."

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Why do the doctrines of divine sovereignty and election make so many people uncomfortable (or even angry)?
- Based on what you know about God & man, which of these statements is more shocking: "Jacob I have loved" or "Esau I hated"? Explain.
- How does the fact that your salvation is entirely the result of God's election move you to greater gratitude?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Purposefully think of neighbors or co-workers/class mates who are far from God. Pray for them daily and ask God to give you opportunities to share the gospel with them.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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