

*S*OVEREIGNTY, *S*UFFERING,  
AND *S*YMPATHY  
A Thematic Study in Job

**THE GLORY OF GOD**



*What types of things motivate  
people?*

*How does this differ for believers  
vs. unbelievers?*

IN HIS HAND  
**SUFFERING** **SOVEREIGNTY** **SYMPATHY**  
"In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."  
Job 12:10

# KEY CONCEPTS: GOD'S FREEDOM

God is completely free by nature

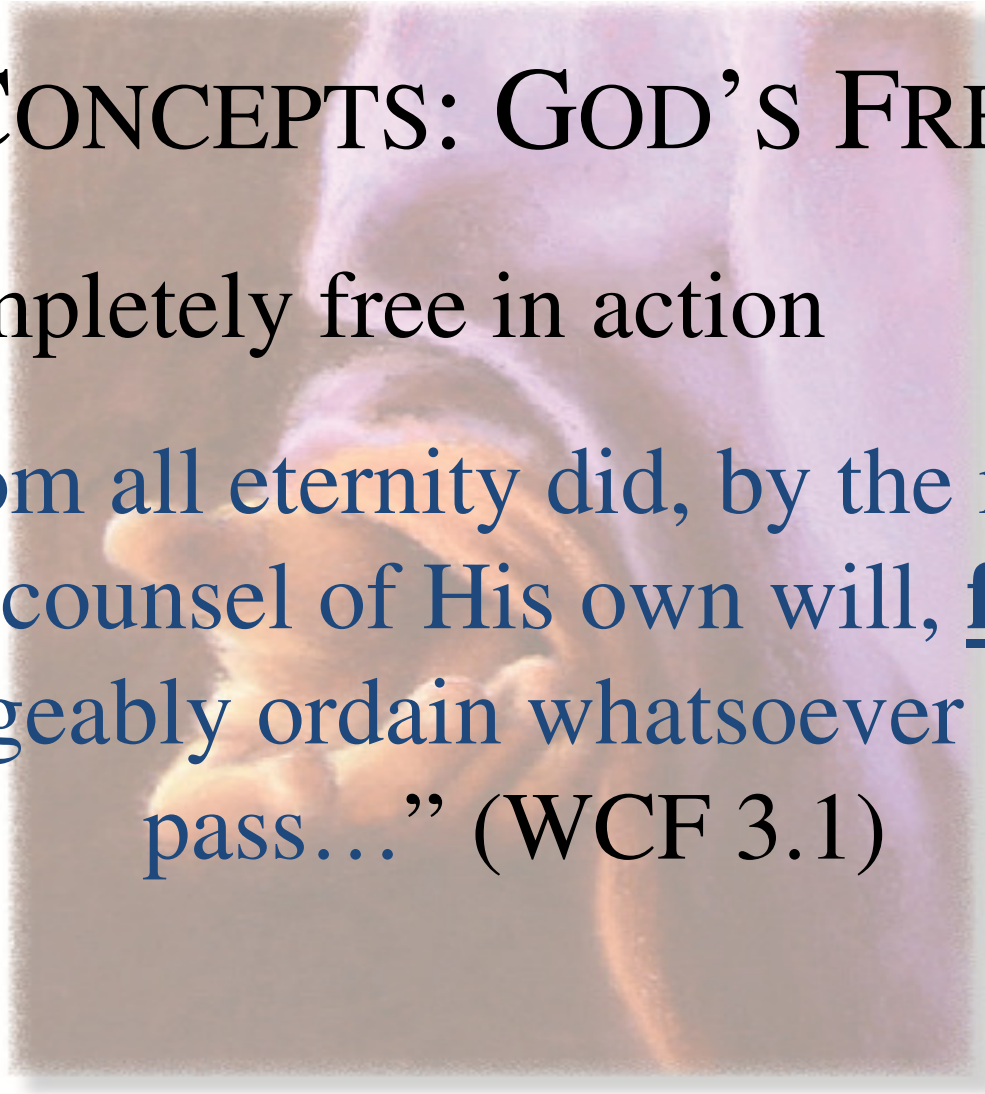
“There is but one only, living, and true God: who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute ...” (WCF 2.1)

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# KEY CONCEPTS: GOD'S FREEDOM

God is completely free in action

“God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass...” (WCF 3.1)



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# KEY CONCEPTS: GOD'S GLORY

## Intrinsic glory

“God hath all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them: He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things...” (WCF 2.2)

SUFFERING

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SYMPATHY

# KEY CONCEPTS: GOD'S GLORY

Ascribed glory

**WSC Q. 1.** What is the chief end of man?

**A.** Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever.



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PRINCIPLE #6: GOD'S  
PLAN IS DIRECTED  
TOWARD HIS GLORY

IN HIS HAND  
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# PRINCIPLE #6: FREEDOM/GLORY

Everything God does is for His glory

Isaiah 42:8

Isaiah 43:7

1 Peter 2:9

1 Corinthians 10:31

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# PRINCIPLE #6: NT ILLUSTRATION

The man born blind **John 9:2-3**

“Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit. This their sin God was pleased, according to His wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to His own glory.”

(WCF 6.1)

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# PRINCIPLE #6: OUR RESPONSE

Awareness of weakness

10:15

Focus on the Mediator

9:32-25; 16:19

Recognition of sovereignty

14:5; cf. Psalm 139:16

SUFFERING

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SYMPATHY

# PRINCIPLE #6: OUR RESPONSE

## God's Grace

“You have granted  
me life and  
lovingkindness; And  
Your care has  
preserved my spirit”  
(10:12)

## Man's Effort

“For He pays a man  
according to his  
work, And makes  
him find it according  
to his way” (34:11)

SUFFERING

SOVEREIGNTY

SYMPATHY

*“In His hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.”*  
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# PRINCIPLE #6: OUR RESPONSE

Resolve toward personal holiness    27:3-4    28:23-28

## Contentment

“We aim at God’s glory, when we are content that God’s will should take place, though it may cross ours. Lord, I am content to be a loser, if thou be a gainer; to have less health, if I have more grace, and thou more glory [Matthew 26:39; John 12:28] ... Many pray, ‘Let this cup pass away,’ but few, ‘Thy will be done.’” (Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 11, 17)

SUFFERING    *IN HIS HAND*    SOVEREIGNTY    SYMPATHY  
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# PRINCIPLE #6: OUR RESPONSE

## Cheerfulness

“We glorify God by walking cheerfully. It brings glory to God, when the world sees a Christian has that within him that can make him cheerful in the worst times; that can enable him ... to sing with a thorn at his breast.” (Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, 14)

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