

God is in control

Ephesians 1:1

Ephesians begins with the most important and central theme of the entire Bible- God.

Knowing who you are, what to do, and how to do it begins with knowing who God is, what he is doing, and how he is doing it.

New Life 101: Foundational truths for a faithful Christian life

Foundational Truth: God is in control

1. Paul is an apostle of Christ Jesus

Paul's ministry and message carry the authority of Christ.

2. Paul's conversion and calling are by the will of God

The two meanings for "the will of God" in the Bible are:

1. God's will of decree (or sovereign will)
2. God's will of command.

God's "will of decree" (or "sovereign will") is his sovereign control of all things that cannot be broken and always comes to pass.

God's will of command is what he commands us to do and we can disobey and fail to do it. The will of decree we do whether we believe in it or not. The will of command we can fail to do.

Paul's conversion and calling are the result of God's will of decree.

Paul is God's "chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

Challenge: Commit to living your life by the will of God.

1. Trust God's purpose and plan for your life by placing your hope and faith in Jesus Christ
2. Trust God's control and timing in your life
3. Fulfill God's plans by being faithful to his commands