**The struggle of prayer**

Recap

The question we’re exploring today:

**If God already knows, why pray?**

“Can we believe that God really modifies his action in response to the suggestions of men? For infinite wisdom does not need telling what is best, and infinite goodness needs no urging to do it.”

* C.S Lewis

The question behind the question: God’s sovereignty

The example of the early church: Acts 4:23-30

“if God is sovereign, why pray?” vs

“if God is sovereign, we must pray!”

So how does this all work?

2 things the Bible always holds together:

1. **God is always completely in control**
2. In control of every bit of creation

Psalm 145:15-16; 148:8; Jeremiah 51:15-16; Matthew 6:26

1. Governing all of human history

Psalm 33:10; Isaiah 10:5-13; 14:24-27; 37:26; 45:11-13

1. Directing even individual lives

Proverbs 16:9, 21:1; Isaiah 45:1; Jer. 1:5

1. Stands personally behind events

Psalm 65:9-11; John 5:17; Col. 1:17

*Wrong path #1: Fatalism*

1. **Humans are morally responsible creatures who make choices that matter**

Leviticus 19:1; Joshua 24:15; Rom. 10:9, 13; 1 Cor. 9:19

*Wrong path #2: God’s limitation*

The chords of God’s sovereignty and human responsibility are interwoven together (eg. Acts 2:23, 13:27-29; Phil 2:12-13)

How the world is run

Implications for prayer

Further reading: *How Long, O Lord? – D.A Carson*