

Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he'll make your paths straight.

Responding to God's Sovereignty...

In Others

"Come, Mr. Frodo!" he cried. "I can't carry it for you, but I can carry you and it as well. So up you get! Come on, Mr. Frodo dear! Sam will give you a ride..."

Frodo opened his eyes and drew a breath... "Thank you, Sam" he said in a cracked whisper. "How far is there to go?"

"I don't know," said Sam, "because I don't know where we're going."

*J.R.R. Tolkien, **The Lord of the Rings Trilogy***

How Do We "Carry" Others?

1. We can pray for change

Hebrews 4:16

Mark 14:35-36

2. We can suffer with others

We are a body – 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

We are called to suffer for doing good – 1 Peter 2:20-21

Jesus gave an example of how he wanted to be helped – Mark 14:34, 41

3. We can help people hold onto their faith

Matthew 11:2-3

Who was John the Baptist?

Predicted – *Isaiah 40:3, Luke 1:5-23*

He baptized Jesus – *John 1:32-34*

Jesus affirms John – *Matthew 11:11*

Jesus reminds him of what he knows – *Matthew 11:4-6*

Quoting Isaiah – *Luke 4:18-19*

4. We change

1 Corinthians 12:22-23

**Responding to God's Sovereignty...
In Ourselves**

1. We can pray for change

Hebrews 4:16

Mark 14:35-36

2 Corinthians 12:8-9

2. We see from the examples of Jesus and Paul that sometimes God will deliver us from what we are facing and sometimes he won't. He will accomplish his purposes.

Shadrach/Meshach/Abednego – *Daniel 3:27*

Revelation regarding martyrs – *Revelation 6:11*

3. What can be learned through our suffering?

Obedience – *Hebrews 5:8*

Dependence – *Proverbs 3:5*

So...

if the sovereignty of God is not difficult in your life, reach out to those for whom it is and "carry them."

If God's sovereignty is difficult for you, ask God to help you trust him.

Now What? Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he'll make your paths straight.