

# Prayer and Predestination

***Does prayer change things? Do our prayers matter if God knows the future?***

## **Sermon Questions**

1. "Why pray if the outcome is already fixed?" Have you ever asked this question before? (Yes/No)
2. Paul desired to see who saved? \_\_\_\_\_
3. And so what did he do? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Romans 9, what explains the Jews rejection and the Gentiles acceptance of the good news of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
5. One way in which some reconcile Romans 9 & 10 is to redefine or deny predestination (Yes/No)
6. Complete the two reasons why this doesn't solve any problems:
  - i. God still *knows* the \_\_\_\_\_ so how can our prayers change it?
  - ii. God's work is not decisive in \_\_\_\_\_ so why pray to him?
7. The key to understand prayer and predestination is this: God has determined both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. List two examples of this in Scripture:  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Complete the four clarifications and considerations:
  - i. We don't know who or who is not of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ii. Since God determines the ends, we must pray for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. Since God determines the means, we must \_\_\_\_\_ with souls as we pray for souls.
  - iv. Rather than stifling evangelism and prayer, this encourages it and \_\_\_\_\_ its success.

## **Want more verses on election besides Romans 9 for further study?**

Ephesians 1:4 says, *“even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world.”* And verse 11 says, *“In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.”*

Jesus says in John 6:37, *“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.”* And later in verse 44 he says, *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”*

Acts 13:48 says, *“as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.”*

1 Corinthians 1:30 says, *“It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”*

2 Thessalonians 2:13–14 says, *“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (This verse puts the ends and means together!)

Isaiah 46:9–11 says, *“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.... I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.’”*

## **Book recommendation for further reading?**

*Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* by J.I. Packer