



STUDY GUIDE

RIGHT WITH GOD 8.30.2015

[set up]

How do you deal with tension?

What produces great tension in your life?

Is it ok to have tension when it comes to spiritual matters?

Is it possible to experience the peace of God and yet still experience tension in our lives?

[digging deeper]

This last weekend, our teaching panel addressed 3 major themes that produce questions and tensions from the book of Romans:

- 1- Predestination (see <http://www.gotquestions.org/unconditional-election.html> for a good summary)
- 2- Law and grace (see <https://carm.org/law-and-gospel> for a good summary)
- 3- Genuine salvation (see <http://www.gotquestions.org/perseverance-saints.html> for a good summary)

What have you learned about these doctrines through our “Right with God” series in the book of Romans so far?

Where have you experienced a new understanding or shift related to the above doctrines?
What do you still struggle with related to these doctrines?

When it comes to spiritual tension on tough Biblical topics, we can get good information and instruction from God’s Word, but there is eventually a threshold where we surrender to God’s sovereignty over our thoughts and feelings. Look up the following verses. How do they help us to trust God when we have doubts, confusion, spiritual tension and difficulty accepting Biblical passages?

Prov. 3:5,6
Rom. 8:28

Job 9:10-12
Rom. 12:2

Job 38:1-5
Rom. 11:33-36

1 Cor. 1:20-25
Is. 40:28

Is. 55:8-9

On Isaiah 55:8-9: *“Very often must the great Truth of God expressed by this Scripture have forced itself upon every thoughtful mind. Though we think and are so far like God because, being intelligent beings, we have thoughts of our own, yet our thoughts must forever be weak and fragmentary as compared with His thoughts. And though, as free agents, we have ways of our own choice—in some of which we move with great show of wisdom—yet our ways are upon the earth and cannot attain to the ways of the Lord which are far above us.*

This is true as to His proceedings in Providence. God's designs are vast and far-reaching and His methods are frequently strange and inscrutable, though always wise. We have little plans to suit our little foresight and power, but His ways are unsearchable! Oftentimes He brings light of excessive brightness out of darkness more dense than usual and produces superior joys out of extraordinary sorrows. In infinite wisdom He causes the most furious storms to cast up upon the shore the pearl of peace. He is wonderful both in counsel and in working and always chooses that way in which His Glory is most abundantly displayed. Our way, which for a time we think to be the best, when scanned by the enlightened eye soon turns out to be as much beneath God's way of accomplishing the desired purpose as the earth is beneath the heavens. Compared with Him our wisdom is folly and our prudence madness. (from Sermon 1387 by C.H. Spurgeon, "God's Thoughts and Ways Far Above Ours")

How does this reinforce what we can learn from the earlier verses?

Can you still believe in Christ, trust in Christ, and follow Christ even if you don't agree with or understand aspects of the Bible or how God chooses to accomplish His will?

Are we then supposed to just flippantly accept all things by faith without pursuing any deeper understanding? (See Josh 1:8; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 3:14-17)

How does the reaction of Job in Job 42:1-6 help us respond to our own big spiritual questions/tensions?

[living it out]

How have you been most encouraged by this time? How has your faith grown?

How can you take something you learned from this time and encourage someone else and help their faith grow?

Who is someone that comes to mind who would greatly benefit from a LifeGroup environment like you have today? _____

Will you pray for them and courageously invite them to join your LifeGroup or another LifeGroup this next semester? (Group Connect takes place the next 2 weeks.)

Please spend some significant time in prayer, individually and as a LifeGroup, and confess to the Lord where you have struggled in what you believe or have seen in Scripture. Admit your weakness in the flesh and commit to trust God with the things you struggle with or that are beyond your comprehension. Pray for those who do not know the Lord (New Life 10|24 names), and pray for the person you are inviting to LifeGroups.