



table talk

5/17/26

“Hindering God’s Plan”

I have found that Bible doctrine can only be synthesized by considering all the verses of Scripture, not a handful of cherry-picked selections, especially if they are lifted out of context or with no regard for other verses. It has been said that all heresy is the result of incomplete teaching, and I tend to agree.

For example, the same Bible that teaches the sovereignty and overruling providence of God also teaches that God Almighty can be hindered as we move toward His ultimate purposes.

Don’t get me wrong. I don’t believe in “open theology” or that God’s plan can be overthrown. He is victorious! He always has been and ever shall be! But I do believe we can make it hard on ourselves if we do not cooperate.

Isaiah explained to Israel what they had missed receiving from God and revealed the reasons why:

*Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer,
The Holy One of Israel:
I am the Lord your God,
Who teaches you to profit,
Who leads you by the way you should go.*

***Oh, that you had heeded My commandments!
Then your peace would have been like a river,
And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.
(Isaiah 48:17-18 NKJV)***

In the next couple of weeks I'd like to look at Psalm 78 where we find the words "THEY LIMITED THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL" (Verse 41).

The All-Powerful God hindered by His own people during the time of their journey in the wilderness.

*Psalm 78:40-41 NKJV:
How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,
And grieved Him in the desert!
Yes, again and again they tempted God,
And limited the Holy One of Israel.*

"They tested and provoked Him." (ESV)

"They tempted and pained Him." (NASB)

"They put God to the test and vexed Him." (NIV)

"They tested His patience and provoked Him." (NLT)

"They turned back, tested God, and imposed limits on the God of Israel." (Orthodox Jewish Bible)

Prepare your hearts as we discover five traits Scripture identifies as facilitators to hindering God's work in our lives.

#1. When we entertain unwillingness.

#2. When we entertain unconcern.

#3. When we entertain unreasonableness.

#4. When we entertain uncleanness.

#5. When we entertain unbelief.

***Spoiler alert! We will also discover how fully committed God is to His plan and to His people!

He wins!

I love you,
Pastor Stephen