



## RESPONSIBILITY! Faith Is Our Response to His Ability • Part 1 Lesson 13

**The Crucial Question that Romans 9-11 Answers:** *Has God's Word—His saving promises to Israel—failed, in light of the fact that so many Jews have rejected Christ and are doomed to eternal punishment?*

### 1. Romans 9... Wilderness of Frustration or Oasis of Worship?

- Romans 9 can be a wilderness of frustration & friction (especially we come to it from a **man-centered** perspective)...
  - 1) We look at the overwhelming rejection of Jesus Christ by Israel, God's chosen people, and begin to wonder if God's promises of to them have **FAILED**?  
  
**Paul's answer is clear:** *NO!* God's promise of salvation for Jew or Gentile is **ROOTED** in God's sovereign, unconditional election! (9:6-13)
  - 2) But that raises the question of **FAIRNESS!** Is God then unfair in choosing some to be saved based not on anything in them (birth, belief, or behavior) but solely on His own sovereign purpose in election?  
  
**Paul's answer is clear:** *NO!* Unconditional election **REFLECTS** the perfection of God's character in all of its fullness. (9:14-18)
  - 3) But if God is that sovereign in salvation and no one ultimately resists His will, doesn't that mean our choices are meaningless and everything is determined by **FATE**?  
  
**Paul's answer is clear:** *NO!* Who are we to question God's sovereign **RIGHT** to accomplish His own purposes as our Creator and Redeemer? Unconditional election **REVEALS** the riches of God's glorious mercy against the backdrop of His longsuffering wrath. (9:19-29)
  - 4) But doesn't God's sovereignty in unconditional election eliminate the need for **FAITH**?  
  
**Paul's answer is clear:** *NO!* Unconditional election **RESULTS** in God's saving promises being fulfilled by grace through faith in Christ without eliminating human responsibility. (9:30-33; 11:1)
  - Romans 9 can be an oasis of wonder & worship (only when we come to it from a **God-centered** perspective)...
- Romans 11:34-36

### 2. So **WHERE** Does Faith Come into the Picture (Order of Salvation?!)?

**Not Where We Expect It to Come!**

- We expect faith to come **EARLIER** (vv. 11, 15-16, 18)
- But Paul brings faith in **LATER** (vv. 30-33; 8:28-30)

**What Shall “YOU” Say Then? (v. 19)**

Natural conclusion of unbelief and/or human reasoning: *It is all of God, SO there’s NO room for human responsibility.*

**What Shall “We” Say Then? (vv. 30-33)**

Biblical conclusion of belief in divine revelation: *It is all of God AND there’s STILL room for human responsibility.*

**3. Paul’s Conclusions in Light of Unconditional Election [Especially God’s Calling Out Many Gentiles and So Few Jews] (vv. 30-33)**

- God’s sovereignty does not **ELIMINATE** human responsibility.

*God’s sovereignty and human responsibility are not equals, because the Bible clearly exalts God’s sovereignty over human responsibility but does so in way that does not eliminate human responsibility!*

- 1) It’s a mystery.

*I hold to many doctrines that I cannot explain....*

- 2) This view of sovereignty **not eliminating** human responsibility is all over scripture...

*Crucifixion of Christ - Acts 2:22–24; 4:27-29*

*Inspiration of Scripture - 2 Pet 1:20–21*

*Security of the Believer - 1 Peter 1:5*

*Sanctification of the Believer - Philippians 2:12-13*

*Salvation of the Believer - Acts 13:45–48; 2 Thessalonians 2:13–15*

**NEXT WEEK**  
**Three MORE Conclusions in Light of Unconditional Election**