

<b>Series:</b> Healing	<b>Reference:</b> Acts 19:11-22	<b>Title:</b> Divine Determinism	<b>Date:</b> 1.13.19
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## Community Group Questions

### Take time to pray through the Six:Eight Prayer Foci for 2019

*If the Holy Spirit gives anyone a specific word for the church  
share them with the other Community Group Leaders.*

1. **FREEDOM:** Pray against spiritual attack on our church body & it's members, so that kingdom ministry goes unhindered.
2. **SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION:** Pray we'd abide in the Presence of Christ, honoring the Word & Spirit of God, being transformed & becoming more effective in witness. That we'd be drawn deeply into worship & prayer in powerful ways this year.
3. **LEADERSHIP:** Pray for leadership to be filled with the knowledge of the Word & power of the Spirit, operating out of the two as gracious strong servant leaders.
4. **MINISTRIES:** For all 8 church ministries to run smoothly, having all current & future resources provided for them to thrive (*Kids, Community Groups, Kingdom Opportunities, Stewardship, Impressions, Worship Arts, Prayer, Missions*).
5. **LOCAL EVANGELISM:** That we'd preach the Word boldly & minister in the power of the Spirit to see people come to faith & publicly declare that through baptism. - for divine openings with neighbors, coworkers, friends & Community Partners.
6. **CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION:** To be a *'House of Prayer for all Nations'* (Isaiah 56:7), obedient to the Great Commission (Mt 28:18-20), overflowing to our Kinship Network relationships reaching Arab world Muslims, and other mission endeavors of the church.
7. **GIVING:** Pray that we'd be stretched in faithful giving of our financial resources in order not to be hindered in our kingdom ministry as a church.

## Study Questions

1. ICEBREAKER: Give each person two small pieces of paper (or 3X5 cards) & a pen or pencil. Each person writes a “Why?” question & a “Because . . .” answer – the questions & answers do not need to be related. Have them fold their two papers & put the “Why?” papers in one bowl & the “Because . . .” in another. Randomly draw one question & one answer & read them aloud. Pass the bowls & continue.
2. Read Acts 19:11-22 aloud: This sermon addressed the concept of *Divine Determinism*. What does that term mean to you? Define it together.
  1. Sovereignty’s the full right & power, or supreme authority of a governing body over itself, without any interference from outside sources or bodies. We like to say God is sovereign, or we speak of God’s Sovereign Rule, what is the difference between sovereignty & determinism?
  2. Do people sometimes use the concept of sovereignty in place of determinism?
  3. Compare the quotes by the two different pastors on p2 of the sermon. One is very deterministic, the other is not. But, how does the second quote mix the concepts of sovereignty & determinism?
    1. Wouldn’t it have been better for him to say, “*If you believe, as traditional Christianity has taught, that God is ~~sovereign~~ **deterministic**...*”
3. Can you point out places in Scripture which seem to contradict the idea of hard Divine Determinism? Places where people are given choice, or have acted against God, or that they’ve not been obedient, or even where God has changed his mind? Look these stories up, and share them aloud.
  1. Does God’s nature & sovereignty leave room for our disobedience?
  2. If the Fall was a result of our disobedience, and by which sin, sickness & death entered the world, how’s this fit with God’s sovereignty & nature now?
  3. What is it about God’s nature which chooses to operate in this way?
  4. Why is loving relationship so important in our connection with God?
  5. Look at the model of the ‘Already & Not Yet’ on the following page...what are your thoughts concerning where we are in history with God, and what this means with his sovereignty, nature & desire?
4. At a meeting of Baptist leaders in the late 1700s, a newly ordained minister stood to argue for the value of overseas missions. He was abruptly interrupted by an older minister who said, “*Young man, sit down! You are an enthusiast. When God pleases to convert the heathen, he’ll do it without consulting you or me.*” That such an attitude is inconceivable today is largely due to the subsequent efforts of that young man, William Carey, whom we refer to as “The Father of Modern Missions.”
  1. How was that older minister’s attitude deterministic, and how was Carey’s attitude responding to the sovereign rule of God?
  2. Do we act in a deterministic manner when faced with sickness & our call to address it prayerfully? Or are we obedient to the sovereign rule of God?

