



Introduction

I. Define Our Terms

What does Reformed or Reformed Theology mean?

What does Charismatic mean?

II. The New Testament affirms the Sovereignty of God in all things yet also encourages believers to live with an expectation of the dynamic work of the Spirit.

In the New Testament, we see an explicit affirmation of the sovereignty of God over all things, especially salvation.

(a) The passages are many: Romans 8:28-39, 9-1; Ephesians 1:1-11; John 6:37-40; and many more.

(b) However, this explicit affirmation is also littered through the book of Acts.¹

- God sovereignly ordained the cross.
 - Acts 2:23: *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified...*
 - Acts 3:18: *...what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.*
 - Acts 4:27-28: *...to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.*
- God calls, adds, and appoints sinners to eternal life.
 - Acts 2:39: *For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.*
 - Acts 2:41: *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*
 - Acts 2:47: *...and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.*
 - Acts 5:14: *And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.*
 - Acts 11:24: *...and a great many people were added to the Lord.*
 - Acts 13:48: *...as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*
 - Acts 18:10: *...I have many in this city who are my people.*
- God gives faith and repentance, cleanses and opens hearts
 - Acts 3:16: *...the faith that is through Jesus*
 - Acts 5:31: *God exalted him...to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

¹ These categories and many of these citations were drawn from the ESV Study Bible.



- Acts 11:18: *...to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.*
- Acts 15:8–9: *And God...having cleansed their hearts by faith.*
- Acts 16:14: *...The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.*
- Acts 18:27 *...those who through grace had believed.*

Yet, in the New Testament, we are encouraged to live with an expectation of the dynamic work of the Spirit.

(a) This expectation of the dynamic work of the Spirit is pronounced in the book of Acts

(b) This expectation of the dynamic work of the Spirit is littered throughout the epistles.

(c) This expectation of the dynamic work of the Spirit is seems to be the experience of the early church.

- 1st century bishop Clement of Rome encourages the Corinthians in this way: “A profound and rich peace was given to all, together with an insatiable desire to do good, and an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit fell upon everyone as well.”²
- 2nd century theologian Origen wrote: “The Paraclete, who is called the Holy Spirit, is so called from his work of consolation....For if anyone has deserved to participate in the Holy Spirit by the knowledge of his ineffable mysteries, he undoubtedly obtains comfort and joy of heart.”³

In addition, the New Testament affirms both the Sovereignty of God in all things and yet also encourages believers to live with an expectation of the dynamic work of the Spirit.

Therefore, in seeking to be faithful to Scripture, Cornerstone Church is essentially Reformed, yet are committed to continuations practice as biblically defined.

III. My personal testimony

Conclusion

² Gregg Allison, *Historical Theology*, 431.

³ *Ibid.*, 431.