

Questions - The Sovereignty of God

The paragraphs below were written in a review of the book "Discussion of Evangelism and The Sovereignty of God" by JI packer

I have had numerous conversations with a believer at work who, for lack of a better term, is Armenian in his theology. I have posed many of the same questions/observations Packer brings up. My friend readily acknowledges that his salvation is wholly a work of God. He acknowledges God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. Yet he ends up giving some element of sovereignty to man (although he would not say it in this way) by saying man can always return or reject the gift of salvation and walk away from God, even after having initially received it.

I have found that our conversations end up in a stale-mate precisely because he believes that God is sovereign only up to the point of man's freedom to choose God. God is sovereign over everything else except man's freedom to choose or reject God. Again, he would not state it in this way, but that is what his view ultimately results in. This obviously strips God of His sovereignty.

1. How would you reply to this person?

2. Can man make decisions if God is sovereign?
Explain.

3. What about prayer? "Why pray for anyone's salvation if God has chosen before the foundation of the world who will be his sons?"

4. Why do you think God would allow man to make decisions? We don't always do such a good job of it!