

Rooted

Why Everything You Believe Hinges on One Thing

by — Steve Martin, the Grace Dude

The One Thing Holding Everything Together

Let's cut to the chase. Everything you believe – every glimpse of grace that's ever cracked through your guilt, every moment of peace that stilled your spinning thoughts, every spark of love that reached you when you least deserved it – it all stands or falls on one thing: **God is absolutely sovereign.** Not partially. Not conditionally. Not depending on how people respond.

If He isn't in control of it all, then none of it holds. The love you count on becomes uncertain. The grace you cling to becomes slippery. The freedom you celebrate becomes fragile. Even the character of God Himself becomes up for grabs. But if He *is* sovereign – totally, unapologetically eternally sovereign – then everything else can rest. Everything else makes sense.

You're Living a Script, Not a Gamble

We've been told that God gave us free will and set us loose to figure it all out. That He watches from a distance and hopes we make the right moves. But Scripture paints a very different picture. He didn't hand you a blank sheet and say, "Try your best." He handed you a finished script. Every twist in your story. Every disaster and breakthrough. Every ache and every answer. Already written.

He's not reacting to what you're doing – He's ruling over it. Sovereignty means that He's not surprised, not scrambling, not adjusting His plan to your detours. He wrote the whole thing. If He's not sovereign over all of it, He can't be trusted with any of it.

Why Grace, Love and Peace Work Only If He's in Charge

And here's the beautiful part: This truth doesn't just answer theological questions. It holds everything together. Love matters only if it can't be undone. Grace works only if it holds even when you fall apart. Freedom frees only if it doesn't depend on you to keep it alive.

The restoration of all things isn't just a hopeful idea. It's a promise grounded in God's control. Every real comfort – peace that holds through chaos, joy that doesn't vanish when life collapses, security that isn't shaken by your screw-ups – comes from this one truth: It's all rooted in God's sovereignty.

God Uses Contrast – On Purpose

God teaches us through contrast. That's why the darkness exists. That's why religion gets to us. That's why we fail again and again. It's not to shame us. It's not to punish us. It's to show us what He's not, so when grace comes, we actually see it.

We learn the power of light because we've lived in the dark. We receive grace because we're exhausted from trying. We finally drop our self-salvation project when it crumbles beneath us – and in that wreckage, He meets us. Every heartbreak, every religious trauma, every spiritual failure – it's not a side trail. It's the route He designed. On purpose. For your good.

Even Your Worst Moments Were Written In

Even your worst moments were not a surprise. Even your sin was already in the script. That doesn't mean that it's good. It means that it's useful. He uses failure like a chisel – cutting away the pride, the self-righteousness, the illusion that we're in control.

He doesn't waste anything. He lets us run hard until we hit the wall – and then He opens His arms. You're not off course. Even in the valley, even in the middle of your mess, you're exactly where He wants you. This isn't punishment. It's preparation.

Religion Was a Setup, Not a Solution

And yes – He even used religion. That exhausting, rule-based, guilt-producing system? He let it run its course. Why? Because He knew what it would do. He knew it would burn you out. He knew it would break you – *not* to destroy you, but to *deliver* you.

He let you taste the poison so you'd crave the cure. He let you chase approval so you'd finally collapse into grace. He let you feel like a failure so you could finally receive a love that doesn't budge.

You're Not on Trial – You're Being Formed

You're not being tested. This life is not a performance review. It's not a trial run for heaven. You're not on probation. You're on the wheel of the Potter. Being shaped. Formed. Held.

Every contradiction in your story, every delay, every season that feels like wandering – it's all part of the plan. You're not missing it. You're not too late. You're right on time. Because the story isn't about your effort. It's about His craftsmanship.

Grace Even Chased You Through the Wilderness

And let's be real – you didn't figure this out. You didn't wake up one day and decide to start searching for God. You didn't stumble into truth. *He* chased you down. *He* lit the fire in you. *He* gave you the hunger to question, to wrestle, to want something more.

He even let you wander away for a while, just so you'd know what it felt like to be brought home. That longing you carry? That ache that won't go away? That was planted in you by grace.

Even your doubts are part of the design. Even the wilderness is holy ground.

The Ending Is Already Good

And the ending? Already written. Let the religious fear. Let the world panic. Let theologians argue and preachers scream. The truth is secure. God is not only good. He is sovereign. And a sovereign God doesn't try – He accomplishes. He finishes what He starts.

He restores all. He redeems everyone. No one is lost forever. No story ends in darkness. Every heart will come home. Every knee will bow. Every tear will be wiped away. Because He wants it – and He always gets what He wants.

So, What Now?

So, what do we do? We stop pretending. We stop performing. We stop striving. We rest. Not because we've got it all figured out, but because He does.

We rest in the truth that He's not done. That He's not frustrated. That He's not behind schedule. That He hasn't lost the plot. You are exactly where He wants you. You are becoming who He designed you to be. Every bruise, every breakthrough, every breath – it's all being used.

So, rest – not in your understanding, but in His authorship.

This Is the Root

And never forget: Every truth that holds you up, every ounce of grace that keeps you breathing, every whisper of love that reaches your soul – it all grows from the same unshakable root:

God Is Sovereign.

Lose that, and it all falls apart. Hold onto it?

Nothing can shake you.