The sovereignty of God

Romans 9:16-18 *" It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?"*
Romans 11:30-32 *"30 Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all."*

God is the "first cause" of everything. Everything that happens happens because God's wills it. This is even true with respect to our *"disobedience."* Everything happens for a purpose. No one is able to resist God's will. The purpose of evil is that God's power and love might be manifest. God has *"bound everyone over to disobedience so that He may have mercy on them all."*

If you carefully read Romans 9-11 (the favorite Bible passage of Calvinists), from beginning to end, you can easily see how God's *"election"* fits into the overall picture. He has created some vessels for honor, and some for dishonor. He uses the nation of Israel, Jacob and Esau, and Pharoah as examples. He *"elected"* (ie. *"chose"*) the nation of Israel as His vessel of honor to be a *light to the nations*. Then God turned the tables and hardened their hearts, and Jews became vessels of dishonor, which was the occasion of bringing salvation to the Gentiles. Eventually, in the fullness of time, God will turn the tables again and *"all Israel will be saved."*

God, *"who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth,"* (1 Tim. 2:4) will most certainly accomplish this, *"for who is able to resist His will?"*