

The unfolding of your words gives light.

Able to Do All His Holy Will

The Omnipotence of God

The *First Catechism*, which we teach to the younger children in our congregation, is a series of questions and answers about God and His works. Question 13 reads like this:

Q. *Can God do all things?*

A. Yes – God can do all his holy will.

So a good definition (adapted by Wayne Grudem) of the omnipotence of God is so simple you can teach it to a toddler:

God is able to do all His holy will.

Spurgeon explained the power of God this way:

God's power is like Himself, self-existent, self-sustained. The mightiest of men cannot add so much as a shadow of increased power to the Omnipotent One. He sits on no buttressed throne and leans on no assisting arm. His court is not maintained by His courtiers, nor does it borrow its splendor from His creatures. He is Himself the great central source and Originator of all power. –Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Some have suggested that since God can do anything, He can choose to sin, to die or to create a rock that even He cannot lift. This is a distortion of the meaning of *omnipotent*. What He does is always consistent with His other attributes.

God is omnipotent, and yet he cannot die, he cannot lie, he cannot deny himself. How is he omnipotent then? He is omnipotent for the very reason that he cannot do these things. For if he could die, he would not be omnipotent. -Augustine

The Bible speaks of some things that God cannot do because He is God:

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. 2 Timothy 2:13

In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. Hebrews 6:17-18

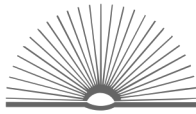
Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. James 1:13

What it means to say that God is omnipotent:

- He made everything that is.
- He sustains what He has made.
- He manipulates His creation in ways that His creatures cannot.
- His acts are subject to His character, but not to human reason.
- He has absolute authority to judge sin.

Biblical statements that describe the power of God:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1



The unfolding of your words gives light.

Is anything too difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son. Genesis 18:14

Then Job answered the Lord and said, "I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted." Job 42:1-2

Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Psalm 24:8

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. Psalm 33:6-9

The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them. The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name. You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted. Psalm 89:11-13

But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. Psalm 115:3

The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths. Psalm 135:6, NIV

For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back? Isaiah 14:27

Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure." Isaiah 46:9-10

Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You... Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me? Jeremiah 32:17, 27

All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and *among* the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?" Daniel 4:35

Do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father"; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. Matthew 3:9

Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Matthew 8:3

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" Throwing him into convulsions, the unclean spirit cried out with a loud voice and came out of him. Mark 1:25-26

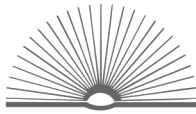
And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. Mark 4:39

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:34-37

Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. John 6:11

When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." John 11:43-44

When the disciples heard *this*, they were very astonished and said, "Then who can be saved?" And looking at *them* Jesus said to them, "With people this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:25-26



The unfolding of your words gives light.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:20

What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? Romans 9:22

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. Colossians 1:28-29

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1:8

Then I heard *something* like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns." Revelation 19:6

The omnipotence of God cannot help but take you to the cross. Sinners are described as dead in their sins (Ephesians 2). This condition is impossible to reverse

The omnipotence of God makes a difference in your life. Why?

1. His power is a source of limitless awe on our part. Open your eyes in faith and you will never run out of His wonders.
2. His power serves as a warning to rebels.
3. His power comforts weak people. He answers prayer. He shows Himself strong toward those who are weak and believing.
4. His power moves you to persevere in doing what is good. You cannot. He can (Serving with His power – Colossians 1, not becoming weary in doing good, Isaiah 40:31).

©Rice Lake Baptist Church, 104 East Barker Street, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, 54868 – <http://www.ricelakebaptist.org> – 715.234.1966

Permissions: You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided that you do not alter the wording in any way and that you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction. Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.