

# God Is Able

By Mark Mayberry

11/18/2007

## Introduction

The Omnipotence of God is demonstrated in many ways. Divine power is seen in God's creative activity, providential provision, and redemptive purpose. He is called God Almighty (Genesis 17:1) the Mighty One of Jacob/Israel (Psalm 50:1-6), the Lord of Hosts (Isaiah 6:1-5).

*Genesis 17:1 ... 1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. (NASB95)*

*Psalm 50:1-6 ... 1 A Psalm of Asaph. The Mighty One, God, the Lord, has spoken, And summoned the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. 2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone forth. 3 May our God come and not keep silence; Fire devours before Him, And it is very tempestuous around Him. 4 He summons the heavens above, And the earth, to judge His people: 5 "Gather My godly ones to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." 6 And the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is judge. Selah. (NASB95)*

*Isaiah 6:1-5 ... 1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. 5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." (NASB95)*

The expression, "God is able," is repeatedly found in the Bible, and is derived from the Greek verb *dunamai*, which means "to be able, to have power" [Thomas]. BDAG say it means "to possess capability (whether because of personal or external factors) for experiencing or doing something, can, am able, be capable." Strong/Thayer say it means "(1) to be able, have power whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources, or of a state of mind, or through favourable circumstances, or by permission of law or custom; (2) to be able to do something; (3) to be capable, strong and powerful."

God is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20-21). Solomon recognized that heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain God, much less the

house which he had built (1 Kings 8:22-30). Jehoshaphat understood that Jehovah is the Possessor of absolute power, and no one is able to withstand him (2 Chronicles 20:5-6).

*Ephesians 3:20-21 ... 20 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, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. (NASB95)*

*1 Kings 8:22-30 ... 22 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. 23 He said, “O Lord, the God of Israel, there is no God like You in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing lovingkindness to Your servants who walk before You with all their heart, 24 who have kept with Your servant, my father David, that which You have promised him; indeed, You have spoken with Your mouth and have fulfilled it with Your hand as it is this day. 25 “Now therefore, O Lord, the God of Israel, keep with Your servant David my father that which You have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way to walk before Me as you have walked.’ 26 “Now therefore, O God of Israel, let Your word, I pray, be confirmed which You have spoken to Your servant, my father David. 27 “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built! 28 “Yet have regard to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant prays before You today; 29 that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ to listen to the prayer which Your servant shall pray toward this place. 30 “Listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; hear in heaven Your dwelling place; hear and forgive. (NASB95)*

*2 Chronicles 20:5-6 ... 5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord before the new court, 6 and he said, “O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. (NASB95)*

## **Power to Protect**

God is able to save his own. Consider the example of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – Jewish exiles who incurred the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar because they refused to bow before the image of gold that he had erected in the plain of Dura. Filled with rage, the King cast them into the fiery furnace. When God delivered them from the flames, Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed “there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way” (Daniel 3:14-18, 28-29). God is able to give us the victory also. Today, deliverance is made possible through the person of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 7:23-25). Do you, like Paul, trust in the saving power of the Lord (2 Timothy 1:12)?

*Daniel 3:14-18 ... 14 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 “Now if you are ready, at the moment you hear the sound of the horn, flute, lyre, trigon, psaltery and bagpipe and all kinds of music, to fall down and worship*

*the image that I have made, very well. But if you do not worship, you will immediately be cast into the midst of a furnace of blazing fire; and what god is there who can deliver you out of my hands?” 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. 17 “If it be so, our God whom we serve is **able** to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 “But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (NASB95)*

*Daniel 3:28-29 ... 28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God. 29 “Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation or tongue that speaks anything offensive against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego shall be torn limb from limb and their houses reduced to a rubbish heap, inasmuch as there is no other god who is **able** to deliver in this way.” (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 7:23-25 ... 23 The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. 25 Therefore He is **able** also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (NASB95)*

*2 Timothy 1:12 ... 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is **able** to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (NASB95)*

## **Power to Provide**

God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son in their old age. Abraham manifested faith in this promise (Romans 4:18-21). Like Abraham, we can have faith in God’s promises. He will do what He has promised (Hebrews 6:10-20). Let us trust in the promises of God (2 Corinthians 1:18-20), knowing that he is able to provide (2 Corinthians 9:6-11).

*Romans 4:18-21 ... 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was **able** also to perform. (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 6:10-20 ... 10 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators*

*of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply you." 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 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, 18 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. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 1:18-20 ... 18 But as God is faithful, our word to you is not yes and no. 19 For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him. 20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us. (NASB95)*

*2 Corinthians 9:6-11 ... 6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is **able** to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed; 9 as it is written, "He scattered abroad, he gave to the poor, His righteousness endures forever." 10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness; 11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God. (NASB95)*

## **Power to Preserve**

God is able to keep us from falling. However, it must be noted that this promise is conditional. The Calvinistic doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved" is without Biblical support. Salvation necessitates continued faithfulness on our part. As long as we hear the Master's voice, and follow him, no one can snatch us out of the Father's hand (John 10:27-29). Therefore, let us look to Jesus in time of temptation (Hebrews 2:14-18). Seek that way of escape which God has promised (1 Corinthians 10:13), knowing that he is able to keep us from falling and make us to stand in his presence (Jude 20-25).

*John 10:27-29 ... 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is **able** to snatch them out of the Father's hand. (NASB95)*

*Hebrews 2:14-18 ... 14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him*

*who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. 16 For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. 17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is **able** to come to the aid of those who are tempted. (NASB95)*

*1 Corinthians 10:13 ... 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are **able**, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be **able** to endure it. (NASB95)*

*Jude 20-25 ... 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. 22 And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23 save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh. 24 Now to Him who is **able** to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, 25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen. (NASB95)*

## **Power to Punish**

Many today have a one-sided view of God. They envision Jehovah as a God of Love, and never stop to consider that He also is a God of Justice who will meet out punishment upon the disobedient. He is to be feared (Matthew 10:28). Divine wrath, indignation, tribulation and distress await every one who gives himself over to evil (Romans 2:4-9). When the Lord Jesus comes again, he will take fearful vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the gospel (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Therefore, do not delay in your obedience to the gospel. Trifle not with the wrath of God (James 4:1-12).

*Matthew 10:28 ... 28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is **able** to destroy both soul and body in hell. (NASB95)*

*Romans 2:4-9 ... 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who will render to each person according to his deeds: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, (NASB95)*

*2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ... 7 and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,*

8 dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (NASB95)

*James 4:1-12 ... 1 What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us"? 6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you. 11 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is **able** to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor? (NASB95)*

## **Conclusion**

Our faith, trust and confidence should be in God. Never underestimate His abilities. Whatever your need, God is able. Have you submitted to the will and word of God? Do not forget that he is able to subdue all things unto himself (Philippians 3:20-21). You can bow your knee before God now, and enjoy the benefits of sonship, or you can bow the knee before God later, and experience the agony of eternal rejection. Therefore, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:9-12).

*Philippians 3:20-21 ... 20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself. (NASB95)*

*Philippians 2:9-12 ... 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; (NASB95)*

Today, God's power to save is expressed through the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16-17). It is able to build us up (Acts 20:32). It is able to establish us (Romans 16:25-27). It is able to save

our souls (James 1:17-18, 21). Do you trust in God's saving grace? Have you rendered obedience to the gospel? Have you been baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27)?

*Romans 1:16-17 ... 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." (NASB95)*

*Acts 20:32 ... 32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is **able** to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (NASB95)*

*Romans 16:25-27 ... 25 Now to Him who is **able** to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, 26 but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith; 27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen. (NASB95)*

*James 1:17-18 ... 17 Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow. 18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures. (NASB95)*

*James 1:21 ... 21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is **able** to save your souls. (NASB95)*

*Romans 6:3-4 ... 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (NASB95)*

*Galatians 3:26-27 ... 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (NASB95)*