

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).

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).

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)?

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).

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).

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).

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).

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)?