

# THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

## The Omnipotence of God

### Lesson #2

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As we study the Scriptures it becomes clear that God is all powerful or “omnipotent.” Most, if asked if God is all powerful would get the answer right. However, many Christians don’t stop to consider the ramifications of being a child of an all-powerful God. There are many Scriptures, which when examined in the light of God having infinite power, are truly amazing. For instance, the gospel is said to be “*the power of God for all who believe*” (Rom. 1:16). The Apostle Paul prayed that believers would be “*strengthened with all power according to His glorious might*” (Col. 1:11). God’s omnipotence stands behind statements in Scripture making them a reality. In this lesson we will consider the attribute of God’s omnipotence and how it applies to the life of every believer.

#### I. DEFINITION OF THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

A. Millard Erickson in his *Christian Theology* says,

“God is able to do all things which are proper objects of His power.”<sup>1</sup>

B. Stephen Charnock in his *Existence and Attributes of God*, defines God’s omnipotence saying:

“The power of God is that ability and strength, whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases; whatsoever His infinite wisdom can direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will can resolve.”<sup>2</sup>

#### II. ILLUSTRATIONS OF GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

A. Thomas Watson notes that creation illustrates God's power:

“To create requires infinite power. All the world cannot make a fly. God's power in creating is evident: because He needs no instruments to work with; He can work without tools; because He needs no matter to work upon; He creates matter, and then works upon it; and because He works without labor; 'He spoke, and it was done.' (Psa. 33:9)”<sup>3</sup>

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1 Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology*, pg. 276.

2 Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God*, vol. 2, pg. 13.

3 Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pg. 78.

- B. Thomas Watson also notes that God's power is manifested in the salvation of sinners:

"Greater power is put forth in conversion than in creation. When God made the world He met with no opposition; as He had nothing to help Him, so He had nothing to hinder Him; but when He converts a sinner He meets with opposition. Satan opposes Him, and the heart opposes Him; a sinner is angry with converting grace."<sup>4</sup>

### III. THOUGHTS TO PONDER ABOUT GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

- A. A. W. Pink in his *Attributes of God* notes:

"Power *belongs* to God," and to Him alone. Not a creature in the entire universe has an atom of power save what God delegates. But God's power is not acquired, nor does it depend upon any recognition by any other authority. It belongs to Him inherently."<sup>5</sup>

- B. After Stephen Charnock went to great lengths to explain the power of God as seen in creation he said this:

"This is but a small landscape of some of his works of power; the outsides and the extremities of it; more glorious things are within His palaces: though those things argue a stupendous power of the Creator, in His works of creation and providence, yet they are nothing to what may be declared of His power. And what may be declared is nothing to what may be conceived; and what may be conceived, is nothing to what is above the conceptions of any creature. These are but little crumbs and fragments of that Infinite Power, which is in His nature, like a drop in comparison of the mighty ocean; a hiss or whisper in comparison of a mighty voice of thunder."<sup>6</sup>

- C. Thomas Watson says,

"God cannot do all things, because He cannot deny Himself. Though God can do all things, He cannot do that which stains the glory of His Godhead. He cannot sin; He cannot do that which implies a contradiction. To be a God of truth, and yet deny himself, is a contradiction."<sup>7</sup>

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4 *ibid.*

6 A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, pg. 47.

7 Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God*, vol. 2, pg. 9.

8 Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pg. 79.

#### IV. SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE

- A. Gen. 17:1 -- 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.
- B. Gen. 18:14 -- "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."
- C. Numb. 11:23 -- The Lord said to Moses, "Is the Lord's power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not."
- D. Job. 42:2 -- "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."
- E. Isa. 40:12-31 -- Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has informed Him? 14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. 16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? 19 As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. 20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter. 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. 24 Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble.

25 "To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is

inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

- F. Jer. 32:17, 27 -- '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, . . . 27 "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"
- G. Luke 1:37 -- "For nothing will be impossible with God."
- H. Heb. 1:3 -- 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,
- I. Rev. 4:11 -- "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

#### V. **ERRORS CONCERNING GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE**

- A. Error -- God's power is limited.
- B. Error -- If God was all powerful, he would do what I think He should do.
- C. Error --The laws of nature are what govern the universe, not God.
- D. Error -- God's power is determined by what He has already done.
- E. Error -- God can do anything and everything. (Remember God can't contradict his nature e.g., Heb. 6:18; Titus 1:2, God cannot lie; James 1:13, 17, God does not tempt anyone.)

#### VI. **APPLICATION OF THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD**

- A. Because God is all powerful we should fear Him. (Jer. 5:22-23; Luke 12:4-5<sup>8</sup>)
- B. Because God is all powerful and the gospel is the power of God of all who believe, we should be motivated evangelize the lost.

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<sup>9</sup> According to the *Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains*, the word "authority" NASB or "power" KJV is "The power to do something, with or without an added implication of authority - 'power.'"

- C. Because God is all-powerful, we should not doubt what he can do. (Jer. 32:27)
- D. Because God is all-powerful, we know He has the power to keep all of His promises.
- E. Because God is all-powerful, we know he can rescue us from trials.
- F. Because God is all-powerful, He can do whatever it takes to protect you (Rom. 8:31-39), preserve you (I Pet. 1:5), provide for you (Matt. 6:25-31), and help you when you are weak (II Cor. 12:9).

"This power of God is against the wicked. God's power will not be the sinner's shield to defend him, but a sword to wound him. God's power will bind the sinner in chains. His power serves to revenge the wrong done to his mercy. He will be almighty to damn the sinner. Now, in what condition is every unbeliever? God's power is engaged against him, and 'it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:31).'" Thomas Watson, *A Body of Divinity*, pg. 80.

*'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*  
(Isaiah 41:10)

God has a strong reserve with which to help you; for He is able to do all things. Believer, till you can drain dry the ocean of omnipotence, till you can break into pieces the towering mountains of almighty strength, you never need to fear. Think not that the strength of man shall ever be able to overcome the power of God. While the earth's huge pillars stand, you have enough reason to abide firm in your faith. The same God who directs the earth in its orbit, who feeds the burning furnace of the sun, and trims the lamps of heaven, has promised to supply you with daily strength. While He is able to uphold the universe, dream not that He will prove unable to fulfill His own promises. Remember what he did in the days of old, in the former generations. Remember how he spoke and it was done; how he commanded, and it stood fast. Shall He that created the world grow weary? He hangs the world upon nothing; shall He who does this be unable to support His children? Shall He be unfaithful to His word for want of power? Who is it that restrains the tempest? Does He not ride upon the wings of the wind, and make the clouds His chariots, and hold the ocean in the hollow of His hand? How can He fail you? When He has put such a faithful promise as this on record, will you for a moment indulge the thought that He has out-promised himself, and gone beyond His power to fulfill? Ah, no! You can doubt no longer.

O you who are my God and my strength, I can believe that this promise shall be fulfilled, for the boundless reservoir of your grace can never be exhausted, and the overflowing storehouse of your strength can never be emptied by your friends or rifled by your enemies.

"Now let the feeble all be strong,  
And make Jehovah's arm their song."<sup>19</sup>