

Worshipping a Powerful God

Revelation 19:6

What the Bible Teaches about the Power of God

As preliminary thoughts, here are four Scriptural truths about the power of God.

God C____ D_____ All Things

Nothing is any harder for God than anything else. This is a foreign concept to us since lifting 100 pounds is definitely harder than lifting 10 pounds. That's because our power and strength are limited. But since God's power is unlimited, nothing is too hard for Him. Job echoed this truth when he said to God, "I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You" (Job 42:2).

Jesus echoed it as well in the context of saying that one thing (a rich man being saved) was harder than another thing (a camel going through the eye of a needle). In that comparative context, Jesus said, "... with God, all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

N_____ Is Too Hard for God

In Genesis 18 we have a story that shows nothing is too hard for God: Abraham and Sarah had tried to have a child, but they remained childless. Then, when they were well past the childbearing age, God appeared to Abraham and told him Sarah would give birth to a son. Sarah heard God make this promise and laughed out loud. And God asked, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Verse 14).

We probably would have laughed like Sarah did. When the baby was born, he was named Isaac, which means "laughter." From then on, Abraham and Sarah probably laughed to themselves at the power of God that was able to break the rules of nature and give them a child in their old age.

God N_____ Gets T_____

The Old Testament prophet, Isaiah, made this declaration about God: "The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary" (Isaiah 40:28).

The Word of God says that He never faints (weakens) or gets weary. He never has less power, say, after leading the Israelites through a mighty military campaign, than He does "first thing in the morning." All of the ways we are used to thinking about strength go out the window when thinking of God.

God C_____ V_____ His Character

Some entertain such profound questions as, "How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?" Another question that came up occasionally was, "Can God create a rock so big that He can't pick it up?" If the answer is no, He's not powerful enough to create such a huge rock; if yes, He's not powerful enough to pick it up. Either way, His power is limited.

The fault in this question is that it doesn't have to do with God's power, but with God's character. And the exercise of God's power is always governed by the constraints of His character. Three things about His character are important.

1. God cannot lie.

The Bible says that God "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2). It doesn't say He would not lie but that He cannot lie. There is in God no darkness at all which means that He cannot lie (1 John 1:5). If God ever lied about one little thing, His entire character would implode; He would no longer be trustworthy in any matter.

2. God cannot deny Himself.

David Jeremiah, *Knowing the God You Worship: Study Guide* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004).

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In addition to not being able to lie, God cannot deny Himself: “If we are faithless, He remains faithful: He cannot deny Himself” ([2 Timothy 2:13](#)). This means He cannot be, nor will be, anything that is contrary to His own perfection.

3. God cannot be tempted or tempt anyone.

[James 1:13](#) says, “God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He himself tempt anyone.” This is a good point by which to evaluate the question about the rock and God’s power. Satan tempted Jesus to do certain things solely for the purpose of demonstrating His power, and Jesus refused because it was not consistent with His character ([Matthew 4:1–11](#)). Just so, God would never enter into a test such as creating a rock too big to pick up. That is an interesting philosophical speculation, but not a legitimate or serious question to raise regarding a holy, perfect God. Why? Because, simply put, God is not a show-off. It’s not consistent with His character.

Sometimes we wonder why God doesn’t exercise His power on our behalf. The answer is that God only exercises His power in accordance with His purposes. Perhaps you can think now, in hindsight, of a prayer you prayed that God didn’t answer, that you are glad He didn’t. God doesn’t exercise His power at times because He can see the future and knows what’s best.

How Can We Know God Is Powerful?

What evidence would you set forth from the Scriptures to demonstrate that God is powerful? Here are three dominant categories by which we know that God is powerful.

The Power of God Is Resident in C_____

One of the most prominent verses dealing with God’s power is [Romans 1:20](#): “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” With powerful telescopes and space probes, we are learning more and more about our universe. It is bigger and more complex than we ever imagined. And Paul, even with his limited knowledge, says that what is visible with the naked eye is enough to convince an observant person that a powerful God exists.

Then there are the creation passages in Genesis. Time after time in [Genesis 1](#) the text reads, “Then God said ... and it was so.” God didn’t fashion the earth with His hands, He simply spoke it into existence out of nothing ([Genesis 1](#); [Psalm 33:6, 9](#)). When Job was arguing (foolishly) with God, God asked him, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” ([Job 38:4](#)). Shortly after that, Job laid his hand over his mouth—he had no answer for God ([Job 40:4](#)).

One writer, commenting on the attribute of God’s power, pointed out that the same God who created a ring 100,000 miles in diameter around Saturn created a tiny colored feather in the wing of a hummingbird. His power and perfection are as evident in the largest parts of creation as they are in the smallest.

The Power of God Is Resident in P_____

What if God had created the world and then withdrawn, allowing it to be preserved (or not preserved) by itself? The same power of God that created the world keeps the world together. Everything is upheld “by the word of His power” ([Hebrews 1:3](#)).

[Jeremiah 10:13](#) gives testimony to the ongoing activity of God in His creation:

“When He utters His voice,
There is a multitude of waters in the heavens:
And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth.
He makes lightning for the rain,

David Jeremiah, *Knowing the God You Worship: Study Guide* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2004).

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He brings the wind out of His treasuries.”

Psalm 104 verses 5–30, are one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible on God’s creation. Perhaps the first and last verses of this lengthy section summarize the whole: “You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever.... You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; and You renew the face of the earth.” (verses 5, 30)

What do you think would happen if, for one moment, Almighty God withdrew His sustaining and renewing hand from this universe? It would fly off into oblivion and chaos. The same God who created all things is also the God who holds them together. Jesus Christ “is before all things, and in Him all things consist” (Colossians 1:17).

The Power of God Is Resident in R_____

There is no doubt among theologians, and probably laymen as well, that the most powerful demonstration of God’s power is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 1 Paul says that the same power that was at work to choose and save us is the power “which He worked in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated him at His right hand in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 1:20).

If you could choose to know any kind of power in the world, what would it be? The power of an earthquake? A volcano? The power God exercised to create the universe? As mighty as those are, there is an even greater power, which Paul said he desired to know: “That I may know [Christ] and the power of His resurrection ...” (Philippians 3:10). To know the power of Christ’s resurrection would be to know the supreme power of God.

Conclusion

So much more could be said about the power of God, which space will not allow. There two ways the power of God should impact our lives.

This Truth Should Excite Us in Our W_____ of God

Pascal once wrote that the greatest single distinguishing feature of the omnipotence of God is that our imagination gets lost when we try to think of it. Isn’t that true? We feel utterly inadequate to try to comprehend the power of God and what it has and can accomplish.

When the Christian comes to something he cannot comprehend, his response should be to fall down before God in worship. The incomprehensibility of God cannot be addressed at the human level. We have to take by faith what is revealed of Him in Scripture and verified by His acts in history, and then worship Him for that part of Him which is told to us but which we simply cannot comprehend. We do not have to comprehend everything about God in order to worship Him. In fact, we would probably not worship Him if we knew and understood all of Him there is to know.

Moses led the children of Israel in a mighty song of worship and praise after seeing God part the Red Sea and destroy Pharaoh’s armies (Exodus 15). Verse 11 of that song says, “Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?”

This Truth Should Encourage Us to W_____ with God

Our link to the power of God is this: the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:14 that, “By his power God has raised the Lord from the dead and will also raise us from the dead” (NCV). We have been raised from the dead spiritually by God’s power, and will be raised from the dead literally one day when Christ returns to receive unto Himself those who are His.

Unfortunately, not many Christians live their lives in the power of God. I think most Christians live in the power of their own human flesh the majority of the time. They live that way until they run into some sort of crisis—a power outage, if you will. A power outage in the spiritual life is like going to the doctor and discovering that something has shown up in your test results that he wasn’t expecting and for which he doesn’t have a simple cure. It’s like going to work one day at the same place you’ve worked for twenty-five years and being given a pink slip saying your services are

no longer needed. It's like getting a call at 1:00 in the morning telling you your child has been killed in a car accident at college. A power outage is any of an infinite number of events in life which we are not prepared to handle.

Most of us don't touch the power of God until we are overwhelmed with our own weakness. And then we discover that when we are weak, He is strong (2 Corinthians 12:9–10). It is then that we discover we can “do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

A.B. Simpson was the founder of one of the great missionary agencies of a previous generation. He was a godly and spiritually powerful man. A.B. Simpson went through his own power outage in his mid-forties. He just burned out—lost his health, his ministry, and was defeated and discouraged. Then one day he heard the words of an old Negro spiritual—“Nothing is too hard for Jesus, no man can work like Him”—and it hit him: He had been trying to do the work of God in his own strength. As a result, he rededicated himself to the work of God and never had another power outage in his life.

APPLICATION

1. God is omnipotent. He is able to do whatever He chooses to do. Read the following Scriptures:

Psalm 89:5–10

Daniel 4:34–35

Ephesians 3:20–21

Revelation 19:6

- a. Think of something that seems impossible to do. Write it down.
- b. Is it in keeping with the character of God? If so, He can do it, however impossible it seems. What does that do to your viewpoint of God?

2. As you read the following Scriptures, meditate on the power of God in His creation:

Job 38

Psalm 104

- a. What seems like the most difficult thing for God to do in making and maintaining the world?
- b. Can you grasp the concept that God can do anything as easily as He can do anything else?
- c. Did you ever enjoy hearing about superheroes when you were a kid? Do you still? What do you think a superhero is like compared to God?

3. Read the story of Abraham and Sarah's child of promise in [Genesis 18:1–15](#) and [Genesis 21:1–7](#).
 - a. Has God ever promised you something you laughed at or scoffed at? If so, what was it?
 - b. Why do you think we often put limitations on God?
 - c. What do you think is the most difficult thing God could do in your life? Do you believe He can do it? If you don't, what is your reason?
 - d. Do you ever feel that you hold yourself back from the possibilities of God's power?
4. Read [James 1:12–17](#). Have you ever heard anyone blame God for not stopping them from doing something wrong?
 - a. Who is responsible for temptation?
 - b. God's power is in keeping with His character. What main attribute of God would keep Him from lying or tempting?
5. Have you ever had a human power outage? Some examples might include going to the doctor and finding out you're really sick, possibly terminally ill; losing a relationship you thought was under control; realizing as you get older that you're not immortal. Have you had any experiences like these that make you realize you need God? If so, what were they?
 - a. What happened to your relationship with God as a result of an experience like this?
 - b. How do you think we can maintain an awareness of our limitations and God's unlimited power?
6. What God has promised, He is able to do. What are some of the things He has promised?
 - a. [Genesis 8:20–22](#)
 - b. [Micah 5:2–5](#)
 - c. [John 8:31–32](#)
 - d. [John 10:27–30](#)
 - e. [John 14:12–17](#)
7. What do you need to do in order to stay under the power spout of God's will?