

The Omnipotence of God

Literally, this means that the Triune God of the Bible is “all-powerful.”

- Simply put, God has the power and ability to do whatever He wants. To be willing is one thing; to be able is entirely different.

1. God can do anything He pleases

- Psa. 11:5:3 – “Our God is in the heavens; He does all that He pleases.”
- Psa. 135:6 – “Whatever the LORD pleases, He does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.”
- Isa. 14:26-27 – “This is the purpose that is purposed concerning the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the LORD of Hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?”
- Dan. 4:34-37

2. Nothing is too hard for Him

- Not only can God do what He wants to do, but *nothing* is too hard for Him.
- Gen. 18:14 – “Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.”
- Luke 1:37 – “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

- Jer. 32:17 – “Ah, Sovereign LORD! It is You who have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for You!”
 - Num. 11:23 – “The LORD said to Moses, ‘Is the LORD’s hand shortened? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not.’”
- Again, God gives a promise that seems impossible: a supply of meat in the desert.
- Frame: Ascribing weakness to God contradicts the very nature of His lordship and the authority of His word. So *of course* this task is not too hard for the Lord.¹

The greatness of God’s power is grounds for our praising of Him.

- The false gods of the nations are weak and beggarly (Gal. 4:9; cf. Isa. 44:9-20; 46:1-2, 7), and thus to attribute weakness to the true God is incompatible with true worship. No. Our God is always powerful, always competent.²

With Job, we must unashamedly believe and declare, “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted” (42:2).

This is especially true with what we might consider the most impossible of tasks: making God-hating, Christ-rejecting, Spirit-quenching sinners into God-loving, Christ-adoring, Spirit-walking saints.

- Matt. 19:26 – “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

¹ John Frame, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief* (Phillipsburg: P & R, 2013), 338.

² Cf. John Frame, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief* (Phillipsburg: P & R, 2013), 337.

Salvation, which is impossible for humans – in all their sin and creaturely weakness – to accomplish in and of themselves. But for Jesus Christ – the God-man – it was entirely possible...

- Mark 14:36 – “Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Remove this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will.”

For the Christian, this glorious attribute of God’s omnipotence ought to bring great peace and assurance to our hearts in the midst of chaos and uncertainty (cf. Heb. 1:3b).

- Unlike us, God does not make promises that He is unable to keep.
 - When He desired to create the universe out of nothing, the I AM simply spoke His powerful, life-giving Word, “and it was.”
 - When He desires to save a dead-in-sin-and-trespases and world-loving, Satan-following sinner, the I AM simply speaks His all-powerful and unstoppable Word, and they are born-again by His Spirit.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (and the previous context) are verses that every Christian should hide in their heart.

- Behold, this is the omnipotence of your God!

3. There are some things that God cannot do

As we noted in previous studies on God’s character, all of His attributes are entirely consistent with His character and sovereign will.

- Thus, for example, God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2). Nor can He die, for He is life itself. He cannot grow tired or weary (Psa. 121). Moreover, He cannot contradict Himself or act immorally (Num. 23:19).

- Thus, silly assertions like, “Can God create a stone so heavy that He cannot lift it?” are in reality unprofitable speculations that mock God and His perfect, omnipotent will.

Simply put, God do anything that is perfectly compatible with His other perfect attributes (e.g. love, justice, holiness, wisdom, etc.).

Closing Scripture to meditate upon:

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Eph. 3:20-21)