



(3) The Power of God (Omnipotent)

Personally knowing the mighty God makes a difference (1 Chr 29:11)

Did you ever feel powerless? Join the club! We were never meant to be able to solve all our problems. As God's children, it is wonderful to know He is all-powerful but also that He cares for us. As we rely on His strength, He helps us so that His power is further manifested through our impossible circumstances!

• Human Power

- How is human strength gauged?
- Our strength is limited to our changing physical strength.
- Our strength is often limited to our physical presence.
- Man's power can be seen in the way his words influence others.
- Influenced by 'markers' in the world (words on a web page); how much one contributed or in other ways helped others.
- Wealth and influence are limited. "Otherwise, you may say in your heart, 'My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth. 18 But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day' (De 8:17-18).

Summary: Humans are very weak when we look at the size of the universe. We can create bombs but then others who have more strength or wisdom steal the bombs and use them against us, frustrating our very will and threatening our existence. "Once God has spoken; Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God" (Ps 62:11).

"To think of creature and Creator as alike in essential being is to rob God of most of His attributes and reduce Him to the status of a creature. It is, for instance, to rob Him of His infinitude: there cannot be two unlimited substances in the universe. It is to take away His sovereignty; There cannot be two absolutely free beings in the universe, for sooner or later two completely free wills must collide" (Tozer, p. 12).

1) God's Amazing Power

The Lord who possesses all power can never be thwarted or threatened. He often is pleased to use all sorts of seemingly weak means to display His power, allowing all of us to see how the least of His power is greater than man's strength.

- God's creative power empowers His authority over His creation. "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You" (Neh 9:6).
- God's power is glorious! "These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Th 1:9). What does it mean the lost will not experience God's power?
- God's power enables Him to do all His will. "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O LORD, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all" (1 Chron 29:11). God's power is linked to His sovereignty!
- God's extreme power is linked to His glory! "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" (Rev 4:11).
- His power is seen in the tedious control of earthly affairs including the temperature, disasters, and history itself.
- God's power works hand-in-hand with His faithfulness. Compare the adjectives describing God below:
 - "Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and lovingkindness, Do not let all the hardship seem insignificant before You, Which has come upon us, our

kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers and on all Your people, From the days of the kings of Assyria to this day” (Nehemiah 9:32).

- God is to be praised because of His power! “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing” (Rev 5:12). “Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen” (Rev 7:12).

Summary: “Because the ...weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Cor 1:25).

2) God’s Power at Work in His People

- God’s power is constantly being exerted but not always responded to. “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Rom 1:20).
- God’s power strengthens believers for His work in them. “Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously” (Col 1:11).
- God’s power works through His people. “He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me” (2 Cor 12:9).
- Power is released for us to see and be amazed! “Thus I have beheld Thee in the sanctuary, To see Thy power and Thy glory” (Ps 63:2). “Behold, God is exalted in His power; Who is a teacher like Him?” (Job 36:22)
- Our prayer goal is the desire to be filled with His strength: “To be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love” (Eph 3:16b-17).
- Understanding God’s power does not solve all the theological queries. If God is all powerful, then why...?
 - “And when Israel saw the great power which the LORD had used against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in His servant Moses” (Ex 14:31).
 - If He can give me sandals that never wear out, then why do I still have to go to the shoe store? “And Thou didst give Thy good Spirit to instruct them, Thy manna Thou didst not withhold from their mouth, And Thou didst give them water for their thirst. 21 “Indeed, forty years Thou didst provide for them in the wilderness and they were not in want; Their clothes did not wear out, nor did their feet swell. 22 “Thou didst also give them kingdoms and peoples, And Thou didst allot them to them as a boundary. And they took possession of the land of Sihon the king of Heshbon, And the land of Og the king of Bashan” (Neh 9:20-22).

Summary

- God’s power has no limits or controls except that His holy will and purpose determine. How amazing that God directs His power to work in and through our lives to complete His glorious purposes!
- Every believer is able to do all that God desires, nothing holding back our potential to grow in Christ.
- A mature Christian knows that God does not always immediately do what we want and allows us to journey through difficult places at times, feeling the heat of the enemy’s threat. This is because God is carefully working behind the scenes to show His mighty power. The famous songs in Exodus 4 and 5 would not have been sung and danced if the Israelites were a good contest for the mighty Egyptian army in the world. They were weak and looked foolish for turning against the bank of the Red sea allowing no escape. The Christian, then, is not insistent that God must immediately answer prayer as he wants but knows God will provide strength to timely display His glory. “And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give Midian into their hands, lest Israel become boastful, saying, ‘My own power has delivered me’” (Jud 7:2).

Study questions

- What Bible verse helps you capture the immensity of God’s power the most? Why?
- List at least 3 ways God’s power is so much greater than man’s power?
- Is it wrong for God to use His power to control affairs on the earth?
- What does it mean that God’s power works within His people? How does it practically work out?

“The word ‘majesty’, when applied to God, is always a declaration of His greatness and an invitation to worship.”⁵