

God is Omnipotent

The Character of God—part 9

August 26, 2018

God is omnipotent: God is All-Powerful.

DAY 1: The paradox of God's power.

Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Lord God, it is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power. Nothing is too hard for you.

1. When you think of the power of God, what comes to your mind? When or how have you seen the power of God?

2. Maybe you think of the splendor of the stars at night or the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, but in my opinion there is a greater power still than all of these. It is the power of God in the life of a sinner, like me.

3. Paradox of God's power. It shows up in the weakest and humblest of people!

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God, and not to us.

4. "Earthen vessels" means "jars of clay," (like the Christian band). We are mortal and earthly. We are also "jars" or "pots" as opposed to the "treasure!"

5. What strikes you about the image God uses to describe God's power and how it is seen?

6. As Christians, we often put pressure on ourselves "to do better." We can flail away at ourselves over our weaknesses. Listen to Paul's attitude toward himself and his weaknesses.

2 Cor. 12:9 But he said, "My power is sufficient for you for my power is displayed in weakness." Therefore, I will gladly boast about my weakness so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

7. What strikes you about Paul's attitude toward himself and his weaknesses?

8. What strikes you most from today's devotional?

DAY 2: God's power is seen in ...

1. In Creating the World.

Isaiah 40:29 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary.

a. God asks two rhetorical questions in Isaiah 40:29. Can you hear His shock? As we look at the world it should be completely evident that all this didn't just happen!

2. In Sustaining Life.

a. In Acts 17, the apostle Paul preaches a sermon in the pagan city of Athens. He is speaking to philosophers.

Acts 17:25 He is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

b. To what does Paul appeal, which should be obvious even to secular philosophers?

Acts 17:28 In him we live and move and have our being.

c. How does Paul's thoughts in v. 28 add to what he said in v. 25?

3. In Changing People.

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.

a. The power of God is most clearly seen in His power to change our sinful human nature! To those who see their need of change in who they are AND have fallen flat in bringing about that change, the power of God is wisdom and effectual!

b. Conversely, to those who see little need to change their human nature, and see no need for any power outside of themselves, they will see the gospel as "foolishness!"

c. How have you see the power of God in your life to change you?

DAY 3: Practical weakness (humility)

1. There is a paradox regarding experiencing the power of God.
2. For some people, God's power is demonstrated when we humble ourselves. Paradoxically for others God's power is seen when we step out in faith!
3. One of the impediments to seeing God's power is our incessant drive to "control" the events and people in our lives.
4. This drive to control is reflective of our *real* hope, that we can make life happen.
5. This misplaced hope drives the people in your life crazy, and will bring great frustration and anger to you.

Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

6. This "hope in the Lord" is not just a theological statement to which we glibly nod our head. It raises the question of the heart—on whom or what is my heart really trusting?
 7. Jesus made a similar point in John 15. The imagery is of a vine, branches and fruit. If the branches stay united with the vine, fruit is very likely, barring disease or pests. But if the branch insists it can do better without the vine, no matter how "confident" the branch, it will wither, and produce no fruit.
 8. Jesus makes this clear...
- John 15:5 "... apart from me you can do nothing."*
9. The point is not, "I can't brush my teeth without Him." The point is that I cannot bear the kind of fruit that makes for rich relationships and a life that reflects the character of Jesus Christ on my own.

10. It's one thing to humble ourselves before God; it's quite another thing to humble ourselves to one another. It seems to me that sometimes God does not give us the direction we want or solutions to our problems because we are intent on "fixing" things ourselves. God yawns.

Proverbs 15:22 (RSV) Without counsel plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.

11. What is your take away from today's devotional?

DAY 4: Step out in faith

1. There are times when God's power is nowhere to be found. While we are "waiting" on God to act, He is waiting on us to act! He demonstrates His power when we step out in faith, and not until we step out in faith. (This seems to be particularly true with those of us who are more naturally timid).

- a. Peter did not experience God's power to walk on water until he stepped out of the boat.
- b. We won't lead anyone to Christ without seeking to love the unbeliever and attempt to share our faith with them.
- c. If we wait to feel loving before we demonstrate our love by action, we will not see the power of God through us in relationship.

2. Every year, the Midianites invaded Israel and decimated their crops. The people fled to the hills for their lives.

3. After a time of repentance, God provided Gideon as a leader to deliver Israel out of Midian's hand. Gideon was a very reluctant leader, fearful, timid, and skeptical!

Judges 6:11 (RSV) Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the oak at Ophrah, which belonged to Jo'ash the Abiez'rite, as his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the wine press, to hide it from the Mid'ianites.

¹² And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor."

¹³ And Gideon said to him, "Pray, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this befallen us? And where are all his wonderful deeds which our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has cast us off, and given us into the hand of Mid'ian."

¹⁴ And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and deliver Israel from the hand of Mid'ian; do not I send you?"

¹⁵ And he said to him, "Pray, Lord, how can I deliver Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manas'seh, and I am the least in my family."

¹⁶ And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall smite the Mid'ianites as one man."

4. What strikes you about Gideon?

5. What strikes you about God's dealings with him?

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Standing on God's promises

1. Today, we'll look at some of God's priceless promises that show His desire and intent to pour out His power on His people. Underline words and phrases that strike you:

James 5:16— Confess your sin to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effect.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

2 Peter 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

2 Peter 1:4 Through these he has given us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape the corruption that is in the world caused by evil desires.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (RSV) No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Philippians 4:11 (RSV) Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in whatever state I am, to be content. ¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and want. ¹³ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

2 Cor. 3:4-6 such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God, not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us. Our competence comes from God who has made us competent to be ministers of the new covenant...

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.

2. What verse(s) struck you the most? Why?