

Sermon by Bob Brown on Sunday AM 8/30/09
"Attributes of God 2 - Omnipotence"

When we began studying the attributes of God in seminary we were able to come up with some pretty interesting questions. Some of them had been asked before, like "Can God make a rock so big He can't move it?" Or, "Can God place a million angels on a pinhead and make them dance?" It probably seems like we may have had too much time on our hands!

Today, as we look at Omnipotence, God's Omnipotence, we see that we define it as "All-Powerful". But, no matter what we might have tried to figure out in seminary, God does not waste time, energy or power trying to make us feel important. There is nowhere in the Bible where we see a limit or any boundary to God's power. His power is everywhere in the Scripture, without limit, and it begins with His name.

- El = Lord
- Elohim = strong and powerful, over nature and creation
- El-Shaddai = All-Powerful (subjecting powers of nature and grace)
- Adonai = Lord of lords
- Yahweh = I Am that I Am

Once God has revealed His powerful creative names and nature to us, He begins to put who He is in the context of our lives. Remember this, after the Israelites had been taken out of Egypt so miraculously and they had seen the mighty hand of God in so many ways in the wilderness, they looked around them and began to doubt. They did not think that they could take possession of all the land that was before them. So God spoke to them and said:

Deuteronomy 7:21 *"Do not be terrified by them, for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God."*

For the Israelites, everyone in Scripture, and you and me, the same thing still holds true, What is impossible in the natural world in which we live can and does happen in the supernatural, by the All-Powerful hand of God.

Job 42:2 *"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted."*

After God has given Job a review of all His mighty powers to create and run the universe Job responds with this wonderful confession.

Genesis 18:14 *"Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son."*

What was obviously impossibility in the natural realm is nothing when it comes to the All-Powerful, supernatural God!

The power of the spoken Word of God is so awesome that we have to marvel at His creative and wonderful ways.

Genesis 1:1-3 *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, let there be light, and there was light."*

When God speaks it is done, he does not even have to raise His hand to do something; His Word is powerful and sufficient.

Nahum 1: 5-6 *"The mountains quake before Him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at His presence, the world and all who live in it. Who can withstand His indignation? Who can endure His fierce anger?"*

If God is this powerful, who can possibly stand against Him? Yet His power is the word of comfort to His people, they are not to worry about anything. Everything, in the sky, the sea, and on earth is in His perfect control.

Look at a story that is so familiar, yet we can miss the Omnipotence of God if we are not careful. In Acts 9, God has the soon to be apostle Paul in the right place to meet Jesus. With a supernatural light he blinds Saul, and then appears to Him. The idea that Ananias was in the right place at the right time to go to a house on Straight Street and meet his enemy, so that he could pray for him to receive his sight, is almost too much to believe.

But the best part of this supernatural, powerful event is what God told Ananias about Saul, *"This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel."* **Acts 9:15**

As independent as we like to be, as free thinking as we claim to be, and as in control as we think we are, we are where God wants us, doing what He has called us to do, in the time He wants us to do it.

James 4:13-15 *"Now listen, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on some business and make money. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, if it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*

All of our actions, whether in the past, in the present or even in the future, are dependent upon the will and power of God. All of our days, direction and ways are in God's hands, not our own.

Another example is thinking that the blessings of God are our key to success and prosperity. While God does take care of us, He also does not want us thinking that

we can get along without Him. The parable told by Jesus of the rich young fool, Luke 12:16-21 shows us God's desire to be praised for His blessings to us.

As we wrap this up let me remind you that nothing is impossible for our Great, All-Powerful God:

Jeremiah 32:27 *"I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?"*

Matthew 19:26 *"Jesus looked at them and said, With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

Jesus is talking about following Him and living for Him.

We continually see the power of God Almighty in the resurrection of Christ and the redeeming of our lives.

Romans 1:3-4 *"Regarding the Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ, our Lord."*

Lastly we see not only His power imparted into Christ, but also the grace of our Omnipotent God in giving us strength and power in our faith and lives.

Ephesians 1:18-20 *"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. And his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at the right hand in the heavenly realms."*

Not only is God Omnipotent, or All-Powerful, He also wants to give us His strength to follow Him, live for Him and tell others of His saving power to raise them from the dead as well. We have the strength to do that; all we need is to believe that we have been empowered to go and do it.

That requires faith in the resurrected Jesus, not faith in our faith! And that is where we often fail, we know it's true but don't think we can.