

## He is!

*An Expository Exploration of the Attributes of God*

Sermon 7: He is All-Powerful

Matthew 19:26

February 16, 2020

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 93

**Opening Illustration:** Can God make a boulder so big that He Himself cannot lift it? I find it interesting when people ask philosophical questions or raise objections that they are sure cannot be answered. The question of the boulder is one such example. Can God make a boulder so big that He Himself cannot lift it? The idea is that if He can make a boulder so big that He couldn't lift it, then He couldn't be all-powerful. If He cannot, then He cannot make something that big and would therefore not be all-powerful. Right? No! Absolutely wrong!

Can God do anything? Yes and No. Here's the point: There are certain things that God cannot do because He can do anything! God cannot make a boulder too big for Him to lift because His power is infinite. The fact that He couldn't build such a boulder is not due to a lack of power, but to an infinite amount of power.

Some verses to consider:

**Job 42:2** I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

**Jeremiah 32:27** Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me?

## I. Introduction/Review

A. Review

B. God is All-Powerful (Omnipotent)

1. What is omnipotence?

a) **Definition:** "God's perfect ability to do all things that are proper agents of power."  
Millard J. Erickson

b) **Expanded definition:** God's omnipotence is His perfect ability to do anything and everything that is consistent with His character, nature and will.

c) **ILL:** Can God make parallel lines intersect? No, because once they intersected, they wouldn't be parallel anymore. Point: Beware being confused by these deep-sounding mental tricks.

## II. What Can God Do?

A. God can do anything that He wants to do.

1. He is not limited by the laws of nature.

a) Therefore, He can grant Sarah the ability to conceive, even though she was too old.

b) Therefore, He can cause the conception of the Lord Jesus Christ even though Mary was a virgin.

c) Therefore, He can part the sea and do whatever other miracle He may choose.

2. He is not limited by any insufficiency of power.

a) **Psalm 115:3** But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

b) Therefore, He is never stymied back a lack of strength.

c) Therefore, He is never worn down by an excess of effort.

3. He is not secondary to anyone else's authority or strength.

a) Therefore, He is never forced to submit to another.

- b) Therefore, He is never put in a position of compromising His own character.

### III. What Can't God do?

**ILL:** Imagine a man walks into a bookstore and just helps himself to everything on the shelves. He fills a huge box with books and, in full view of all the employees of the bookstore, he just walks out. As he is walking out, a customer turns to the person behind the counter and says, "Aren't you going to stop him? He just robbed you! Don't you care that he just stole from you?" The clerk responds: "He didn't steal anything." How could this be true? Well, if the man owned the store, and everything on the shelves was his until it was sold to someone else. See...since he already owns everything in the store, it is impossible for him to steal anything. Does this mean that the man lacks the ability to steal because of some deficiency in himself? No. He just owns everything. Similarly, we will see how there are some things that God simply cannot do, not because of a lack of power, but because of the infinity of His power.

A. He cannot lie.

1. **Titus 1:2** in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,
2. Why do we lie?
  - a) Because we are hoping to avoid negative circumstances.
  - b) Because we are hoping to avoid shame in the truth.
  - c) God is infinitely above any such concerns.
3. Why is it then that God cannot lie?
  - a) Because there is nothing in Him that would ever bring Him shame.
  - b) Because there is no being in the Universe to whom God must answer.
    - (1) **Deuteronomy 4:35** To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him.
    - (2) **Psalms 90:2** Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

B. He cannot fail.

1. **Jeremiah 32:17** Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,
2. **Deuteronomy 4:31** For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.
3. **Genesis 18:14** Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.
4. **Jeremiah 32:27** Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

C. He cannot change.

1. **Malachi 3:6** For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.
2. **James 1:17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

D. He cannot sin.

1. **Habakkuk 1:13** *Your* eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness *with favor*. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

E. He cannot be overpowered or overruled.

1. **Isaiah 14:27** "For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate *it*? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?"
2. **Isaiah 43:13** "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

#### **IV. Conclusions—What does this call us to?**

**Point:** Because God is all-powerful, He cannot be overcome, marginalized, compromised, side-stepped, out-lasted, or overpowered. This all-powerful God calls us to lay down our weapons of rebellion and come to Him.

- A. We must worship Him for His omnipotence.
  1. We must worship Him in a right understanding of our own supposed power and weakness.
  2. We must worship Him as the creator and sustainer of all things.
  3. We must worship Him as the patient, gracious God Who could indeed obliterate us should He so choose.
  
- B. We must rely upon Him in light of His omnipotence.
  1. God can do anything He wants to do. He can
    - a) Change your circumstances.
    - b) Preserve you in your circumstances.
    - c) Transform your attitude toward your circumstances.
  
- C. We must come to Him because of His omnipotence.
  1. We must come to Him as the powerful God.
  2. We must come to Him as the only God.
    - a) **Isaiah 45:21** "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other."