

OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD

Holy Father, there is a comfort in knowing that you are in control, your power and strength that never fails or falters will sustain us and our struggles. We pray that we lean upon you and your understanding in times of distress as well as in times of praise. That we seek your will and understanding in all situations letting you guide us in all our days. Amen.

A.W. Tozer gave a wonderful definition of omnipotence when he said “Since He has in His command all the power in the universe, the Lord God omnipotent can do anything as easily as anything else. All His acts are without effort. He expands no energy that must be replenished. His self sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside of Himself for renewal of strength. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being.” He has all power. The word derives from the Latin and is identical in meaning to the word almighty which is used 56 times in the NKJ and is never referring to another other than God. We learn through contemplation of His attributes that God has power and God is infinite therefore what He has is infinite – His power must be without limit. Forever He must remain what He has always been.

God reveals His omnipotence to us in two types of revelation: general and divine. The word revelation derives from the Greek apokalypsis which means the removal of a veil so that something can be seen. The general revelation is for all His creatures to see through His glorious creation and man created in His image. Although that revelation may be suppressed by sin and stubbornness it is nonetheless revealed. He also reveals His omnipotence to us through divine revelation which is revealed to us through events of nature, His inspired Word, scripture, and His Son who was His embodiment here on Earth. There is an openness and transparency about Him that is compelling. He wants to be known, He wants to have a relationship with us (hence the sending of His son), and Christ reveals this in His prayer in John 17 when He says, “this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” One gentleman said, “God doesn’t want confused, bewildered, frustrated Christians walking about, He wants people who are walking confidently and peacefully in His will.” We know that He is all powerful through divine revelation but once known it falls in line with reason. How many times have we read something 10 times and then on number 11 said “oh, I never noticed that before” or walked past something on the street or at work and said the same thing. It’s not that it just appeared out of nowhere, it is that we had suppressed it and our minds simply weren’t looking for it. Such is the beauty of scripture. We can read a passage multiple times and gain a new perspective each time. Not that the scripture changes, but our perspective and understanding do.

Through general revelation nature is evidence of His power and omnipotence to all who exist. Rom. 1:18-20 reads "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and His divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." We are aware of His omnipotence as soon as we open our eyes, ears, or touch His creation with our fingertips. We breathe His air, we bask in His sun, we feel the comfort of His breeze on our skin and appreciate the growing power of His rain on our crops. If we fail to take the time to give Him credit or acknowledge His majesty, then as the scripture says, "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven..." and said individual is likened to the ungodly.

For many, the laws of nature have replaced God and become their god. A law is an external rule enforced by an authority. Nature is the uniform way things act in the universe (this is really the path of God's power through creation). Certain individuals may take certain steps to focus on the environment because it is pleasing to the earth. We do what we do because it is pleasing to our Creator. He has given us authority over His creation, He is the creator, He is the supreme authority, not His creation. It is God's uniformity and consistency that allows the scientist to predict the course of natural phenomena. We are compelled to give credit where it is due. Without Him there would be no nature to behold.

Back to His omnipotence, it is not merely the sum of all power but an attribute of our Creator. It is a part of what makes Him God. If He were lacking in this category or if His power depleted or was dependent upon something He would not be worthy of worship and would be inferior to whatever He relied upon. That is what makes Him who He is. God has delegated power to His creatures, but He cannot relinquish it. He gives but does not give away. In Acts 3:1-8 we see Peter and John going into the temple gates and are met by a lame man. Having mercy on him Peter says "Such as I have, I give to thee. in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." This did not mean that it was Peter who healed the man, but rather it was God who healed him under Peter's authority. His response in v. 12 says as much "Men of Israel why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us as if by our own power or piety we made this man walk?" After rebuking them he proclaims, "it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all." There is no one or anything that can claim such authority, which is why the word almighty is used for only Him. Because of His omnipotence what He does is done without effort. He relinquishes nothing and nothing is expended. All power and authority are His. When we desire to lean upon a Rock we have the ability to lean upon a rock that is sturdier than all others because it is the source of all things. Psalm 115:3 says, "But our God is in the heavens, He does whatever He pleases." All authority is His.

QUESTION SECTION

1. Zephania 3:7 reads; He will exult over you with _____, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of _____.”
2. Which four patriarchs are mentioned in Psalm 105?
3. Romans 9 says “He has _____ on whom He desires and He _____ who He desires.
4. In Acts chapter two which prophet does Luke quote? _____
5. In Acts chapter two which Psalm does Luke quote? _____
6. Random question: Who is 1 Peter addressed to?

“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.” Jer. 32:17