

# GoDeeper



CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP, FAMILY, OR IN YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY TIME.

Reach | Part 1 | Pastor Steve Wells | 09.05. 2020

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This past Sunday Pastor Steve explored two of God's attributes:

**Omnipresence** - God is everywhere present. He is not bound by time or space. He lives in eternity past and eternity present simultaneously. God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being, yet God acts differently in different places.

**Omniscience** - God is all knowing. He fully knows Himself and all things actual and possible in one simple and eternal act.

Tonight - let's take a look at another one of God's attributes: **Omnipotence** - God is all powerful. God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with His whole being (Spirituality), yet God acts differently in different places.

Don Stewart breaks Omnipotence down for us in "Blue Letter Bible". Read what he has to say about God's Omnipotence below and discuss it with your group.

[https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don\\_stewart/don\\_stewart\\_1275.cfm](https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_1275.cfm)

"When the Bible speaks of God, it speaks of Him as being all-powerful or omnipotent. The word omnipotent comes from two Latin words, omnis, meaning 'all', and potentia or potens which means 'power'. Hence the God of the Bible is the God of all power. The Bible says: "And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns ([Revelation 19:6](#))."

- He Upholds All Things [Hebrews 1:3](#), [Colossians 1:17](#)
- God Is Free To Do What He Pleases [Revelation 17:17](#), [Romans 9:18](#)

However, this does not mean that He can do contradictory or evil things. He can only do things that are consistent with Him for reasons known only to Himself.

There Are Two Sides to God's Omnipotence.

- First, He has the freedom to do all that is consistent with His nature.
  - While this concerns God's attribute of Freedom, it relates to His Omnipotence because it informs and reminds us that He is free in the display of His power.
- Second, He is able to carry out all that He sees fit to be done.

God's Omnipotence Is Seen in Creation

- By His will God brought about the entire universe. [Genesis 1:1](#), [Psalm 33:9](#)
- God spoke, and it came about. [Genesis 1:3](#)
- He Appeared As The Almighty God [Genesis 17:1](#)
- There Is Nothing Too Difficult For Him [Jeremiah 32:27](#), [Psalm 66:5-7](#)
- His Purpose Cannot Be Stopped; God's plan cannot be stopped. [Job 42:2](#),
- He Does Not Get Tired [Isaiah 40:28](#)
- All Things Are Possible For Him [Matthew 19:26](#)
  - Not all things that seem impossible and contradictory are really so. Many things that are impossible for humans are possible for God.
  - It is important for believers to remember that that contextually, this verse is referring only to the act of salvation. Man cannot save himself; God can do what is impossible for man, namely saving.
- He Has The Power To Save And Keep Believers [1 Peter 1:5](#)
- He Raises Believers From The Dead [1 Corinthians 6:14](#)

There Are Limits To What He Can Do

But does this mean God can do anything? Can God destroy Himself? Can He make a being that He cannot control? Can God make two plus two equal five? No, God cannot do what is logically or actually impossible. He cannot contradict His nature or character. That is not within the realm of His power.

- God Cannot Lie - The Bible says that God cannot lie. [Titus 1:2](#)

- God Cannot Be Tempted To Sin [James 1:13](#)
- God Cannot Deny Himself [2 Timothy 2:13](#)
- God Cannot Go Back On His Promises [Psalm 119:89](#)

Since there are certain things that God cannot do, how can He be all-powerful?  
A Proper Understanding Of God's Omnipotence Is Needed

The answer lies in a proper understanding of God's omnipotence. Omnipotence does not mean God cannot exercise self-limitation. God cannot contradict His nature or the nature of things as they are. It is not possible for God to either lie or to die. Neither can He make two plus two equal five.

The biblical God has limited Himself only to acts that are consistent with His righteous, loving character. Therefore, God's power is self-restrained. He cannot do evil, and He cannot do anything irrational. He cannot go back upon His word. He is all-powerful when it comes to doing things that are right, but He has no power to do things wrong. This is because another of God's attributes is Holiness. God cannot violate his own attributes even with His immense power.

When we speak of God being omnipotent or all-powerful we must understand exactly what that means. It means that God is able to do anything that is consistent with His holy character. He is not able to lie, do anything sinful, or do anything that is logically impossible. This does not limit His power. He can do everything that is holy and wise.

A final word on Omnipotence regarding God's interaction and demonstration of His power in the life of man: While God can choose to use individuals for His purposes, he does not act in a way that removes the free agency of the individuals he uses. When God 'hardens the heart' of Pharaoh (Exodus Chs. 7,10,14), what we see is God making use of the obstinance and narcissism of Pharaoh to accomplish His purposes with Israel in advance of the exodus. When God strikes blindness upon Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9), God is not making Saul become a Christ follower, but rather He is getting Saul's attention in a dramatic way that will change the face of the Church in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century.

God is not to be viewed as a cosmic puppeteer in the sky who bends and sways the will of man to fit His needs. God has given free agency to you and me to live a life of denial or devotion before Him. In this way, God restrains His omnipotence and allows us to make our own choices as it pertains to whether we live our lives according to His Word, or we choose to deny His preceptive will for our lives.