

God Almighty

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Power. It is the ability to perform effectively and get specific and desired results. It is just about the one thing that everyone wants in some form. Power is what men and women have sought for and fought for since the beginning of recorded history. But power in human hands has been a negative force, for the most part. It usually steals from the many to give to the privileged few. It is rare when power in human hands is freely exerted for the common good. The old saying, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely," has a lot of tragic reality behind it. The power of God is different, however.

Psalm 62:11-12a

God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.

Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy ...

Power belongs to God. He is the source of all true might. He is omnipotent. He is all-powerful. His ability to perform effectively and get specific and desired results is infinite.

Speaking to God, Job says,

I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You (Job 42:2).

And when Mary questions the angel about her being the mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, he tells her,

... with God nothing will be impossible (Luke 1:37).

But Psalm 62 also tells us something more. It says in verse 12, "Also to you O Lord, belongs mercy." The Hebrew word for "mercy" is "hesed." It is difficult to translate this precisely into one English word. Hesed is a strong and steadfast graciousness that is seen in acts of lovingkindness, mercy and abundant generosity.

God is the most powerful being in the universe, yet, His power is not a negative force. It doesn't take from others, it gives!

Genesis 17:1-2:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

God appears to Abram (later called Abraham) and reveals Himself as "Almighty God." And he comes not to take from Abram but to bless him. The title or name "Almighty God" is one of the great names of God that is revealed in the Bible. It is the Hebrew "El Shaddai."

The word Shaddai is derived from a root word that literally means "breast." The title Shaddai indicates one who nourishes and supplies, and fully satisfies. Coupled with the title El, which means, the strong one, or mighty one, or the all powerful one, El Shaddai means the all powerful One, who nourishes and supplies and abundantly satisfies! Almost everywhere the name El Shaddai, the Almighty God, is used, it is in the context of great blessing from God.

It is the awesome and infinite power of God, manifested for the good of those He loves, that brings Him great praise and glory and majesty.

Psalm 145:1-16:

I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts.

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.

Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, and I will declare Your greatness.

They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness.

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy.

The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.

All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and Your saints shall bless You.

They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,

To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season.

You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing [my emphasis].

God opens His hand and satisfies "the desire of every living thing." Proverbs 3:27 declares,

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so.

God doesn't! What God has lovingly promised, His power enables Him to do. When He sees a need He acts.

This knowledge of God's "awesome acts" and "majesty", His "great goodness" and "power", is greatly lacking today. This is one of the basic reasons why our faith is often so feeble and our worship so weak. How could our faith be feeble if we were to constantly tell each other of God's "awesome acts"? How could our worship be weak, if we pondered in our hearts "the glorious splendor" of God's "majesty"? If our faith is small it may be because in our hearts our God is too small in power and goodness!

On our own, we may be weak, inadequate, ineffective and ungracious, but God is not, neither are those who avail themselves of His power. Our God is a mighty God!

Psalm 115:3

He does whatever He pleases.

Whatever God wills or desires, He can and will do. Whatever God takes pleasure in He does. He is never hindered or stopped from manifesting His power to those who desire it.

Psalm 135:5-6:

For I know that the LORD is great, And our Lord is above all gods.

Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

God commands all of nature and can make it serve His purposes. He can do whatever He desires. He never fails to accomplish His goal.

Isaiah 55:10-11:

For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it [my emphasis].

Our desires are many times far beyond our own powers. There are many things we may purpose or plan, but often we are powerless to bring our own will to pass. But not with God. It is no more difficult for God to create a universe or a butterfly. It is no more difficult for Him to destroy a galaxy or save a soul.

Such power in the hands of men would be terrifying! But our God is not only all powerful, He is righteous. He is the Almighty who abundantly satisfies.

Jeremiah 32:27

"Behold I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"

There is nothing too hard for our God. What He has promised He is willing and able to do. There is no prayer too hard for Him to answer. No need too great for Him to supply. No temptation too

powerful for Him to help you overcome. No hurt too deep for Him to heal!

Psalm 89:13-17:

You have a mighty arm; Strong is Your hand, and high is Your right hand.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.

In Your name they rejoice all day long, And in Your righteousness they are exalted.

For You are the glory of their strength, And in Your favor our horn [strength] is exalted.

Nothing and no one can be compared to the great majesty and power of our God. He alone uses His great power to cause His people to "rejoice", to have great "strength", and to be "exalted." If we are ever to live powerful lives, what we need to do, what we must do, is develop in our hearts a correct understanding of the awesome and gracious power of God.

In Isaiah chapter 40, God speaks to people who are like many Christians today. They are people of God, but they are despondent, defeated. They are people whose faith is feeble and whose worship is weak. To correct this God takes the initiative and calls out to His people.

Isaiah 40:9

O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

"Behold your God!" Look at what He has done and rest your faith upon the One who can give you power and strength that will not fail.

Isaiah 40:10-31:

Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And his arm shall rule for Him; Behold, his reward is with Him, And his work before Him.

He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Behold our Almighty God. Though He is all powerful, He is ever so tender with His own people. His power is larger than all Creation since He is the one who created it all.

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

Who has directed the spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him?

With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.

All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains.

Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman to prepare a carved image that will not tatter.

Even all the nations of the world are nothing before Him!

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

"To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy one.

Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God?"

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint [my emphasis].

Behold this awesome description of God and let it sink within the depths of your heart! Who can be compared with Him? Why do we say that God does not see our needs, or that He is unable to help? Our thoughts of God are not big enough!

No force of nature, no country, no power can thwart His purposes. God is able to carry out His will to its fullest and most glorious conclusion. Our

God is able to conquer every obstacle. He is able to subdue all things to Himself. And he is willing to help us exchange our strength for His!

If we desire to evidence great strength and power we need to say to one another, "Behold your God!" We need to let our minds be renewed to the reality of God's immense power; power that is there for those He loves. The Bible teaches us that Abraham was strengthened in his faith by giving glory to God (Romans 4:20-21)!

God is not just some nice grandfatherly type who has a kind heart and can give good advice. He is not someone who had a command on things yesterday, is groping for a handle on today, and is out of touch with tomorrow. We have fooled ourselves into thinking that God was powerful in the days of the chariot and the abacus, but He is ineffective today. Today we have turbo charged cars and super computers and with these come turbo charged concerns and super problems. If this is your conception of God, I've got news for you, you are wrong! The God of the Bible, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is the one and only all powerful God. And in Christ He has provided power for His people unlike anything seen in the Old Testament.

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

We are usually ashamed of things when they don't measure up to our expectations. But Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. In a world of competing ideas and power structures, the apostle found the gospel to be more powerful than them all. The gospel is the power of God for salvation! It is effective in healing absolutely every physical and spiritual sickness. The gospel of Christ is the power to bring about the most profound change we could ever experience. It takes us from being weak to being strong. It liberates us from every form of bondage. And it will bring us to eternal glory at the end of the age.

The power of God in Christ needs to be understood by every child of God. This is why Paul prays what he does in his letter to the Ephesians.

Ephesians 1:15-23:

*Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,
do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:
that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power
which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,
far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.
And he put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all [my emphasis].*

God wants you to know "the exceeding greatness of His power" and to avail yourself of it. He wants you to have the power that raised Christ from the dead and gave him authority over all creation.

This great power of God is ours. We have power to transform our lives, power to triumph over all of life, power to live holy lives.

The power of God to those who believe is resurrection power - it raised Christ from the dead. It is ascension power - it has given him authority over all creation. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, as a part of his body, this power is ours!

We need to bring God's power out of the dusty pages of history and into the present reality of our

lives. We need to remind one another of God's glorious majesty and power.

Power is available to us, real power. Power to heal the sick, to cast out demons, to bring about salvation and the new birth. There is power to energize our wills, renew our minds, reconcile our relationships and bring us peace.

We need to meditate on this wonderful truth. We need to let it sink into the depths of our hearts and take root. Our God is worthy of our total confidence. He is worthy of our absolute loyalty and He is worthy of our heartfelt praise.

Ephesians 3:20-21:

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,
to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.
Amen.*

[This article is excerpted by permission from a wonderful book by Chuck LaMatta entitled, *Our Awesome God*. This book, along with two other godly, inspiring and practical books, *Faithful to the Fundamentals* and *Discovering Christ*, can be obtained by writing to Chuck at the following address after July 1: Chuck LaMatta, Grace Ministry USA, 7359 N. Hoyne, Chicago, IL, 60645]

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