

## **WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT GOD?**

**Part seven - The Attributes of God and their Application to Daily Living  
Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 7 p.m.**

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### **THE OMNIPOTENCE OF GOD - THE INFINITE RESOURCES OF OUR ALMIGHTY HEAVENLY FATHER**

**Revelation 19:6 - "Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.'"**

Great words, these. God reigns *because* He is *Almighty*. That means there are no *threats* to His reign. He reigns because there is nothing in or beyond creation that can *end* His reign. We all encounter *opposition* against the power of our own beings. Age, death, weakness, limitations - all of these make us aware of *other* factors bigger than ourselves. This is something an *Almighty* God knows nothing of.

The word "*omnipotent*" is the word theologians use to describe the limitless power of God. It actually occurs only in the *King James Version*, and only in the opening text of this teaching: **Revelation 19:6 - "And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of might thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia: for the Lord God *omnipotent* reigneth.'"**

The word "**omnipotent**" comes from Latin roots and means "**having all power.**" The more common Anglo-Saxon word with exactly the same meaning is "**almighty**". This occurs **56 times** in the Bible and, very significantly, is **never** used to describe anyone or anything but God. Never angels, never demons, never principalities, never powers, certainly never the Devil himself. In marvelous, bare-boned, stark simplicity, God alone is **almighty**.

That's why the central conviction of the Scriptures is summed up by the Psalmist - **Psalm 62:11** - "**Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God....**" Take special note, "**power belongs to God....**" Other beings **have** power. But it doesn't **belong** to them. Their power is always **derived** power. Their power is always **from** another outside source. Everything else that has any degree of power **depends** on God for that power. Power belongs to God in a way that it doesn't belong to anyone else.

The Bible keeps reinforcing this truth so it stays hot in our minds. **Creation itself** only holds together - only stays "**lit up**" - because of the sustaining power of God - **Colossians 1:17** - "**And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**"

What great words! The overworked adjective “**awesome**” truly applies to the power of God. The seasons, winds, movements of planets - the life in the soil - the power in the atom - all would lie silent and cold if God didn't sustain everything by His strong arm. Only mindless, numb souls overlook the fact that God is the power plant of all that is. Truly power **belongs** to God.

We live in a world full of experts who have largely explained away the power of God. We do it most commonly with our choice of words. Consider the way we talk about the “**laws of nature.**” Now, that word “**law**” can be used in two different ways:

- a) ***There is a law against robbing banks.*** It exists on the law books of the land. That law is an ***external rule enforced by some authority.*** The effect of that law comes into effect against the criminal when he or she breaks it.
  
- b) ***There are also what have loosely been called the laws of nature.*** But we only call them such because our culture has separated them from the existence of God. What we observe happening uniformly around us, and call the ***laws of nature*** are simply ***the paths of God's power and wisdom in His creation.***

All we do is **observe** and **record** what we see God consistently doing. We don't **create** those actions. And even if we choose to **call** them laws of nature, we certainly don't **create** any such laws ourselves. No **court** or **laboratory** created a **law of gravity**. We didn't find it written down somewhere. Careful scientists **codify** and **keep track** what they observe of God's activity with material objects. The way God consistently works is what makes the scientist's work possible.

**Psalm 33:6 - “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.”**

**Psalm 89:11-12 - “The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them. [12] The north and the south, you have created them....”**

Why does the Bible put such an emphasis on this seemingly obvious truth? Because the danger of our secular age is we get so absorbed with God's footprints in His creation that we forget about the One who made those footprints in the first place. All we see is **laws of nature** when we're meant to marvel at the **power of our Creator**. Where the saints of Scripture lived in a world where everything pointed to the almighty activity of a God of love, justice and sometimes wrath, we inhabit an age of mindless numbers and statistics. The hand of Almighty God has been replaced with deaf and dumb laws of nature.

And the problem with all this is it gets harder and harder, even for Godly people, to keep thoughts of their Creator close at the front of their daily thinking. This is why Christians need to be deeply and persistently **intentional** in the way they use their words. I try very hard to remember in ordinary conversation, especially with unbelievers, not to talk about **nature**. I don't mean that it's a dirty word. But I'd rather use the word **creation**. **Creation** does the obvious. It points to a **Creator**.

We should always try to trace everything back to Father God's hand. Say "grace" when you eat in a restaurant. Make it obvious that the sushi in front of you didn't just come from the **kitchen**. Before that it came from our **Creator**. Fly the Creator's flag over your life.

Let me make **four statements** about what the **omnipotence** of God means to each one of us. We'll study one tonight and three next week. Each statement will begin with the same words - "**Because our God is almighty...**"

- 1) **BECAUSE GOD IS ALMIGHTY HE IS ABLE TO DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO**

**Psalm 115:3** - "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases."

Every so often our minds are relieved to find a short sentence that says it all. This is one of those. Here's how you know who God is. You'll know Him when you see Him because He's the one who ***“does whatever He pleases.”***

The Apostle Paul describes God in the very same way in the New Testament - **Ephesians 1:11** - ***“....In him [Christ] we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him [Father God] who works all things according to the counsel of his will....”***

People get so hung up on the doctrine of predestination that they miss the last part of that terrific verse. Paul tells us how to ***identify*** God Almighty. It works like this. You're at a party. You see someone you don't think you know. Somebody starts to tell you - ***“O, you know him. That's Gerry. He's the guy who...”*** And then they start to tell you something about that person by which he can be identified by your faltering memory.

That's what Paul is doing here. He says something about God starting with that little word ***“who”*** about two thirds of the way through that eleventh verse. Our God is specifically identifiable. There are ways to remember Him. He's distinct from anything and anyone else. God is the one ***“who - works all things according to the counsel of his will”(11).***

That's who God is. You can't say those words about anybody else. No matter how big or how powerful a person may get, nobody can do exactly whatever he wants to do - ***nobody except God.*** That means your life is always safe in God's hands. Never go your own way.