

Our All-Powerful God (part 1)

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[0:00] Psalm 29, as we continue learning about the various and marvelous attributes of God, would you stand together with me for this reading of God's word from the 29th psalm.

Psalm 29, ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones. Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. The voice of the Lord is over the waters. The God of glory thunders. The Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful. The voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars. The Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Syrian like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The voice of the Lord shakes the desert. The Lord shakes the desert of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forest bare. And in His temple all cry glory.

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood. The Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to His people. The Lord blesses His people with peace.

[1:21] Well, the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. He is omnipotent. I had a problem this week when studying the power of God. I began with a word search on my computer. I said, I want to know all the verses that have strong or strength, power, might, and so on.

Push the search. Push the search. Enter. And scores and hundreds upon hundreds of verses just started scrolling up before me.

Where do you begin with such a plethora of material on the power of God? Well, it taught me something right up front. It taught me just how important it is to God that you and I know that He is powerful.

And it's important for us as well. It's important to God. One of the names by which He reveals Himself to us is none other than God Almighty.

Almighty. Three hundred and forty-five times. Our eyes meet upon that word. Almighty. The title that He gives Himself.

[2:38] And it's important to us, not only to Him, to know how powerful He is. I found that a dominant feature of the Christian life is simply this. Considering and counting on the power of God.

Look to the Lord in His strength. Seek His face always. So may the Lord open our eyes and show us wonderful things in His Word today about His power.

And leave us a changed people because of it. I'm breaking with my normal pattern because of all this material. And we're going to spend two weeks, Lord willing, on this attribute of our all-powerful God.

Now, when we talk about power, we're talking about what someone is able to do. How strong are you?

Well, what are you able to do? The boys in the weight room seem to boil it all down to one thing. How much can you bench press? That's the one exercise from the chest up that tells how strong you really are.

[3:53] There are all kinds of other kinds of strength, to be sure. But this much is right about the boys. They got this much right.

Strength has to do with how much you're able to do. So that when we start to talk about the power and strength of God, we must get around to answering this question, what is He able to do?

And the short answer of the Bible is everything. Everything. Jesus said it. Mark 10, 27. All things are possible with God.

Job said it. 42, 2. I know that you can do all things. The angel Gabriel said it as he came to that virgin Mary.

And he told her that she would give birth to a wonderful child who would be the son of the highest. And that he would have a kingdom that never ends. And Mary knew that virgins do not give birth to babies.

[5:00] And so she asked, How will this be since I am a virgin? And the angel said it will be by the power of the Most High.

And even Elizabeth, your relative, who was barren and in old age, is going to have a child. In fact, she's in her sixth month of pregnancy. For nothing is impossible with God.

Here's this special angel who lives before the face of God. Who sees God's activity up close where you and I don't see.

Behind the veil that hides heaven from earth. There is Gabriel. And he sees God's mighty works of power.

He was there when he created the heavens and the earth. And Gabriel sang and praised the Lord as he saw the wonders of God being performed in creating the universe.

[6:04] So Gabriel knows something about what God is able to do. And he comes to Mary and says, Let me tell you, when you're dealing with the God you're dealing with, He is almighty.

There is nothing that is impossible with Him. And so God is almighty. He is all-powerful. All-might. All-powerful.

All-strength is His. The Omnipotent One. He can do anything and everything. That's the short answer. But let's unpack this huge suitcase.

God can do everything. Let's take a few things out of it and just look up close at a few things that God is able to do that speak so pointedly to just how powerful He is.

We'll look at several this morning and then several more next week. God willing. Number one, God is able to create all things out of nothing. God is able to create all things out of nothing.

[7:08] Last week we saw the wisdom of God in creation. And we looked at His creatures and we said, Wow, what is the wisdom of God to design this intricate thing?

But wisdom is not enough in creation. There must be power to affect what wisdom has planned. And indeed, that's just what we find in our Omnipotent God.

Jeremiah, in contrast with the do-nothing idols of the nations, says, But God made the earth by His power. Jeremiah 10, 12.

God made the earth by His power. And as for the heavens, Isaiah says, It's by His mighty strength, His great power and mighty strength that not one of the stars is missing.

His great power, His mighty strength. Look at a mountain. What is the power that it took to make that?

[8:10] Look at the ocean. What power to make that? Look at the sun in all of its energy and output of power. But who made that?

What power in the creation? The whole creation is screaming how powerful God is. And if you don't hear it, it's because you've got your fingers in your ears and you will not hear.

And if you don't see it, it's because you've got your hands over your eyes and you will not see.

None so blind as He who will not see. No, the Apostle Paul says in Romans 1, 20, that God's eternal power is so clearly seen by the things that are made that it leaves men without excuse.

no excuse whatsoever. God's power in the creation. So I challenge you as you're looking at the creation to ask yourself, what is the power that it took to make that?

God's power in the creation Now when men make things, they need their instruments, their tools.

The mason, He needs His trowel and His level. The carpenter needs His hammer and saw.

[9:30] But God needs no instruments to create. He just speaks and wills things into being. When men make things, they also need materials, don't they, to build with?

Sand and cement and brick and lumber, shingles. So, you hire a builder. You say, build me a garage and I'll pay you.

He says, okay, here's the list of the materials I'll need. And you say, no, no, you don't understand. I don't want you to use materials. You just come and build a garage. And He says, you're crazy.

You're nuts, man. It's so foreign to us to think of building something without materials being provided. That's what God did when He made all things out of nothing, unassisted, no instruments, no previous materials.

Come with me back in time before there was anything but God. There He is existing His Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But there's nothing else.

[10:38] And then He speaks. And as Sharnak says, nothing begins to be something.

Let there be light. And there was light. Now that's far more than we can bench press. That's more power than we can imagine, than we can even understand.

And so we gaze up at the vaulted heavens and we sing, don't we? Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Power. And we bow in worship and all cry, glory, glory.

Now considering the power of God in creation is to affect the way that you face your problems this week.

Jeremiah's got a problem. We've been reading of it in Jeremiah. Chapter 32. The mighty Babylonians were besieging Jerusalem. Jerusalem. And the Lord had told Jeremiah that He was going to hand the city over to them.

[11:49] And that Judah would go away into captivity. But He also told Jeremiah that the captivity would not last forever. That He, God, would bring them back to their promised land.

And that houses and fields and vineyards would again be bought in the land. Things would be back to normal, in other words. And just as a witness of the certainty of this fact, God says, I want you to buy a field from your cousin.

And I want you to put the documents of that purchase in a clay jar where it can be sealed and preserved. Now who wants to buy a field when the enemy is knocking at the door and is about to come in and take everything for themselves?

It's like being offered beachfront property in New Orleans with a level 5 hurricane just a mile out to shore and it's headed straight for this property.

Are you buying? Jeremiah did. Jeremiah put his money down, sealed the deal. He bought by faith.

[13:00] What was it that strengthened Jeremiah's faith to do such a thing at such a time? Well, he tells us clearly or we see it in his prayer, his response in prayer when God comes and tells him this by this land.

He says, Oh, sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32, 17. See how he reasons from creation to his problem, from creation to the Babylonians. God, if you can handle this, the heavens and the earth and you can handle them, it is nothing for you to bring us back into the land, to set us free from the Babylonians and bring us back. Now, that's theology applied. That's the doctrine of creation applied in the life of the child of God. And that's what we need to do with the power of God.

God's power in creation is to translate into this very same conviction in my life, Sunday through Saturday. The conviction that nothing is too hard for God.

[14:20] Nothing is too hard for God. Now, we all have Babylonians in our lives and when they threaten us and surround us and we're facing something that seems too great to believe or too hard to accomplish, then we must reason from God's power in creation that God, if you can do that, then you can do this.

If you, by the word of your mouth, can bring the universe into being, then nothing is too hard for you. Now, that simple truth, does it not bring light streaming into your dark room? Just that truth alone, nothing is too hard for God.

There's no prayer too hard for Him to answer. There's no heart too hard for Him to break. There's no need too great for Him to supply. No sin too strong for Him to subdue.

No sorrow too deep for Him to soothe. No trial great enough to frustrate His purpose to bring us good out of it.

[15:45] God, this is my God, the Almighty, nothing too hard for Him. Able to create all things out of nothing.

That's what my God can do. We don't have time to speak of God's power in providence. We could spend a sermon on that alone, that God not only creates all things by His power, but He rules and controls all things by His great power.

The Lord Jesus Christ is sustaining right now all things by His powerful Word. Tremendous power in providence.

But we come secondly, what can God do? He can create all things out of nothing. Secondly, He's able to save sinners. He's able to save sinners.

Now, we've ratcheted it up. Whether you realize it or not, we've come to something harder than creating all things out of nothing. We're now into some deeper waters, deeper mysteries of the

power of God.

[16 : 54] He's able to save sinners. Well, is not salvation referred to as a new creation? And the new creation requires even more power than the original creation of the universe because in the original creation, there was nothing to resist God's power.

Nothing does not offer resistance. But when God came to your heart, brother and sister, He found it locked, shut, no room for Him, filled with other idols, other gods, the mind hostile toward Him, the will bent against Him, the affections fixed on other things, God but with irresistible power and grace, God overcame all resistance, breaking the heart, now melting it, changing it, redirecting it, the mind, the will, direct, the affections, giving a different bias and disposition to all that we are at the very center of our being and bringing us and bringing our hearts to willingly welcome the Lord Jesus as its rightful owner.

What power! What power! I'm afraid that the amount of God's power exerted in our salvation is little appreciated. I'm afraid that's in part due to teaching that makes little of just how lost we were in sin. Teaching that flatters sinners into thinking that they hold the power for their salvation in the back pocket of their little will. And at any moment they have all the ability that they need just to flip it over and choose Jesus to be saved.

That they have all the moral strength they need to come to Christ for life. No wonder the power of God in salvation is so little appreciated. Salvation is little more than a waving of the hand, a walking of the aisle, a saying of the prayer, all things that men can do on their own without God coming within a million miles.

[19 : 12] No, we've not understood our lost condition until we've seen that we were so lost in sin that salvation was impossible. Impossible. Here is one of the great impossibilities of the world.

How a sinner can be saved. And no man can untie that Gordian knot. No man, no mind, no Samson, no Atlas can ever save a sinner.

But God can. Salvation is impossible left to ourselves. But we will not. We will not. We choose not to come to Christ that we might have life, Jesus says.

That it was when we were without strength that Christ died for the ungodly. Romans 5 and verse 6. We didn't have any strength. We were without strength of our own to come to him and he came to us and sweetly drew us in.

Or we would never have come to him. We were like a corpse that must be brought to life if ever we would follow Jesus. We must have a heart transplant.

[20 : 26] We must have it thoroughly changed to even want Jesus. To even want to come to him. And to be saved by him.

You remember the rich young ruler who came to Jesus. This must have been a dignified man. He was rich. He was a ruler. But he threw himself on the ground before Jesus.

He's seeking eternal life. What must I do to have eternal life? Oh, boy, we're just a prayer away to having this guy saved. But now he's walking away from eternal life.

He's going away sad without eternal life. Why? Because he loved his riches and the things the riches buy and the prestige and power it gives him.

He loved it all more than he loved Jesus. And now Jesus is turning to his disciples and saying to his disciples just how impossible it is for a rich man to be saved.

[21 : 35] It's easier for a camel, hump and all, to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to be saved. You remember the disciples' mouths fell open and they said, oh, Lord, then who can be saved?

With whom is their ability to be saved? Who can be saved? And Jesus didn't say, oh, man, you've misunderstood me. It's really not that difficult at all. No, he says, with man, this is impossible.

What's impossible? Salvation? To have my heart turned off of its idols and brought home to Jesus. It's impossible. With man, this is impossible.

But with God, all things are possible. It's only in listening to Jesus that I come to appreciate just the amount of power that was exerted to save this sinner.

He alone is able to do what man cannot do. Now I know that the Lord saves with the saving power of His right hand.

[22 : 48] Psalm 20 and verse 6. Now this power of God in salvation holds tremendous encouragement, does it not? So your loved one is still lost and has no interest in Christ.

He creates interest where there is none. Remember, he doesn't need material to create. He doesn't need to have a little interest and then he'll fan it and blow on. No, there's none.

none. But speak the word and there will be interest in Christ. So he's dead toward God.

He's dead in his trespasses and sins. There's not even a spark of life in him. He brings the dead to life. So great is power.

So your child has no faith. God creates faith where there is none. So they are slaves of sin. And of Satan who will not let them go. Oh, the Redeemer is strong.

[23 : 51] The Lord Almighty is his name. There's no sinner so lost that he cannot save him. There's that sad and helpless case of the demon-possessed man in Mark 5.

He lived among the tombs, night and day crying out, cutting himself with stones, running around naked. No one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet.

No one was strong enough to subdue him. I love that. Words of Scripture, no one was strong enough to subdue him.

You know that was true of every one of us. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Were you here in the Sunday school hour? Did you learn anything about yourself and your inordinate love for the praises of men, your pride and self-love?

No one was able to subdue him, to subdue that man from such love of self. And then Jesus, with a word, subdues him.

[25 : 08] Does what no man could do. With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. And now he's sitting there clothed and in his right mind, subdued by omnipotent grace.

Glory to Jesus. So my unconverted friend, you say, I have no heart for God. I sit here and I hear the gospel and it makes sense to me.

I'd rather end in heaven than in hell. But I have no heart. I have no heart to repent of my sins. I love my sins. I love my idols. It's useless talking to me.

Oh, my friend, hear me. It's not useless. There's a God in heaven who creates a new heart, who gives new hearts that love Jesus Christ in his ways.

Hearts subdued by sovereign grace. The Lord Jesus is mighty to save. Right now, ask him to give you a new heart.

[26 : 11] Right now, trust in his blood and righteousness to save and cleanse you from your sins. The most common picture in the Old Testament of salvation is what?

Well, it's the Exodus, isn't it? The Exodus when there were the Israelites. They were in bondage, enslaved to Egypt.

And God went down to redeem them, to set them free. That's the great picture of salvation in the Old Testament. And that means whenever you read about the Exodus, you must draw the line to your salvation, to your redemption.

Okay? Because that's the picture of your salvation. Don't miss it. Don't just read about Pharaoh and Egypt and fail to draw the line. He's talking about your salvation from sin and bondage to sin and Satan.

And there's a lot of verses in the Bible that talk about God's power that are talking about the Exodus. As I went through my, I started a list of verses that talk about God's power and they just hoarded around the Exodus.

[27 : 27] Exodus. Wow. Deuteronomy 4.37, He brought you out of Egypt by His presence and His great strength with great power and a mighty hand.

You remember, Pharaoh wasn't willing to let them go. There were obstacles to their being brought out. And so the mighty hand of God. Why is God's power often referred to as a hand or an arm?

Because it's by a man's hand that he shows his strength. He grabs a shuttle and he throws dirt. He grabs a weight and presses it. He shows his power with his arm and his right arm, his strongest arm.

He grabs the spear, he grabs the sword and does conquests. And so the Lord, by His mighty hand, brought them out.

Ten plagues, wonders of His power, every one of them. Can you turn water into blood? What power power? Think of the power to get all those froggies to leave their natural environment in the swamp and to go want to run into people's beds and houses and palaces.

[28 : 39] Amazing power to have all the locusts in the area come from afar and congregate there in Egypt. Have the hail stones to kill the cattle, to destroy the crops.

And how do you make things dark for three days? That takes some doing to turn off the lights, to have things as pitch as midnight without a moon or stars.

And yet to have light in Goshen where the Israelites were? The power of God displayed in the plagues. And then they come to the Red Sea. Water's heavy. Ever carried a bucket of water? It's heavy. There's nothing to God. He split the Red Sea by His power. power. Psalm 74, 13. He just pushed it back. Made a dry place where the Israelites could pass through and then he just pulled his hands up.

Just pulled his wind back in and just let it cover over the Egyptians and their chariots and they sank like a stone to the depths. And Israelites sang, Your right hand, O Lord, was majestic in power.

[29 : 47] Power, power, power. power in the Exodus. And so now they're 40 years in the wilderness and now they're up to the edge of the promised land.

And Moses says to these Israelites about to enter into the promised land, the second generation of Israelites, you may say to yourselves, these nations there in the promised land, they are stronger than we are.

How can we drive them out? But do not be afraid of them. remember well what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and all the Egyptians. You saw with your own eyes the great trials, the miraculous signs and wonders, the mighty hand and outstretched arm with which the Lord your God brought you out.

Now the Lord your God will do the same to all the peoples you now fear. Have any enemies stronger than yourself?

You might start to be afraid of? How am I going to make it through this week? How am I going to meet that deadline? How am I going to handle this? Remember well. That's the word to you. Remember well.

[30 : 57] Think back. Think back to the power of God exerted in your redemption. We'll not live right if we forget the power of God in our salvation.

Present problems and fears are a call to remember God's past power in our salvation. How easily we forget the power of God exerted in our salvation.

Do you know the power of God in your salvation exceeds greatly any power of God exerted in Egypt with the ten plagues?

That was kid stuff. Think of the power of God in the incarnation of Christ.

Think of the power of God to save you. Well now we must bring the son of God the eternal son of God to become a man. How will this be since I am avert?

[31 : 58] The power of the most high will overshadow you and the child you have will be called the son of God. What is the power of Christ's perfect life?

Resisting resisting temptation every day all day. We don't have that power we fall. He resists never once gave in.

What power? The power of Christ's death on the cross where he destroyed the devil and set us free from sin and eternal misery for the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

You must get back to Calvary and see the power of God there in Christ crucified to save sinners.

What is the power of God in the resurrection?

Raising us to newness of life and making us new creatures through his resurrection. the power of his intercession right now whereby God is able.

[33 : 05] We're talking about what's God able to do? God is able to save you to the uttermost.

That's power because he always lives to intercede for those who come to God through him.

Power of his second coming. He's coming again in power and great glory not to bear sin but to bring salvation to those that are waiting for him. And when he comes by the power that enables him to subdue all things to himself he will transform our lowly bodies and make them like his glorious body. Power of God in salvation. Did the Old Testament believers look back to the exodus and the power of God exerted there to encourage them in their difficulties?

How much more should we new covenant believers look back afresh to Christ and him crucified?

This glorious salvation power of God displayed to save us.

Christ the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1.24 We're asking the Bible what can God do? Well he can create all things.

[34 : 19] He's able to create all things out of nothing. He's able to save sinners even the worst of sinners. And thirdly he's able to keep you from falling. Able to keep you from falling.

In Matthew 24 Jesus gathered his disciples around and he told them that because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Many will fall away because of the love of other things. The love for Christ. No it's turned off to the world but the one who stands firm to the end he will be saved.

And we feel the pull of the world on our affections don't we? And we know the devil is far smarter than us. We see others falling away.

We feel something of the weakness of our own resistance resistance and we begin to wonder will I make it? Will I stand firm to the end? Oh folks God is omnipotent and that is to enter the picture at this very point.

[35 : 27] Take comfort in your all powerful God. Your Redeemer is strong. The Lord Almighty is his name. Jeremiah 50 34. And so Jude is able to say now to him to him to him who is able to keep you from falling.

That's how strong he is. strong enough to keep you on your feet. To keep the love of God in your heart. To keep your faith in his cross alive.

He's able to keep you from falling. He's strong enough to present you faultless in that day with great joy before God. Is that not music to your heart?

Dear Christian then your God is strong enough mightier than the devil and the temptations of the world your own flesh. The Lord Jesus your mighty Savior is determined that not one of all those that the Father has given him should be lost.

There he's got his herd. We sang of it. Jesus is that great shepherd. And Jesus says of his sheep. I give them eternal life and they will never perish.

[36 : 41] no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father who has given them to me is greater than all and no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

Blessed assurance to be held in the grip of omnipotence. Peter. He knew what it was to feel his weakness and to fall, didn't he?

But he was held in the omnipotent grip of his Father and he says we are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that's ready to be revealed in the last time.

That's what makes your perseverance sure, dear Christian. It's the power of God as your shield. Every temptation must come through this shield.

But what if a fiery dart is more powerful than the shield of God's power? No, no. Shielded by God's power until the day of salvation.

[37 : 54] Paul with confidence can say I know whom I have believed and I am persuaded that he is able to keep what I have committed unto him until that day. He's able. We're talking about what God is able to do.

He's able to keep what you commit to him. Have you committed your never dying soul to this Savior? He's able to keep it. He's able to guard it and to bring you safely into his eternal kingdom.

The power of God. So your perseverance, brothers and sisters, is as sure as the power of God is great. If something can overthrow your almighty redeemer, then your salvation can be lost.

God is But as long as the Lord God omnipotent reigns, not one will be lost. None, nothing can separate you from the love of God.

Nothing can snatch you from his hand. Believe it for your own comfort. Oh, but what about my flesh? What about those inward lusts, those desires for sin, those stubborn sins that refuse to die?

[39 : 02] Well, you drag them into the presence of this almighty Savior. And you say to him, Lord, here is a rebel that resists your rule. Slay him beneath my feet. You bring your sins to this mighty Jesus.

He's able to keep you from falling. He's able to put Satan beneath your feet. Come like Jehoshaphat came to the Lord and said, we have no power to face this vast enemy that is attacking us.

But power and might are in your hand and no one can withstand you. We're not going to have time to come to our fourth point.

I simply want to introduce it to tie up where we've been this morning. We're talking about the power of God. Just how powerful is he?

What can he do? He's able to do everything. He's able to create all things out of nothing. He's able to save the worst of sinners. He's able to keep you from falling.

[40:13] The next point that we're going to look at next week is that he's able to strengthen you for all that you need. Now here's the beauty of all this. This God who created all things out of nothing.

This God with the power to raise a mountain. With a thought. A word. That power is given to his people.

He gives. This all powerful God gives power to his people. Did you see that in Psalm 29? We'll just take that passage alone and stop. Psalm 29, the picture of the great thunderstorm, hurricane, whatever it is.

It's got oaks being twisted and forests being laid bare and God's lightning shattering the cedars of Lebanon. Tremendous power unleashed in the storms.

And you come to the end of the psalm and it says the Lord gives power to his people. In other words, I'm not just to look up here and cry glory.

[41:18] I am to do that. I cry glory when I see his power revealed in creation, revealed in the storms, revealed at Calvary, and I cry glory, but I go beyond that and I realize that this God of omnipotence gives his power to his people.

And that changes everything. I'm sorry, nothing's the same with God's power. And I hope to draw that out further. Our time is gone. Lord willing, we'll come to it next week.

But let's glory, glory, together in the power of God in our salvation. Let's think again just what omnipotence was put forth to wake up this dead sinner, to bring the Savior into the world, to set me free from my sins, to rise again from my justification.

What power! We sing of it in our closing hymn. What though I cannot break my chain, 398.

If you're a lost person this morning, you come to Christ. You take these words and make them your own. Come to Christ right there where you're at. Ask Him to exert this almighty power for your salvation.

[42:37] may may may! may