

HE CAN

Psalm 139:13-18

Think for a moment about that instance when you felt completely overwhelmed and hopeless to do anything about it. Most of us can recall not simply an instance but *instances* that often extended beyond the shock of a moment to cover long periods of time when a solution seemed impossible.

I suppose we can take comfort in knowing others have experienced those same feelings of desperation and disconnectedness from any help. Over the years, some of us have experienced the shock or have seen the hollow reflection in the eye of parents who have just lost their child. We will never forget the “What will I ever do without ...” the husband or wife after years (even if only a few) of being one flesh. We have witnessed the “provider” for the family who has just unexpectedly lost a job with nothing in sight to replace it. I recently heard about the principals in a family-owned business who had delivery deadlines so great they would be “impossible” to meet, threatening the reputation and perhaps the future of the company. Then there is the deafening, empty silence following the report of a debilitating or terminal illness. Need we go on? Most of us have had those moments. Yes, we may be able to take some comfort in sharing the experiences of others, but the sense of desperation...if only for that moment...is unique because it’s you.

What we are talking about is reality. It’s the reality of living in what the scriptures define as a fallen world. It is a world we embrace so tightly that it deepens the pain and blinds us to hope. These moments give us the most personal opportunity to open the door of understanding the magnificence of the omnipotence. . . the unlimited power. . . of God to accomplish what otherwise seems impossible.

Image what Daniel must have felt the moment he was pushed into the pit of starving lions, or Moses, responsible for leading a nation, as the Egyptians drove them to the edge of the Red Sea and certain death. And what must Abraham have felt when he bound his son on the sacrificial altar? Then, of course, we cannot forget Job and the devastating loss of his entire family and all his possessions.

In each and every instance God in His omnipotence has proven His faithfulness time and time again. At Jeremiah’s imprisonment, based upon God’s unlimited power, he could pray with confidence, “Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou has made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee....” And remember Mary at what could have been her darkest moment, not understanding the why’s and how’s, as she heard with confidence, “Nothing will be impossible with God.”

We live in a world of ever growing demands and impossibilities apart from our relationship with the God of omnipotence. Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when He said, “Apart from Me you can do nothing.” If that doesn’t give us hope, nothing will.

LIFE RESPONSE

1. This week, MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Psalm 138:7-8, “*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me. The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.*”
2. Through the use of your concordance, trace words like *power, able, strength, might* that relate to God’s omnipotence. (There are over 500 of them.) As you read each passage, ask yourself which of the *instances* you are facing are beyond the power of God.

3. At first glance, it would appear that David is a bit narcissistic in that he refers to himself at least 13 times. We all tend to be pre-occupied with ourselves, especially in instances of stress. What do you see in today's passage—Psalm 139: 13-18—that is unique about how we *should* see ourselves?
4. How does the omnipotence of God in our creation as individuals define our purpose?
5. How does our knowledge of God's power in creating the life of those around you dictate how we should relate to them?

"My faith has no bed to sleep upon than omnipotence." - Samuel Rutherford

Psalm 139:13-18

*For You formed my inward parts;
 You wove me in my mother's womb.
 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully
 and wonderfully made;
 Wonderful are Your works,
 And my soul knows it very well.
 My frame was not hidden from You,
 When I was made in secret,
 And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;
 Your eyes have seen my unformed substance;
 And in Your book were all written
 The days that were ordained for me,
 When as yet there was not one of them.
 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!
 How vast is the sum of them!
 If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand
 When I awake, I am still with You.*

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

An attribute – Those inherent qualities or parts of character which God has attributed to Himself as constituting His nature or essence.

The importance of knowing the attributes of God: Contributes to the substance of our faith upon which we build our lives and strengthens us to live.

THE ATTRIBUTE OF OMNIPOTENCE

- All powerful, infinite, unlimited
- God is able

God has unlimited power to do anything He wills to do with unlimited resources and effortless ability to work His will in every circumstance in the infinite universe.

Jeremiah 32:17-18

“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, who shows lovingkindness to thousands, but repays the iniquity of fathers into the bosom of their children after them, O great and mighty God The LORD of hosts is His name . . .”

Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.

Psalms 33:9

*For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast.*

Revelation 19:6

Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

Four things God cannot do:

- God cannot recreate Himself
- God cannot lie
- God cannot be tempted
- God cannot change His nature

GOD’S OMNIPOTENCE IN THE CREATION OF LIFE:

vs 13 Creation

- “Thou didst form” - - “form” “to set up”
“to erect”
“to create”
“to acquire”

“Thou didst weave” - - literally “Embroidered by the hand of God”

Purpose - - A masterpiece to reflect His glory

vs 14 Confirmation

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| “I am fearfully and wonderfully made” | I am distinguished |
| “My soul knows it well” | I am convinced |
| I give thanks | |

Purpose - - Distinguished / handcrafted by His glory

vs 15-16 Completion

“In Thy book they were all written”

“Skillfully wrought”

“Not hidden from Thee
in the depths of the earth”

“Days ordained”

You/I created from a perfect design

You/I made by the perfect creator

Specific/eternity past

Purpose - - Predestined for the “praise of His glory”

vs 17-18 Contemplation

Contrast: “My thoughts” with God’s thoughts

Pride = As a Father/Mother would their child

Protection = On constant watch = day/night

Purpose - - To reveal the glory of God

For An All Encompassing Purpose

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy to the only God our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord be majesty, dominion and authority before all time, now and forever more.