

## 8

# The Omnipotence of God

### MESSAGE INTRODUCTION

Like all of His attributes, God's omnipotence is co-extensive with His being. There is no area of the universe where He is not exerting His power. From a blade of grass to the stars of the sky, everything and everyone is dependent upon His immeasurable power for its existence. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson explores the nature and extent of this incomprehensible power.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:28–31; Ephesians 3:20–21

### TEACHING OBJECTIVES

1. To show the extent of God's power
2. To commend worship of the One who controls all events at all times
3. To instill humility by considering our frailty in light of God's limitless power

### QUOTATIONS

*But however strong may be the purposes either of angels or of men, whether of good or bad, whether these purposes fall in with the will of God or run counter to it, the will of the Omnipotent is never defeated.*

—Augustine of Hippo

*We can do very little. God can do whatever He wills. We, beyond very narrow limits, must use means to accomplish our ends. With God means are unnecessary. He wills, and it is done. He said, Let there be light; and there was light. He, by a volition created the heavens and the earth. At the volition of Christ, the winds ceased, and there was a great calm. By an act of the will He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, and raised the*

*dead. This simple idea of the omnipotence of God, that He can do without effort, and by a volition, whatever He wills, is the highest conceivable idea of power, and is that which is clearly presented in the Scriptures.*

—Charles Hodge

## LECTURE OUTLINE

### I. Infinite Power

- A. God possesses all power.
  - i. All human power and ability ultimately belongs to God.
  - ii. Even Satan's power is allotted to him by God.
  - iii. Moreover, when God is present in all places, He is present in the fullness of His being.
- B. God's power is without limits or bounds.
  - i. He has the means to carry out His every desire.
  - ii. Nothing is too difficult for God to accomplish (Jer. 32:27).
  - iii. God is able to do what humans cannot, including the act of saving sinners.
- C. The knowledge that God can overcome all obstacles should encourage us to pray to Him boldly and persistently.

### II. Irresistible Power

- A. No one can thwart, resist, or undermine God's purposes (Job 42:2; Isa. 14:27; Isa. 43:13).
- B. God does not have to struggle to bring about His will.
  - i. God does not depend upon human action to achieve His goals.
  - ii. The battle between God and Satan is not a stalemate or a tug-of-war.
  - iii. God effortlessly prevails over human rebellion and Satanic resistance.

### III. Inexhaustible Power

- A. God's power does not diminish over time.
- B. He never grows weary or tired (Isa. 40:28).
- C. Through His inexhaustible energy, He gives strength to His people (Isa. 40:29–31).
- D. Scripture assures believers that they can do all things through the strengthening power of Jesus Christ (Phil. 4:13).
  - i. As we trust in Christ, He exchanges our weakness for His strength.
  - ii. God's inexhaustible strength empowers us to carry out what He calls us to do.

### IV. Incomprehensible Power

- A. God's power is so far beyond human capabilities that we simply cannot understand it.
- B. God is "able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20).
- C. God works in human hearts in unseen and mysterious ways.

### V. Self-Consistent Power

- A. God's power works in perfect conformity with all of His other attributes.

- B. Due to God's nature, there are certain things that He cannot do.
  - i. God cannot act inconsistently with His holiness, love, immutability, or other qualities.
  - ii. This is not an ontological limitation of God's power; rather, it demonstrates the boundless nature of each of His attributes.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Even the power that Satan possesses comes from God.
  - a. True
  - b. False
2. God's omnipotence works most closely with His \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Sovereignty
  - b. Omnipresence
  - c. Omniscience
  - d. All of the above
3. Because God is omnipotent, all of the following are true *except* \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. God's power is incomprehensible
  - b. God's power is like ours, but it is quantitatively greater
  - c. God's power influences human choices
  - d. God's power is present everywhere in the same degree
4. Since God is all-powerful and can do whatever He pleases, He is free to change His mind with respect to who will be saved.
  - a. True
  - b. False

### BIBLE STUDY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider how any power that you possess has been delegated to you from God. How should this affect your relationships with others, whether in the workplace, the family, or among friends?
2. Have you known individuals who have exhibited extreme hostility toward the gospel? How can a consideration of God's omnipotence provide encouragement when you pray for or witness to them?
3. How should knowing that every moment of your existence is dependent on God influence how you spend your time? How should this bring humility to life's pursuits?
4. Does God's omnipotence in and of itself provide you comfort? Or is it only in conjunction with His other attributes? Does this say anything about the benefits or dangers of elevating one aspect of His character to the exclusion of others?