

# How To Seek God's Face - Omnipotence

REVIEW: We are continuing to learn how to seek God's face. Our contention throughout this series has been that to seek God's face really means to know God for who He really is. So we have looked at God being personal. I think too often we talk about God, but fail to truly treat Him like He is a real Person. Second we looked at God being present everywhere.

In every case, every attribute, we have sought to look at both the theological side of God's character, but even more so the practical side of these characteristics. What does it mean to us that God is with us everywhere? What does it mean that God is personal? We want to look at the practical nature of these characteristics so we better understand how they affect our lives.

INTRO: This morning we are going to take God's omnipotence or all powerful. What difference does that make to our lives?

- I. Most of us get it, God is all powerful
  - A. We have learned that since we are little
    1. Even if you have not grown up in the church, being in a Judeo-Christian nation, you have some idea that God is all powerful
    2. We will get into His powerful nature in a minute
  - B. One of the names God revealed about Himself was El Shaddai - it means God Almighty
    1. God revealed that name when He was talking with Abram and promising to make a covenant with him
    2. This covenant involved increasing his number (of descendants), which meant at 99 Abram would have to have a child
    3. Fast forward by one chapter in Genesis and God announces to Abram and Sarah that she will become pregnant
      - a) Sarah laughs as she is 90 years old
      - b) God's response is, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
      - c) That really is the premise of this message, and a question we need to keep in our hearts and minds: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
- II. What do we mean when we talk about God being omnipotent or all powerful?
  - A. Humanity, and the universe itself has only the power that God has granted to us
    1. God's power is a part of His character
    2. It is part of His essence - so that if there were power that God lacked, He would not be God
  - B. So, are there limits to God's power
    1. We often teach the kids that God can do ANYTHING
      - a) That is true to a point

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- b) However, there are some things that God cannot do
- 2. God's power is limited by the rest of His character - He cannot do something that is inconsistent with His character
  - a) It is God's character that dictates what His limitations are
  - b) Humanity does not have a say in this
  - c) These limitations actually magnify His power and His character
- C. So what kinds of things can't God do?
  - 1. God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19 "God is not a human that he should lie...")
    - a) That only makes God greater
    - b) Would you want to serve a God that could lie? This limitation is a strength, not a weakness
  - 2. God cannot approve of sin Habakuk 1:13 "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing."
    - a) Again, the limitation is a strength, not a weakness
  - 3. God cannot change His character, Malachi 3:6 "I the Lord do not change."
  - 4. God cannot disown Himself, 2 Timothy 2:13 "if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself."
    - a) Again, strength
  - 5. God cannot be tempted by evil, therefore He cannot sin, James 1:13 "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone;"

## III. Let's talk about some ways that we see God's power at work

### A. The first would be in God's creation

- 1. We can't say creation itself, because we were not here to witness the act
- 2. However, we can see the fingerprints of God left behind in creation
  - a) Turn to Psalm 19:1-4a
  - b) Romans 1:20
    - (1) Love this verse
    - (2) God's eternal power and divine nature have been understood from what has been made
    - (3) In other words, we see the fingerprints of God in His creation
- 3. So for just a couple of moments let me throw a couple of numbers at you to blow your mind
  - a) If the acceleration of the expansion of the universe (called the cosmological constant) is off by one part in  $10^{120}$  (that is a one with 120 zeros after it - is it is a ridiculously small amount) - the universe would be life prohibiting

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- b) One more numbers based illustration - Roger Penrose calculated the odds for the state of the beginning of our universe as science understands it
  - (1) It is 1 chance out of  $10^{10^{123}}$
  - (2) According to William Lane Craig, that means that the chance of the universe existing in the state it would have need to so that life could exist happening purely by chance is “a number so inconceivable that to call it astronomical would be a wild understatement.”
  - (3) In other words, the chance that the materials the universe needed to exist coming about by chance is so small it defies understanding
- 4. Enough with the numbers, let me give you a few examples that are easier to wrap the head around
  - a) Light moves at 186,000 miles per second
  - b) Let's say the average airplane moves at 500 miles per hour
    - (1) For light to reach earth from the sun it takes 8.3 minutes
    - (2) For us to reach the sun by plane - 21 years
  - c) The nearest star is 4.3 light years away
    - (1) So it takes 4.3 years for its light to reach us
    - (2) If we took that same plane there - 51 billion years (non-stop)
  - d) This is how vast the universe is
    - (1) Actually that is just our galaxy - we haven't left the milky way yet
    - (2) There are billions of galaxies too
- 5. One more area to show you the beauty of creation
  - a) The planet earth is in a unique and privileged location in the universe
    - (1) People think that there should be life on other planets if they just find a star like ours with a planet like ours
    - (2) The problems are too many to mention here
      - (a) Not the right elements to create a planet at all much less one like ours
      - (b) Wrong orbits that would not allow for life - things like that
    - (3) That is just in our type of galaxy
      - (a) There are two other types of galaxies that are far more inhospitable environments for planets like ours to even exist
  - b) In our solar system, we are set up nicely for the other planets to protect us
    - (1) They have taken hits of comets and other space objects for us to keep us safe
  - c) Then there are factors with the sun

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- (1) Its type, size, even the type of radiation it emits
- d) The moon plays a part of why we are a privileged planet
- e) Even the systems here on earth that regulate the temperature
  - (1) Create our atmosphere
  - (2) Protect us from space objects as well
- 6. You have no idea how much I wish I had time to go into all of this
  - a) When you put it all together, it all points to one thing
  - b) A Creator that created this planet for us
  - c) He even created us with a curiosity to explore the skies and understand
  - d) But as the Bible tells us, "the heavens declare the glory of God"
  - e) It shows us the incredible power that God has
    - (1) To create a universe so large
    - (2) Isaiah 40:12
      - (a) "breadth of his hand" - that is side to side
      - (b) The heavens fit in His hand side to side
      - (c) It takes us 51 billion years to reach the next nearest star and we haven't left our galaxy!
- 7. This is the God we serve
  - a) He not only created it
  - b) He sustains it all - Colossians 1:15-17
- B. We can also see God's power on display in everyday life, and in His presence with us - which we discussed last week
  - 1. To talk about this point I am going to invite Holly Bishop to testimony of God's power in her life, and how He is helping her to grow
- C. Ultimately God's power is on display in salvation
  - 1. How God can take a sinner, one who, as the Bible tells us, does not seek after God, and forgive them, change them, give them the power of God in their lives
  - 2. That is a power that is hard to fully understand
  - 3. It is the change of life from a hardened criminal to a lover of God and people
    - a) The change of an alcoholic to a missionary
    - b) The change of an atheistic lesbian professor to a woman, right with God, in a beautiful marriage, and making waves in the homosexual community (that is Rosaria Champagne Butterfield)
  - 4. Only God can change hearts and lives like that
  - 5. And only Jesus could pay the penalty to help us receive our redemption
- D. That is only three areas we see God's power at work in life
  - 1. We could mention His power over life circumstances

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2. Or His power or nature
  3. Or His power over disease
  4. All with both biblical stories, as well as current life stories
  5. However, I want to move on to some of the benefits of trusting in God's power
- IV. What benefits do we receive by trusting in God's power?
- A. First, what I mean about trusting in God's power is this
1. We firmly are convinced that God has the ability to accomplish anything
  2. We do not say that we believe He can do anything, that is the base of where we operate from
    - a) It's a little like this video made for Father's Day
    - b) Remember the days when you thought your dad could do ANYTHING!
      - (1) And you really believed it too
      - (2) Maybe because your dad told you, or because you thought your dad was really cool, but that was your firm belief
  3. The only difference between our dads and our heavenly Father
    - a) Our dads are mere mortals (sorry dad's if I blew your cover)
    - b) Our heavenly Father CAN do it and more
      - (1) Ephesians is perhaps one of my favorite books in the Bible
      - (2) It is so for verses like this: "To him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."
        - (a) Immeasurably more than we ask
        - (b) Immeasurably more than we imagine
        - (c) That's a big God folks
  4. We need to trust in God's amazing power
- B. When we trust in God's amazing power, we will find relief from fear
1. We may fear Satan, and what he might do to us in this life
    - a) He has lots of schemes, and Christians can sometimes live in fear of those schemes
    - b) The reality is this, 1 John 4:4 "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."
  2. Just because we have the Holy Spirit in us does not mean Satan will not still try to attack
  3. So God has given us all we need to protect us from Satan's attacks
    - a) Ephesians 6:10-12
    - b) God gave us the armor for a reason - so we can not fear the enemy's attacks
- C. When we trust in God's amazing power, you don't have to fear man either

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1. Proverbs 29:25 "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."
    - a) It says that fear of man is like a snare - how?
    - b) It can come out in all kinds of ways
      - (1) Trying to please people
      - (2) Peer pressure to fit in
      - (3) Even codependency
  2. Instead of fearing man, we have an all powerful God that will keep us safe
    - a) Does this mean that no harm will come to us, that we can run in front of traffic, or pull a Matrix routine when getting shot at by bad guys?
    - b) Of course not
    - c) One of the amazing things when you read the diaries of Civil War soldiers is their complete trust in God during battle
      - (1) It does not mean they were not afraid
      - (2) However, they knew that even their death meant something, and that they were truly going to a better place
      - (3) Their confidence in God was unwavering
    - d) Trusting in God's power means we do not need to fear man
- V. If you are wanting to experience God's power, I encourage you to make one or all of these prayers a part of your life
- A. Be careful though, asking God for these things means He may give you what you ask for - so be sure you really want it
1. These come from a book entitled *God As He Wants You To Know Him* by Bill Thrasher
  2. "Lord, let me experience the power of Your resurrection"
    - a) This was Paul's desire in Philippians 3:10
    - b) Knowing the power of Christ's resurrection
    - c) In other words, I want to know the kind of life that is dead to self, dead to sin, and alive to God
    - d) It is what Paul prayed for the Ephesians in chapter 1 - that the same power that raised Christ from the dead was available to them
  3. "Lord, show me the meaning of the words, 'Apart from me you can do nothing'"
    - a) This is a great prayer
    - b) It is a prayer of humility
    - c) Understanding just how dependent we are on Christ is a key to succeeding in the Christian life
  4. "Lord, show me what it means for You to be strong in my weakness."

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- a) Many of us know Paul's words and prayer for God to remove his "thorn in the flesh"
- b) God replied that His strength is made perfect in weakness
- c) It is allowing God to be strong and use your weakness
- 5. Finally, "Lord, show me how I quench Your Spirit."
  - a) In other words, help me see my sin Lord
  - b) Maybe the scariest of all these prayers
- B. These are the areas of our lives that God's power affects - and no doubt many others
  - 1. I encourage you to give this real thought as to how it affects your life
  - 2. Think about your level of trust in God's amazing power that lives in you by means of the Holy Spirit