Section: Doctrine of God

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Q12. Is God all-powerful?**

Yes. God is able to do all His holy will. He is omnipotent.

Welcome family this will be a truly fun lesson so let’s pray and then we will dig in!

PRAY:

I want to begin by defining what we mean when we use the word omnipotent.

**Omnipotent** (om-nip-uh-tuh nt): God is able to do all His holy will. He is all-powerful. (REPEAT)

When we break down the word Omnipotent we see two main parts and here are their definitions.

Omni- meaning ‘all’

Potent- meaning ‘strength’ ‘power’

Notice our answer: God can do all ***His holy will***. This clarity is important because the idea of God being all powerful and able to do whatever He pleases is often misunderstood and attacked. For example, I have heard atheists ask the question, “If God is all powerful can God make a rock so heavy He cannot lift it?” Or, “if God can do anything He wants, can God sin? For example, can God tell a lie?” Now before those questions actually make you wonder about the answer let me explain how the questions are faulty to begin with.

We have phrased our catechism answer in a particular way on purpose. Listen carefully: God cannot do anything that **goes against His nature, or is inconsistent with His perfections. Thus “God is able to do ALL HIS HOLY WILL.”**

Here is a quick example: We hear the question can *God sin or tell a lie*. The clear answer is NO, because God will never do anything that is contrary to His nature or will. God will never “will” to lie, this is why scripture says God cannot lie. He cannot lie because deceit is not a part of His nature, He will never “will” to lie. This does not mean that God’s power is limited to what He wills, it simply means He never carries out (in a display of His power) what He does not will.

Augustine says this: **“God is omnipotent, and yet He cannot die, He cannot lie, He cannot deny Himself. How is he omnipotent then? He is omnipotent for the very reason that he cannot do these things. For if he could die, He would not be Omnipotent.”**

Scripture clearly states that, “God is in the heavens He does all that He pleases.” What we must see is that ***it would never please God*** to do something sinful, therefore although God is all-powerful, He never acts in a way that would not be in line with His character or His holy will.

Let’s look at the Scriptures to see what they declare about what God can and cannot do.

**James 1:13, Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.**

**Hebrews 6:18, … it is impossible for God to lie …**

**Titus 1:2, … [God] never lies…**

**2 Timothy 2:1 & 3, if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for [God] cannot deny himself.**

Looking at these passages of Scripture we see that there are things that God cannot do because they are inconsistent with His character. I hope that you see this as a comfort, if this were not the case God could be a tyrant, an all-powerful being that was not good, right, just, eternal, or truthful. What would your life be like if God tempted you to sin, or if He lied to us? We would not be able to believe the gospel, the bible, any promises, or the hope of eternal life. This reality should be a point of praise. Thank You Lord for being Omnipotent, and thank you that you never act in a way that is contrary with your perfections.

One helpful way to understand the power of God is to really zero in on what we mean when we use the term “God’s power.” God’s “power” is His “ability” to **carry out** all His Holy will. His **will** is not His **power**. If God simply desired something to come to pass, that alone would not make Him powerful. We desire things to happen all the time, but we lack the power to make them happen. In fact, if God desired something to come to pass, but did not have the ability to make it come to pass, then we would not call Him all-powerful. However, His ability (power) to have whatever He desires/wills actually come to pass, is the very thing that shows us that He is all-powerful.

With this foundation laid let’s look at three key ways that we see God’s power, His ability to actually do all that He wills. The first and clearest is in creation.

**God’s omnipotence displayed in creation:**

God created Ex Nihilo, which means out of nothing. God willed that the planets and stars, the earth and the fullness there of, humans and animals, minerals and atoms, all that exists, God willed that it should exist and in the display of His power He spoke, and it was.

**1689 LBCF:**

**In the beginning God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was pleased to create or make the world and all things in it, both visible and invisible, in a six-day period, and all was declared very good. He did this to manifest the glory of his eternal power, wisdom, and goodness.**

God created all things in order that His power, wisdom, and goodness might be put on display. Tonight, we are focusing on God’s power. One of the ways we see God’s power in creation is that God was not dependent upon anything existing in order to create. If I want to make something, I have to use materials that already exist. God did not use something to make something, rather He spoke, and something became where there was nothing, creation began. God willed to create, and in His eternal power, He carried that will out.

How powerful do you have to be to desire/will something (which doesn’t previously exist) to come into existence, and then simply speak, and it actually does begin to exist? I mean that is on a whole other level, right? Can you imagine speaking things into existence? Church pay attention to the weightiness of this truth. The ground below you exists because God spoke it into existence. He desired that there be earth, and He had the power to fulfill that desire by telling earth to exist and so it was!

God said let there be light and there was light. As a cool side note, God did this prior to the sun existing. Light did not come into existence as a byproduct of the sun. God did not need the big ball of gas (which He also created) in order to have light, He simply spoke and there was light. How amazing is our all-powerful God?!

Consider this reality as I read various parts of Genesis chapter 1. Listen with fresh ears to the amazing and overwhelming power of God who simply speaks, and things come into being. God willed that creation should begin and had the power to carry out all His Holy Will!

**Genesis 1 - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good…**

**And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so…**

**And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so…**

**And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so…**

**And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so…**

**And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind…**

**And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so…**

**Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”**

**So God created man in his own image,**

**in the image of God he created him;**

**male and female he created them.**

God simply spoke and the things He willed to exist came into being by His power. That is what it means to say God is omnipotent. God’s power here is displayed in His ability to make what He wills actually come to pass. In chapter 9 of A.W. Pinks book “The attributes of God,” there is a great quote from Stephen Charnock and a following paragraph that brings some weight and clarity to the power of God.

**““The power of God is that ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases, whatsoever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will may resolve. . . . As holiness is the beauty of all God’s attributes, so power is that which gives life and action to all the perfections of the Divine nature. How vain would be the eternal counsels, if power did not step in to execute them. Without power His mercy would be but feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threatening’s a mere scarecrow. God’s power is like Himself: infinite, eternal, incomprehensible; it can neither be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by the creature.” [Stephen Charnock].**

God’s power is the very thing that causes us to rightly view God. We should have a healthy fear of God because He is not an incapable threat to us, but rather He is capable of carrying out all of His just decrees. Remember, we are sinners and the justice that God must have, he will have. A right and good fear of the Lord should come about when we understand God’s power. Pink continues with this:

**“God has spoken once; twice have I heard this, that power belongs unto God” (Ps. 62:11). “God has spoken ONCE”: nothing more is necessary! Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His word abides forever. God has spoken once: how befitting His Divine majesty! We poor mortals may speak often and yet fail to be heard. He speaks but once and the thunder of His power is heard on a thousand hills. “The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave His voice; hailstones and coals of fire. Yes, He sent out His arrows, and scattered them; and He shot out lightning’s, and discomfited them. Then the channels of waters were seen and the foundations of the world were discovered at Thy rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of Thy nostrils” (Ps. 18:13-15).” – AW PINK**

God speaks once, and it is enough! Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His word abides forever! In Jeremiah 32, Jeremiah makes this claim about God’s power.

**Jeremiah 32:17 “‘Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.”**

Jeremiah leans on this foundational truth, namely that God is all-powerful, as he pleads for God not to hand the nation of Israel over to the Chaldeans. You see Jeremiah realized that even though this reality (being handed over) seemed imminent, and the Israelites rightly deserved this punishment for their sin, God is and was capable of doing anything He willed to do. Jeremiah roots this truth (that God is able to do anything He wills) in the fact that God created all things, therefore nothing else could be too hard for God to do, i.e. keeping a nation from destroying another nation or ruling over it. \*we will come back to this verse later\*

In the first chapter of Romans we see that God’s **eternal power** is revealed in ***what*** He has created.

**Romans 1:18-20 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, *his eternal power* and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”**

The key phrase that these attributes of God were perceived in the “things that have been made” reveals to us that creation displays the eternal power of God. In fact, His eternal power is displayed so clearly through His creation, that all men will be held accountable for their denial of the truth that they know. This is why they are “without excuse.” In God’s eternal power He created everything that exists. God’s power in creation displays God in a clear enough way that people will be held accountable for this revelation.

So, we’ve seen clearly that God has the power to create, what about His power to sustain?

1. **God’s omnipotence in sustaining and governing creation:**

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**“God the good Creator of all things, in his infinite power and wisdom, upholds, directs, arranges, and governs all creatures and things, from the greatest to the least, by his perfectly wise and holy providence, to the purpose for which they were created. In this decree God’s wisdom is displayed in directing all things, and his power and faithfulness are demonstrated in accomplishing his decree.”**

The providence of God, is God’s active governing of the universe in such a way that all that He decrees most surely comes to pass. God does this governing (providence) through His power to accomplish all His holy will. His providence (governing and sustaining of all things) reveals His power because He is able to accomplish what He decreed.

We see God’s sustaining power in:

**Hebrews 1:3b He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**

God displayed His power by speaking things into existence, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. God spoke things into existence and He tells them to remain existing, therefore sustaining them.

I don’t know about you, but I’ve had a tough time teaching dogs to sit and stay, oh I’ve certainly had the desire to train them well, but the ability to carry it out has been a whole other story. God wills that our planet continues spinning at a certain speed, He tells it to do so and it does. If God wanted it to stop all He would have to do is say the word and it would stop. This is God’s power in sustaining all things.

**Colossians 1:17 (says it this way) “And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”**

God has the power to bring things into existence and the power to sustain them. If not for God’s sustaining power nothing would continue to exist. In Him all things hold together. Things would utterly come undone if God withheld His sustaining power.

Here is another quote from chapter 9 of Pink’s “Attributes of God”:

**“Parts of His ways” we behold in creation, providence, redemption, but only a “little part” of His might is seen in them. Remarkably is this brought out in Habakkuk 3:4: “and there was the hiding of His power.” It is scarcely possible to imagine anything more grandiloquent than the imagery of this whole chapter, yet nothing in it surpasses the nobility of this statement. The prophet (in vision) beheld the mighty God scattering the hills and overturning the mountains, which one would think afforded an amazing demonstration of His power Nay, says our verse, that is rather the “hiding” than the displaying of His power. What is meant? This: so inconceivable, so immense, so uncontrollable is the power of Deity, that the fearful convulsions which He works in nature conceal more than they reveal of His infinite might!**

**Habakkuk 3:4-6 (reads) His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he veiled his power. Before him went pestilence, and plague followed at his heels. He stood and measured the earth; he looked and shook the nations; then the eternal mountains were scattered; the everlasting hills sank low. His were the everlasting ways.**

When God scatters the eternal mountains, God is still veiling or hiding His power. Can you imagine the fullness of God’s power? If the destruction of mountains is His holding power back, then what must the fullness of God’s power be like? Suffice it to say, that if God were to unleash the fullness of His power, much like the fullness of His glory, I imagine we would be too feeble to handle it and would not survive. God has the power to create, sustain, and destroy if that is His will to do so.

Over and over again this is the clear teaching of scripture. No one can say to God, “what have you done?” and no one can ward off His hand. God is all powerful. Consider Jesus in His ministry, the legions of demons had to obey Him. Disease and blindness had to obey Him. Death and life had to obey Him, He told Lazarus (who was dead for four days and starting to smell) to come out and Lazarus did!

God told the sea to part and destroyed Pharaoh’s army in it. God told the heavens to open and the deeps to bring forth their water and the world was covered in it and destroyed. There is no thing or person who can restrain Him from acting because God is all powerful.

**Job 42:2 “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.”**

**Luke 1:37 (NASB) “For nothing will be impossible with God.”**

**Daniel 4:35 (NASB) “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”**

To be clear, His ability to govern all things is His omnipotence. If He did not have the power to carry out His will to hold the universe together or govern it, then He would not be omnipotent and would not be God.

**So how does this play out in the life of God’s people?**

1. **God’s omnipotence in the whole life of the Christian**

**Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”**

Paul says he is not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation. Now I do not believe he simply means conversion, though he most certainly does mean that as well, but I think there is more to it. This is what I aim to show us for our last point tonight. God’s power in the gospel is the power that saves us, sustains us, and resurrects us, unto eternal life with Him (the true treasure of our heart) forever!

So let’s see this reality in scripture through these three points:

1. **Gods omnipotence in conversion:**

The reality of God’s power to carry out His will in saving those whom He has elected to salvation is a beautiful truth. We see this even in the naming of Jesus.

**Matthew 1:21 “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”**

See the clarity here church. God the Son was named Jesus for He **WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS**. God’s word could not declare this if God was not omnipotent and able to do what He wills. God is able (because He is all powerful) to save all whom He wills to save. God most certainly will save all of His elect. He has made it clear that this is His will and He will accomplish it!

Think back to our passage in Jeremiah where Jeremiah referred to God’s power in creation and claimed that nothing is too hard for him. This is God’s response:

**Jeremiah 32:27 “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?”**

This is the answer God gives to Jeremiah when God promises destruction upon the people of Israel for their disobedience. We might see this as a dangerous thing and in fact it should instill upon us a right respect and holy fear of God. Here’s the balance though, the same God who said this to Jeremiah in regards to the punishment He was bringing upon ethnic Israel for their disobedience, said this a few verses later:

**Jeremiah 32:36-41 “Now therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine, and by pestilence’: Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.**

You see the same all-powerful God who can bring destruction is also the same all-powerful God who can promise eternal life and have the actual ability to carry through with His promise! We must see the beauty and fear of this reality. The fear of God’s power will help us to fight against our sinful will when tempted to turn from God (And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me). The beauty will be such a precious promise to cling to when all the world is falling down around you (I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul). God is able to save because He alone is all powerful and He has promised to do so for His people! Look at the beautiful promise He made in this Jeremiah passage: “they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.

I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.”

Oh church, would that you rejoice upon this truth and rightly see the majesty and grace of God amid His POWER! The very reality that an all-powerful God would promise good to a rebellious sinful people, should leave us astonished and in worship!!!

In God’s power he gives us new life (new heart-born again) so that in this new life our affections (will/desire) are turned toward Him. If not for God’s work here we would never repent and believe! It is God who makes us alive in Him.

**Colossians 2:12-13 “having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the *powerful* working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.”**

While we were dead in our trespasses God made us alive. He did this through regeneration, upon our hearing of the gospel. God has ordained these means to be a part of salvation. When the gospel is proclaimed, God the Holy Spirit uses that proclamation to convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment. At this point, based on omnipotence, God the Holy Spirit causes new birth (in the elect), removing the heart of stone from the “dead in sin man” and placing within him a heart of flesh (see Ezekiel 36:26). This new heart sees and savors God as its ultimate treasure. Out of this new heart, also by the power of God, we repent of sin and genuinely trust in God. This gift of saving faith happens after He causes us to be born again. In this God displays His power to bring dead hearts to life and we must see how desperate mankind is for God’s work to do this. If God does not use His power this way, then no man would be saved!

It doesn’t end there though, in the life of the believer God’s power is displayed at new birth (bringing the once dead in sin to life in Christ) and continues on in preserving us. If God were to save us then step back (removing His power of persevering us—which Scripture promises He will not do), we would turn to enslavement to our sin again. God’s power starts our faith and preserves it in such a way that we can never lose our faith.

1. **Gods omnipotence in our persevering and sanctification:**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the *power* of God.”**

The phrase, “being saved”, denotes an ongoing process. You see the gospel is not just God’s power to convert the dead sinner to life, it is indeed Gods power to keep the repentant saint in the fold of God. Believers we should constantly be going back to the truths found in the gospel for our daily walk. Paul says it later in this 1 Corinthians passage:

**1 Corinthians 1:23-24 “but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the *power* of God and the wisdom of God.”**

Christ and his sacrificial death on the cross, for those who are being called, is the power of God and the wisdom of God on full display. God gloriously gave His Son for dead men to be raised from spiritual deadness unto faith and salvation. God did not do this to give a so-called temporary faith or human works conditional faith, rather those whom God gives new hearts to will most certainly persevere in salvation. The cross and the gospel are a means that God uses to display His power and keep us from turning away from Him. This reality even goes into our sanctification.

**2 Peter 1:3-4 “His *divine power* has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”**

In God’s divine power, He grants to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness. He does this through the “Knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence.” This knowledge comes through regeneration after hearing the gospel. God opens our eyes through His limitless power unto the beauty and truth of His glory and excellence. We know this is what God intends for us to understand because the next words that He inspired Peter to write was, “by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.”

You see through this work God grants to us His precious promise so that through his promise and His granting us eyes to see and savor him, we become partakers of the divine nature. This all comes through the life that perseveres and is sanctified by Gods work, His almighty power.

We must see each of these different steps as the “means” that God uses to save us and sustain us. Still not convinced, let’s look at one more very clear passage:

**1 Peter 1:5 “who by God’s *power* are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

Christian the very same power that spoke things into existence is the same power that guards you through faith. This faith is also given to you by and in the power of God. The God who does all that He pleases was pleased to save you and pleased to sustain you according to His holy will. This means we have nothing to fear when it comes to our faith being sustained. If God has saved you in His power, He will also most certainly keep you in His power! This is a precious promise to us that we should daily remind ourselves of. We are being guarded through faith by God’s unlimited power, for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time! AMEN!

When we consider the process of sanctification, we see clearly in Scripture that it too is by God’s power.

**Philippians 2:13 … it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.**

We are dependent on God to cause us to will and work righteously. The all-powerful God works in us sanctification, and He gets the glory.

So how is God’s power displayed in this last item? I thought you’d never ask!

1. **God’s omnipotence in resurrection:**

**Matthew 22:29 “But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.””**

God in His power will resurrect our physically dead bodies unto eternal life. God is not the God of the dead but of the living! When Jesus answered the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection He said, “You are wrong because you know neither the Scriptures nor the POWER of God.” His whole point was that in God’s power God will raise the dead unto new life eternally because God is not the God of a bunch of dead people. God will resurrect us as He resurrected Jesus. Jesus is the first born among many, we will also be resurrected unto eternal life with God. God not only has the power to create but He has the power to return life to things that have already died. There is nothing too difficult for God.

* **Application of the knowledge of God’s omnipotence:**

What does this reality (that God is all powerful and able to do all His holy will) mean for us as believers? Well I want to close with some practical applications for us so that we are not just learning what it means that God is all powerful, but also learning how that should change the way we live in light of this truth.

Here are five key takeaways for this lecture:

1. We should live in a beautiful balance between rightly fearing God, (respecting Him and honoring His power in the way we think and live) and worshiping Him in the truth that He will do what He has promised, because He is all powerful. Because God is all powerful we should live to worship and obey Him. Many people love to hear God’s promises and lean on those as if that’s all that God has revealed about Himself, meaning they don’t love the reality that He is also all powerful in His hatred of sin. Christian, we should have a worshipful balance between these two. God has revealed to us that His power applies to both His promise and His commands so we need to rightly be thankful for both of these realities. For those who love His promises but do not see the beauty in His righteous requirements are likely not truly saved. WE need to be thankful for both and live in light of both. Matthew 10:28 “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” These types of warnings in scripture are for our good! Let’s be thankful for them and live in light of them!
2. We should be daily reminding ourselves of the beauty and power of the gospel. When we make it a practice to keep the truths of the gospel in the forefront of our minds it helps us to walk in power of God according to His gospel. The gospel is the power of God to save us and sustain us. In it we have the truth that God will also resurrect us as He did Jesus unto eternal life. The power of God on display in the gospel should be a daily delight to us.
3. We should find such great hope in the power of God that it should be our anchor in the storm. God who was able to speak things into existence can remove cancer or increase it. This should not cause to worry but rather cause us to trust in Him more deeply. If God takes home our loved ones we should cry out with Job “the Lord gives and the Lord takes away blessed be the name of the Lord!” Because our God is all powerful and able to do all His holy will and because our God is good and far kinder to us than what we rightly deserve, we can live in a beautiful hope at any point of our life no matter the circumstances. God can change the circumstances for better or worse in our view and we can trust Him because we are fully aware that He has the power to do these things. We are not serving, following, and living for an impotent god who cannot stop cancer cells. Rather, we are living for the one who can stop them or increase their speed according to His holy will, and no matter what He decides to do we can rest assured that it is for our good and His glory! Church there is no circumstance that is out of His control because He is all powerful, so no matter what way the circumstance goes we can rest in the truth that He was and still is in control and He is GOOD, Amen! The only way a passage like the beloved passage in Romans 8 can be true is if God is all powerful.

**Romans 8:28** “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

This passage would mean nothing if God were not all powerful!

1. God’s power at work in us should cause us to strive for sanctification. God’s power did not just save you to leave you as an infant in the faith. Every day you are given life is a day where we should be striving to grow in our sanctification. How many times have you thought you’ll never break out of some particular sinful habit? If you understand the power of God, then you should realize that the view of a particular sin having power over you is incorrect. In Christ we are enabled and empowered through Gods very power within us, to put to death sin and to grow in holiness. God is more powerful than the temptation of and effects of sin and therefore, God the Holy Spirit who indwells all true believers and works in them their sanctification, can and most certainly will put to death the sin that is in us. You no longer need to walk in these sins, rather you should trust that the power of God to overcome your dead heart, is the same power at work within you to kill sin and the desires of your old self. The reality of this power at work within us should cause us to strive to work harder each day for our growth and God’s glory. This is what God commands to us through Paul in:

**Philippians 2:12-13** … work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

You see since God is at work in us, to will and work for His good pleasure, and since God is able to do all His holy will, we (in fear and trembling – rightly understanding God’s limitless power at work within us) should be working out our salvation. This means we should be fighting (in God’s power) to grow in holiness and putting sin to death.

1. Finally, though this is not an exhaustive list, we will close with this point. God’s amazing power should cause us to worship Him rightly. We should worship God in the right understanding that he can do all His holy will. No matter what God does, we should worship Him for He is good.

God’s unlimited power to create, save, sanctify, and resurrect us, should cause us to worship Him in every aspect of our life. Have you worshiped God for His omnipotence? Have you thanked Him your prayers for His power? Have you fought with fear and trembling to grow and become more holy because God is at work in you? All of these realities should cause us to explode with worship. Church you have no one to fear but God, you have nothing to hope in but God, you have no eternal promise apart from God and His almighty power!

Let’s pray.