"THE POWER OF GOD"

(God's Omnipotence)

INTRODUCTION:

"The Lord God omnipotent reigneth" (Rev. 19:6)

God is more than mighty. He is "the Lord God Almighty" (Rev. 21:22).

As He said to Abraham, who was 99 years old, "I am the Almighty (all-sufficient) God" (Gen. 17:1).

I. God's DEFINITION of His Power.

What is God's Power?

God's power can be basically defined as both:

"Ability" (Greek - "Dunamis") - The might to act
(Mt. 26:64; Mk. 14:62; I Cor. 1:24)

"Authority" (Greek - "Exousia") - The right to act
(Lk. 12:5; Mt. 28:19; Acts 1:7)

Why is God's right hand the hand of power? (Ex. 15:6, 23; Ps. 89:13, 118:16; Is. 48:13)

Because that is where Jesus is seated (Ps. 110:1; Mk. 16:19; Lk. 22:69; Acts 7:55; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2; *I Pet. 3:22).

Jesus is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (I Cor. 1:24).

II. God's DESCRIPTION of His Power

A. God's power is exclusive (Ps. 62:11)
(It belongs to Him alone)

"God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto God" (Ps. 62:11).

God (in contrast to man) only needs to speak once and His wish is heard and fulfilled.

"Power belongeth unto God" - and to Him alone.

God is independently powerful.
"Not a creature in the entire universe has an atom of power save what God delegates. But God's power is not acquired" (Pink, p. 47).

B. God's power is eternal

Is. 26:4 - "Trust ye in the LORD forever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength."

God's power never changes, never diminishes, never grows or increases; but is always the same.

God's ability to perform miracles never changes, but His desire to may change. He does only as He pleases! (Ps. 115:3, 135:6; Is. 14:24, 27).

"Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday, today, and forever."

This describes His character and will. He never changes, but His methods of dealing with men may.

(Just because He spoke to the apostles with an audible voice, does not mean that this is His mode for today.)

C. God's power is inexhaustible

God's power never diminishes (He never loses strength).

Is. 40:28 - "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting

God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding."

"Since He has at His command all the power in the universe, the Lord God omnipotent can do anything as easily as anything else. All His acts are done without effort. He expends no energy that must be replenished. His self-sufficiency makes it unnecessary for Him to look outside of Himself for a renewal of strength. All the power required to do all that He wills to do lies in undiminished fullness in His own infinite being" (Tozer, p. 73).

In other words, God did not have to rest on the seventh day of creation because He had worked up a sweat during the six days previous.

D. God's power is incomparable

Deut. 3:24 - "O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?"

Job said: "The pillars of heaven tremble and are astonished at His reproof. . . The thunder of His power who can understand?" (Job 26:11, 14).

God is more powerful than the Laws of nature ( ); nature itself (Ps. 147:5); Leviathan (Job 41:10); all the inhabitants of the earth (Is. 40:22); none can compare with Him (Jer. 10:6).

God's power is unleashed when He speaks (Gen. 1:1ff; Ps. 29:3-5; 46:6; 33:9 - "For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.").

"Before man can work, he must have both tools and materials, but God began with nothing, and by His word alone out of nothing made all things" (Pink, p. 48).

ILLUS: The power of Christ's words.

E. God's power is boundless

(It knows no limits outside of God)

Job 42:2 - "I know that Thou canst do everything."

(Gen. 18:14; Luke 1:37 - Miraculous birth)

Nothing can hinder God's power.

Isaiah 43:13 - "Yea, before the day was, I am He; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?"

Cp. Nebuchadnezzar's testimony - Dan. 4:35

His hand is not short (Is. 50:2; 59:1)

Nothing is too hard for God to do (Jer. 32:17, 27 - "Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee;" . . . "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?").

God's might is unleashed according to His wisdom ("Wisdom and might are His" (Daniel 2:20).
God's power is not unrestrained, out of control, irrational, uncontrollable force. He controls the exercise of His might. When He chooses to demonstrate it, He does!

God is able to do all that is consistent with His character and will.

All limitations upon God are self-limitations.

God cannot do that which is contrary to His character (holy nature) -

1) God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

2) God cannot tempt men to do evil (James 1:13).

3) God cannot deny Himself (II Tim. 2:13).

God cannot do that which is contrary to His will (purpose, plan, or desire) -

"God can do all He wills to do;
He will not do all He can."

III. God's Display of His Power

How does God use His power?

Demonstrations of God's power:

1. Creation (Rom. 1:20);
2. Flood;
3. Exodus;
4. Conquest of Canaan;
5. Miracles (O.T. & N.T.);
6. The virgin birth (Lk. 1:37);
7. The resurrection of Christ (Eph. 1:20; Rom. 1:4; Acts 26:8);
8. Future "Day of the Lord" (Joel 2:11; Rev. 11:17)

A. God uses His power to rule (Ps. 66:7)

B. God uses His power to preserve life (Ps. 79:11)

C. God uses His power to save (Mt. 19:26)

D. God uses His power to judge (Mt. 10:28)

IV. God's Design (purpose) for His Power

Why does God display His power?

Answer: For His own glory -- "His name's sake"

Ps. 106:8 - "Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known."

SEE Ps. 106:7-12)

God does not merely pour out His power for the benefit of those that are recipients of His working; but to glorify Himself.

To reveal His might, God will often use:

1) "Foolish things" (I Cor. 2)

2) "Weak things"

3) "Few men"

I Sam. 14:6 - Jonathan said, "There is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few."

EX: Gideon's 300-man army.

V. The Christian's Response to God's Power

A. Respect His power (Heb. 12:18-29)

B. Glorify His power (Rev. 19:1, 6)
(Praise Him for His power)
In the "Lord's Prayer": "Thine is the kingdom, and the power . . ." (Mt. 6:13).

C. Trust His power

Confidently rely on God's power for:

1) Deliverance from trouble (Dan. 3:17)

2) Fulfillment of His promises (Rom. 4:21)

3) Your eternal security (I Peter 1:5)

4) Your future resurrection (I Cor. 6:14)

God can back up what He says, because He has all power.
"Without power, His mercy would be but feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threatenings a mere scarecrow" (Charnock).

D. Use His power

1. Understand His power in you (Eph. 1:16-20).

2. Don't limit His power to work through you
(Eph. 3:20; Phil. 4:13)

3. Overcome pain and weakness with His power
(II Cor. 12:9; cp. Phil. 4:13)
God gives strength (I Chron. 29:11, 12).
God shows Himself strong to those whose hearts are right with Him
(II Chron. 16:9; Ezra 8:22).

4. Serve with His power (I Pet. 4:11).

CONCLUSION:
There is: "No prayer too hard for Him to answer, no need too great for Him to supply,

no passion to strong for Him to subdue; no temptation too powerful for Him to deliver from; no misery to deep for Him to relieve" (Pink, p. 51).
"The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).