

CHAPTER 4

GOD

IS

ALL-POWERFUL

One of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) most important projects is the International Space Station that our country is building in cooperation with Russia, Japan, Brazil, and several other European countries. If you visit the Space Center in Houston, you can view a documentary film about the space station. On a huge screen several stories high, space ships carrying materials for the space station are shown blasting into the sky. The power of the rockets can be seen as the huge screen fills with boiling clouds of fire and smoke from the booster engines. The roar thunders throughout the room. What power in those engines!

Then on the screen you see the orbiting space station. Its components are linked to allow astronauts to live in space and perform science experiments. Against the backdrop of the darkness of the universe, the huge space station floats through emptiness. It is thrilling to think about the power that scientists use to put men and women in space miles above the Earth to live and work for months at a time. What remarkable technological progress!

Then the camera turns to show the space station from another angle. Now the Earth is visible behind the steel structure with its many angles and parts. Our blue

planet with its swirling clouds looms huge, dwarfing the now fragile-looking space station. The Earth appears so big that only a portion of its surface fills the entire screen.

Suddenly, you get a glimpse of how very close the space station really is to the Earth. Although it has taken thousands of pounds of fuel to blast the astronauts miles into space, they really have not gone far from our planet's surface compared to the expanse of space.

Our human efforts are so minuscule compared to the reaches of outer space. We are like ants trying to scale Mount Everest. After crawling over blades of grass and fallen twigs, the ants think they have traveled a great distance. But when their journey is compared to the distant mountaintop ahead, they have hardly begun.

Sometimes we as humans become so caught up in our own power that we forget how very limited we are. We are like those ants toiling across a tiny square foot of earth. When was the last time you tried to accomplish something completely beyond your ability? Perhaps you have valiantly concentrated all your energy on the challenge at hand, only to find that it was not enough to do what needed to be done. Afterward, you felt exhausted and defeated.

However, God is capable of doing anything—as long as it does not violate His other attributes. (For example, He cannot lie, change, deny Himself, or be tempted.) Otherwise, no task is too large or too difficult for Him. He never fails or gets tired. Because He is all-powerful, He has the ability and the strength to do whatever He pleases. His power is not restrained or inhibited in any way by His created beings. God generates power within Himself and does what He chooses to do whenever He chooses to do it. His power is not an abstract idea but a force to be reckoned with. Theologians use the term *omnipotence* to describe the awesome, unlimited power of God.

GOD'S POWER IN CREATION

When I tour a historic mansion and scrutinize the building's details—the quality, design, and décor—I can draw some conclusions about its builder. Is the foundation strong? Are the walls and floors plumb and square? How well are the most intricate details constructed? Does the design flow from one room to another?

We live on a grand estate called Earth. As we look at the beauty and intricacies of our residence, we marvel at the genius of the design. When we gaze up into the heavens, we are overcome with awe at the vastness of what our Creator has brought into being. In one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible, King David describes how nature testifies to the power of God:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their

voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.¹

To get just a small idea of God’s creative power, let us consider our universe. We live on one of nine planets that revolve around the sun. As the dominant light of our solar system, our sun gives off far more energy in one second than all mankind has produced since creation. With a diameter of approximately 860,000 miles, the sun could hold one million planets the size of the Earth. Yet our sun is only an average-size star.

Our sun is just one among 100 billion stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way. The Pistol Star gives off 10 million times the power generated by our sun, and one million stars the size of our sun can fit easily within its sphere. It takes 100,000 light-years to travel from one side of the Milky Way to the other. (One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles or the distance light travels in one year.) Our galaxy is moving through space at a phenomenal speed of one million miles per hour! If the Milky Way were compared to the size of the North American continent, our solar system would be about the size of a coffee cup!

Yet our Milky Way is not a huge galaxy. One of our neighbors, the Andromeda Spiral galaxy, is 2 million light-years away and contains about 400 billion stars. No one knows how many galaxies there are in the universe, but scientists estimate that

there are billions of them.²

Isaiah writes, “Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out one after another, calling each by its name. And He counts them to see that

none are lost or have strayed away.”³ Scientists estimate that there are ten billion trillion stars in the universe, or about as many stars as there are grains of sand on all of our planet’s seashores. If all the stars were divided equally among the people of the world, each person would receive almost two trillion stars.

Yet, with the unfathomable vastness of our universe, God spoke and the heavens

and earth came into being; He laid the foundations of the world.⁴ His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—can be clearly seen and understood from His creation. Even people who have never received a verbal witness about God

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have no excuse for not knowing Him because of His power displayed in creation. He alone is the Almighty Sovereign of the universe.

Truly, God is omnipotent. Allow me to give you three truths about His infinite power.

GOD IS THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF ALL POWER

Our homes depend on a central source for electrical power and can be plunged into darkness due to a storm or other disturbance. This power is transmitted into our homes on slender cables, which can break or wear out. But God's power is inherent in His nature. He does not derive His power from any other source; all power has always been His and will continue to be His for eternity. Any power that we have comes ultimately from God. King David acknowledged in one of his prayers, "In Your hands

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are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all." Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they would "begin to understand the incredible greatness of His power
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for us who believe Him."

GOD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE

God has more power than all the forces of nature. The combined energy of earth's storms, winds, ocean waves, and other natural forces do not equal a fraction of God's omnipotence. He expresses His power through the laws of nature, which He has instituted—although God is not bound by these laws.

I have flown millions of miles, but I remember the most violent storm I ever encountered. Vonette and I were on our way from New York City to Washington, D.C., when suddenly the airplane began to buck like a wild mustang throwing its first rider. It felt as though the plane was out of control, like a leaf blown about in the wind. The sky seemed to explode with brilliant flashes of lightning.

As we rode through the storm, Vonette and I were reminded of when Jesus calmed the wind and waves. The disciples shouted to the Lord, "Save us, we're sinking!" Vonette and I began to pray, "Oh, Lord, You have not lost Your power over nature. We ask You to still the storm and to save us, though we're ready to meet You now if it is Your will. But if You have something yet for us to do in this life, we ask You not to allow the enemy to destroy us and all these other passengers."

Almost immediately, the turbulence stopped. The plane was stabilized and we continued on our course. Our petitions to God turned into praise and thanksgiving. Later we discovered that the plane had been severely damaged—lightning had knocked a hole in the fuselage—and that our lives were truly in danger. Yes, our God is more powerful than the greatest storm.

God is also more powerful than all the rulers on earth. Do the nuclear capabilities, chemical weapons, and military strength of other countries frighten you? We do not need to fear. The prophet Isaiah writes, “All the nations of the world are nothing in

comparison with Him. They are but a drop in the bucket, dust on the scales.”⁸ After learning firsthand of God’s power, King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges, “He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold

back His hand or say to Him: What have You done?”⁹

We need not fear that any one person or nation will put God to the test. He is so far above our earthly governments that they can do nothing outside His power. No ruler or army can change any plan that God has made.

God is also infinitely more powerful than Satan and his evil legions. God is not intimidated by the devil’s rebellious hatred. God is the Creator; Satan is a created being who can operate only within the prescribed limits God places on him. Satan is nothing compared to God.

Jesus told His disciples that “the prince of this world [Satan] now stands

condemned.”¹⁰ Demons screamed in fear when they saw Jesus. The Book of Matthew records Jesus’ encounter with two men who were demon-possessed. The demons immediately recognized the Son of God’s power over them by saying, “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” They requested that He let them go into a nearby herd of pigs. He said one powerful word—“Go.” And they did. In

response, the pigs ran over a cliff to their deaths.¹¹

As Christians, sometimes we feel that Satan has the upper hand. But our almighty God fights for us. Romans 16:20 gives this promise: “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” How encouraging that promise is when we are battling the evil forces that confront us every day!

GOD HAS THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING

Whatever God chooses will come to pass because He has the omnipotent ability to make it happen. God told Isaiah, “Everything I plan will come to pass, for I will do

whatever I wish.”¹² Speaking to God, Job acknowledged, “I know that You can do all things; no plan of Yours can be thwarted.”¹³ Consider some of the things our almighty God can do without any effort.

God has the power to create anything from nothing.

The psalmist writes, “The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born . . . Let everyone stand in awe of Him.

For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command.”¹⁴ When God spoke, the sky was filled with stars. Pastor Tony Evans writes, “It takes no more effort

for God to create a universe than it does for Him to create an ant.”¹⁵ God’s power is so unlimited that He could speak a few trillion more universes into existence, then the next day a few trillion more, then the same every day for a trillion years. It would not lessen His power one bit!

God has the power to sustain everything He has created.

Deists believe that God created the world then withdrew, letting His creation run automatically like a watch with a battery. It is up to us to maintain what is in the world, they say. Yet that is not how God is depicted in the Bible. The ongoing existence of all creation depends on our all-powerful God every second of every day. The writer of Hebrews affirms: “The Son...sustains the universe by the mighty power of His

command.”¹⁶

God has the power to judge sin and rebellion.

One of the great mysteries of life is why God allows evil on the earth. We will never find a complete answer to this puzzle. At the same time, we can know for sure that God will use His mighty power for the destruction of evil. He has given us examples in His Word: the great flood in Noah’s time and God’s judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah. Every injustice will be righted; every act of sin and rebellion will be accounted for.

OUR RESPONSE

As we discover the character of our heavenly Father, we will want to do more than file away facts; we will want to seek His presence and fellowship. Worship is our response to God that shows our gratitude for who He is. But what does it mean to worship God? Picture a huge, ornate room with an immense throne at one end. The room is filled with people and angels praising God. The throng opens up to reveal a carpeted aisle that leads right to the throne.

Suddenly, you realize that you must walk up that aisle and stand before the elevated throne. Your eyes look up to catch sight of the Person who sits in the honored seat. That Being is so full of light and power and righteousness that your eyes cannot bear to look at Him.

What can you say that will mean anything to this glorious King? Your mouth is dry and you cannot speak. There are no words adequate for the moment. All you can do is bow down before Him in humble adoration, servitude, and worship.

Throughout this book, we will learn the importance and the simple truths about worshipping our great Creator. The most basic element of worship is attitude. Our worship should begin with an attitude of awe for who God is and what He can do. We must realize how weak we are compared to the infinite power of God.

Once we have a right view of God, we will begin to praise Him. King David expressed this attitude when he was gathering materials to build a glorious temple to almighty God:

O LORD, the God of our ancestor Israel, may you be praised forever and ever!
Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty.
Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom.
We adore you as the one who is over all things . . . O our God, we thank you and

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praise your glorious name!

Do his words reflect your awe of God's power? Take a few moments right now to praise God. The following "Life Application" will help you focus your attention on Him and address any attitude problems hindering you from worshipping Him.

As believers, we have access to the greatest force in the universe—the awesome power of God. In our next chapter, we will examine how God uses His unlimited power in our behalf.

LIFE APPLICATION

EXALT YOUR GOD—An important part of worshipping God is praising Him. Make the following Scripture prayers your songs of praise. As you repeat the words, meditate on the character of God:

Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You...O great and powerful God, whose name is the LORD Almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds (Jeremiah 32:17–19, NIV).

The LORD merely spoke, and the heavens were created. He breathed the word, and all the stars were born. He gave the sea its boundaries and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs. Let everyone in the world fear the LORD, and let everyone stand in awe of Him. For when He spoke, the world began! It appeared at His command. The LORD shatters the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the LORD's plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken (Psalm 33:6–11).

REFLECT HIS IMAGE—Prayerfully answer these questions about your life and put them into practice: How do you think God wants to display His power in your life? What areas in your life need to be transformed by His power? How can you draw on His power to make a difference in the lives of those around you?

SHARE HIS MAJESTY—Think of one person you know who needs to be reminded that our Creator is all-powerful. Share the truths of this chapter with them; encourage them that nothing is too difficult for God.

CHAPTER 5

GOD USES

HIS POWER

IN OUR BEHALF

Some time ago, I had to fly from Los Angeles to New York for a mere three-hour stop, then fly to Portland, Oregon, to speak to several hundred pastors at a conference. When I reached Portland, I was bone tired. Every fiber of my being ached with fatigue. As I stood in the terminal, I felt impressed to pray, “Lord, do You have something that You would like to share with me?”

Immediately, I felt another impression to turn to the 40th chapter of Isaiah. I began to read a familiar passage, which took on new meaning for me. “Don’t you know by now that the everlasting God, the Creator of the farthest parts of the earth, never grows faint or weary?...He gives power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the

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weak.” I could identify with the writer, for I was absolutely worn out.

I continued to read: “Even the youths shall be exhausted, and the young men will all give up. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and

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not faint.”

At that moment, it was as though a great infusion of power flooded my very being. I was so excited as I thought about who God is and what He had said to me. I felt I could have thrown my luggage over the airport terminal and run to the meeting some miles away. Suddenly, I could hardly wait to stand before those pastors and proclaim to them the glory and power of our great and faithful God and Savior. Within thirty minutes or so, I did have that privilege, and God empowered and anointed me for the occasion in a marvelous way.

In all my years as a believer, I have found God faithful to use His power in the behalf of those who seek Him. A right understanding of who God is will revolutionize the life of every believer. It will launch him or her into the exciting adventure of supernatural living in the power of this mighty God.

But perhaps you have asked yourself: How much can I expect God to do through me? How involved is He in what I see going on around me? What is He willing to accomplish in my life?

GOD USES HIS POWER PURPOSEFULLY

When we look at the cosmic universe, we see order and design. Everything is in its place; everything has its purpose. If creation has so much purpose and design, then human history must also have purpose and design.

Many people are skeptical about God's willingness to get intimately involved in their affairs. They may agree that God has a general purpose for everything, but they wonder: *Do we live by luck or the breaks produced by our own hard work and cleverness?* They question if God even knows or cares about the details in their lives.

In His Word, however, God shows that He has a plan for this world and every person in it: "I have a plan for the whole earth, for My mighty power reaches

throughout the world."³

No matter what happens anywhere in the world at any moment, God is always in control. This is a comforting truth. How would you like to live in a world where everyone could do whatever he wanted? Can you imagine the chaos? For example, I have visited countries that seem to have no traffic laws. Taxi drivers go at breakneck speed, in and out of lanes, often colliding with each other. Fortunately, I have not been in a collision although I have ridden in thousands of taxis. I certainly would not want to drive to work each day in heavy traffic where drivers do not follow traffic laws.

Sometimes this world seems just as chaotic and out-of-control, yet God knows what

is in the future. He is not the author of evil and suffering, nor is He responsible for the consequences of mankind's sins. He does place authorities in their positions to help bring order to our world. The apostle Paul tells us, "Obey the government, for God is the one who put it there. All governments have been placed in power by God. So

those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God."⁴

God has unlimited power within Himself and does what He wants with it. This would be terrifying if God were a tyrant who meted out His power indiscriminately. Fortunately, the Bible says God acts out of love and righteousness (attributes that we will examine later). Some of us may question why God does not answer our prayers when and how we ask. But God is not a "genie" or Santa Claus who gives us everything we ask for just the way we want it. He uses His power to fulfill His purposes, plans, and will for us and everyone involved in our situations. He knows what we need far better than we do. Can you think of at least one prayer request for which you are now thankful God did not answer the way you wanted? Often we pray selfishly or from our fleshly natures. But as we align our ways and desires with His perfect will, and pray in faith, we will see His power demonstrated more frequently in answered prayer.

When we study God's Word from Genesis to Revelation, we get a glimpse into how He directs history and nations. The psalmist writes: "Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles He does for His people! . . . By His great power He

rules forever. He watches every movement of the nations."⁵ Although events at times make no sense to us, God knows the end from the beginning, and has us in the palm of His hand.

Man is at best a microbe on the "grain of sand" we call earth, yet God created us for a purpose. We feel most fulfilled when we respond to that purpose.

GOD'S POWER IS SHOWN THROUGH HIS SON

First Corinthians 1:24 tells us that God demonstrates His power through His Son. We can see evidence of this in His virgin birth. God planned before the foundation of the world to send His Son to die for us.

God's ultimate display of power was raising Jesus Christ from the dead. After Jesus' death by crucifixion, His enemies put a Roman seal on the tomb and set guards to make sure no one disturbed His body. Yet their efforts meant nothing to God. When He was ready to display His power, He simply rolled the stone away from the tomb and Jesus walked out alive and well.

Paul writes that the power available to us as believers is “the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms.”⁶ Does that not thrill you? The amount of power available to us through God’s Spirit is equal to the power God used to raise Christ from the dead! Like Paul, we can honestly say, “I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”⁷

REFLECTING GOD’S POWER

In the midst of the barren desert between Los Angeles and Las Vegas stands a 300-foot tower. On top of this tower rests a black receiver that is 45 feet high and 23 feet wide, surrounded by 70 heat-conducting tubes. Tens of thousands of people who drive across the desert during the daylight hours see what looks like a brilliant ball of fire glowing from the top of the tower. This is the world’s largest solar-powered electricity-generating station: Solar One.

How can a receiver turn into a glowing ball with a temperature exceeding 1,175° F? The secret is on the ground. On the desert floor surrounding the tower are 1,818 computer-controlled frames, each holding 12 giant mirrors that track the sun daily from the time it rises until it sets.

When sunlight strikes these mirrors, it is reflected onto the receiver at the top of the tower. The heat generated at the receiver is then transformed into electrical energy through a system of thermal storage and a turbine generator. When the network of mirrors is working in harmony, tremendous power is generated from the sun.

Note that the tower itself does not have the ability to generate power. This process is possible only because light from the sun—the real source of the power—is reflected onto a helpless receiver.

Have you considered that God wants us to reflect His power on earth? As we begin to understand our God’s vast and magnificent power, our lives cannot help but be transformed. Everything about us will change—our attitudes, actions, motives, desires, our lifestyle, and even our view of God. As we are transformed, we light up the world around us. Our society which was once darkened by fear, ignorance, and hopelessness will become lightened with our witness of God’s power, care, and intervention in our lives.

GOD WANTS US TO BE VESSELS FOR HIS POWER

Just because God has the power to do anything should not cause us to assume that we can use that power for selfish purposes. His power is dedicated to the accomplishment of His purposes, not ours. He will bring about the future that He desires. As our all-powerful God and loving Father, His ways are infinitely better than ours.

God is seeking faithful servants to be channels of His incredible power. Paul was one of countless servants of Christ who was available for God's mighty power. Acts 19:11 records that "God did extraordinary miracles through Paul" (NIV). Through Paul's prayers, other Christians also understood what it means to be "strengthened

with all power according to His glorious might." ⁸ The ways God desires to use us are beyond counting, but let me mention five that will help us reflect God's glory.

God gives us power to conquer evil forces.

We have already seen that God's power is infinitely greater than the forces of evil. We can apply that truth to our own battle with Satan and his helpers—no matter what they throw at us.

When God instructed Moses to lead the Israelite people out of Egypt, conflict developed between God's servants (Moses and his brother, Aaron) and Pharaoh's magicians. These accomplished sorcerers could have intimidated Moses and Aaron. Their demonic power was clearly evident when they threw their rods to the floor and the rods became serpents. But God demonstrated His superior power when Aaron's rod devoured the other serpents. This was a graphic illustration of how much greater God's power is than any other.

Satan's power is most clearly demonstrated through false religious systems. Millions have followed him to disastrous endings. From the 900 followers of Jim Jones who tragically died in Jonestown, Guyana, to Heaven's Gate cult members who committed suicide in recent years at the command of their leader, many have been deluded by Satan's wiles. But when we walk with God, we need not be afraid. The devil and his forces are no match for God. God's Word promises that we can have victory in our spiritual battles. James 4:7,8 says: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you."

Although we are weak at times, we can stand firm and say "no"; we can quit any habit or addiction; and we can speak up to tell the truth at any time. How do we do these difficult feats? In the power of the name of Jesus Christ and faith in our almighty and powerful God.

God gives us power to live a holy life.

I like to compare the Christian battle against sin to an individual swimming upstream against a surging current. His progress is slow and tortuous; he is constantly swept backward by powerful undercurrents. Hovering near the swimmer is a speedboat with a powerful motor. He can continue to try to swim upstream or he can choose to climb aboard the speedboat, which can easily whisk him up the river. Staying in the water means he must trust in his own efforts. Accepting a ride in the speedboat allows him to take advantage of a power far greater than his own.

We have a similar choice. When battling evil spiritual forces, worldly influences, and our own fleshly temptations, we can either fail miserably by fighting temptation in our own efforts or defeat that sin-current that drags us down by living in the unlimited

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power of the Holy Spirit.

Peter explains, “As we know Jesus better, His divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive His own glory and

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goodness!” We do not have to make our own lives holy or clean up our messy lives before we invite God in; we can appropriate God’s holiness through His Holy Spirit

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living His life within us.

The Scriptures assure us “that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we

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asked of Him.” We can become holy vessels of the all-powerful God by committing to live holy lives and being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

God gives us power in our weakness.

Since nothing is too hard for God, we do not have a need too great for Him to meet nor a problem too complicated for Him to solve. We can never face a foe too strong for Him to conquer. We can never pray a prayer too difficult for Him to answer.

His ways are always above our ways, and when we submit to His will, we experience peace and He builds patience into our lives. Our frailties in His hands become strengths. When Paul repeatedly asked God to remove a physical ailment that was tormenting him, God responded, “My gracious favor is all you need. My power

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works best in your weakness.” God uses our weakness to highlight His magnificent

power. Just as He helped me speak to those hundreds of pastors in Portland, He will enable you to do more than you could ever imagine.

God gives us power to proclaim the gospel.

One important aspect of living a holy life is spreading the good news of God's love and forgiveness to everyone we meet. Paul writes, "Everywhere we go, we tell everyone about Christ . . . I work very hard at this, as I depend on Christ's mighty power that works

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within me."

Each time I am with someone for five minutes or more, I consider it a God-given opportunity to testify of God's mercy and grace in my life. Whether in an airport, a taxi, or a restaurant, I am prepared to share with others my excitement about my Lord and my love for Him. How can I do this? Because God through His Holy Spirit gives

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me the power to represent Him.

You may be thinking: *Bill Bright is the president of a worldwide organization dedicated to introducing people to Christ. Surely, proclaiming the gospel is easier for him than for me. I could never witness like that.*

I am naturally a shy and reserved person, so sharing my faith is sometimes difficult for me. I must continually rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to be a fruitful witness. When I obey God's command to tell others of Jesus, God makes the experience joyful and meaningful. He reminds me that I am not responsible for convicting the sinner or drawing others to Him. He is. I am just to follow His command in love, concern, and the power of His Holy Spirit.

At Campus Crusade for Christ we have trained millions of believers around the world to share their faith in Christ. We have learned that successful witnessing is simply taking the initiative to share Christ with everyone who will listen, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and leaving the results to God.

God gives us power to fulfill His plan for our lives.

God wants to strengthen us so we can serve Him in the fulfillment of His purposes. That plan includes allowing us the privilege of making an eternal difference in the lives of others. But that is possible only as we come to know God as He really is. He is our God who can do anything through us that He chooses to do: "By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or

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hope.”

If we really believe that God is all-powerful, we will no longer walk in fear and unbelief. We will place our faith in God—not necessarily *great faith* in God, but rather faith in a *great God* who is omnipotent. In turn, He will lead us into a life full of adventure and purpose. I have found no better way to live!

Pastor David Jeremiah explains that the unlimited power that raised Jesus Christ from the grave is available to us today:

Most believers give lip service to God but live their lives in their own strength. They operate in their own energy about 80% of the time. Then they have a power outage. You know what a power outage is? It’s going to the doctor and finding out there is something wrong with you that they can’t fix. And realizing that you don’t have control. It’s going into an office where you have been going for 25 years where you feel secure, and getting a pink slip saying that you have been laid off from your job. Now you don’t know what to do. Most of us as believers don’t really touch the power of God until we have our own power outage. Then we discover that when we are weak, God is strong. I tell you that the power of God that was in Jesus Christ is the power that is available to you today. So we, too, can say with the Apostle Paul, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”

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(Philippians 4:13).

God’s power is something we can trust. Yet God’s character involves much more than power. His strength is used in conjunction with His many other qualities. One of these is the unlimited nature of His knowledge. In the next two chapters, we will learn more about God’s incredible knowledge—and how it affects our lives.

LIFE APPLICATION

WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART—Commit the following statement and verses to memory. Then as you encounter situations during this week where you are in need of strength, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God is all-powerful, He can help me with anything.
- Philippians 4:13—“I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.”
- Isaiah 40:29—“[God] gives power to those who are tired and worn out; He offers strength to the weak.”
- 2 Chronicles 16:9—“The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”

COUNT ON GOD—What difference can God’s power make in a situation you currently face that is beyond your control? Commit your circumstances to Him in prayer and by faith depend on Him to give you strength and to work changes through His mighty power.

OBEY GOD—Do you feel incapable of doing something that God wants you to do? Rather than concentrating on your inadequacies, focus on God who “by His mighty power at work within us . . . is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope” (Ephesians 3:20). By faith, take the steps necessary to do what God is asking of you.