

Mighty God
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We are in a Christmas sermon series entitled Unto Us. It is based on Isaiah 9:6 which says:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Our emphasis in this series is on the attributes of God. There are many facets to the character of God – like omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, holiness, righteousness, love, justice, grace and mercy.

Last week Pastor Deb preached on how He is our Wonderful Counselor. The focus was on God’s omniscience – which means God knows everything there is to know! God cannot learn anything because God already knows everything. Isaiah 40:13-14 says:

Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him? With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?

The obvious answer is no one. No one can teach God anything because He already knows everything. If God could learn something that means that there is something He does not know – which means He is not all-knowing. But the Bible says this about Jesus in John 16:30-

You know all things.

Since God knows everything – He is never surprised or caught off guard. He never wonders about anything. God knows everything – past, present and future.

He is all-knowing and all-wise. Wisdom is knowing what to do with knowledge. It means to choose the best means to the best end. So – not only does God know everything – He knows the best way to handle every situation. That is why He is our Wonderful Counselor.

My sermon today is entitled Mighty God and my focus will be on the omnipotence of God. By the way - God’s wisdom and power – His omniscience and omnipotence – always go together.

One without the other is inconceivable. Good counsel without the power to make it happen is useless. Power without good counsel is abusive.

That's why Psalm 147:5 says:

Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.

Infinite means without limit – and God is without limit in all of His attributes – including knowledge and power. Revelation 19:6 says:

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

The word omnipotent is the combination of two words: omni – which means all – and potent – which means power. That means that God is all powerful. His power is unlimited.

I remember when I was a freshman at Michigan State University. I was on fire for Jesus and lots of people didn't like that. Someone asked me: "Do you believe that God can do anything?" I said, "Yes." They said, "Then can God create a rock so big that God cannot pick it up?" I was stumped.

Now I know to say "God can't do everything." For instance – God cannot sin and He cannot lie. He can't get sick and He cannot die! God cannot do anything outside of His character.

God cannot create something more powerful than Himself because He is all-powerful. The Creator is always more powerful than the creation. So – there cannot be a created rock stronger than the Creator!

God's power cannot be diminished and it cannot be increased. God never grows tired or gets weak. He rested on the seventh day of creation – not because He was tired – but because He was finished!

God has always been almighty and He will always be almighty. How do we know that?

1- We see the power of God in His Word.

The word of God says that God is almighty. Jeremiah 32:17-18 says:

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.

Nothing is too difficult for God. In fact, nothing is difficult for God. God is all-powerful and all power belongs to God.

Psalm 62:11 says:

God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God.

Not only does the Word say that God is all powerful – but there is also power in God’s word! Hebrews 4:12 says:

The word of God is alive and powerful.

I have a library full of books I have read – but none of them have a fraction of the life and power that is in God’s Word!

When you’re down it will lift You Up!
 When you’re lost it will show you the Way!
 When you’re fearful it will give You Courage!
 When you’re hurting it will give You Healing!
 When you’re weak it will give You Strength!
 When you doubt it will build your faith!
 When you’re in despair it will give you hope!
 When you feel spiritually dead, it will give you life.
 There is mighty power in the Word of Almighty God!

So – we know that the Bible says that God is almighty – but are there other ways we can see His power? Why yes, I’m glad you asked.

2- We see the power of God in creation.

God has the power to create. God is the only one with the power to create something out of nothing! Genesis 1:1 says:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

We see three truths in this verse.

- 1- The universe was created – it had a beginning.
- 2- God created everything.
- 3- God existed before the beginning.
 If you create something, you must exist before you make it.

People ask, “Then who created God?” No one. He was already there at the beginning. God existed before creation and before time. God alone is self-existent, uncaused. He is the first cause – the creator of everything else.

And every single person sees the power of God in creation. Romans 1:20 says:
Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — His eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

God can be seen in creation, yet many still try to deny it.

Sir Isaac Newton is considered one of the most influential scientists who ever lived. His accomplishments in mathematics, optics, and physics laid the foundation for modern science and revolutionized the world.

Newton had a perfectly scaled-down replica of the then-known solar system built for his studies. A large golden ball represented the sun at the center, and the known planets revolved around it through a series of cogs, belts, and rods. It was an incredible machine.

One day while Newton was studying his model, an agnostic friend stopped by for a visit. Newton knew this man questioned his belief in God. The man marveled at the machinery and asked, "Who made this?" Without looking up, Newton replied, "Nobody." "Nobody?" his friend asked. "That's impossible, someone had to make it." "No, really," said Newton, "all of these globes and cogs and belts and gears just happened to come together, and wonder of wonders, by chance they began revolving in their set orbits with perfect timing."

The message was clear. There was no way this intricate machine could have just happened. Someone had to make it and set it in motion.

Yet, many people believe that the universe - which is infinitely more profound than a model of it - just happened.

Right. The universe just happened. All the planets just happened to appear and began revolving in their set orbits with perfect timing. No way - the creation exists because of the Creator!

People go to lengths to try to explain a beginning without God. But since the discovery that the universe has a beginning and as was created out of nothing, it's gotten more difficult because those are both biblical concepts. Hebrews 11:3 says:

By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Creation reveals the power of Almighty God! Colossians 1:15-17 says it this way:

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Jesus is the Almighty God who created everything and who holds all things together by the power of His Word.

3- We see the power of God in miracles.

The Bible is full of miracles – like the ten plagues God sent to Egypt to cause them to let the Children of Israel go free.

We also see miracles in the life of Christ when He walked on water, raised people from the dead, multiplied food and turned water into wine. And we still see miracles today.

4- We see the power of God in healing.

Acts 10:38 says:

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.

Thank God that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and He is still healing today. If you've experienced healing in your life – that was the power of God. Doctors can treat you, but only God can heal you!

5- We see the power of God in deliverance.

Many of us have been set free from addictions in our lives by the power of Almighty God! Psalm 3:8 says:

From the Lord comes deliverance. May Your blessing be on Your people.

2 Corinthians 10:4 says:

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

By the way – Satan's power is not equal to God's. Satan was created by God and God can take him out at any time. And when the end does come, the Bible teaches that it only takes one angel to bind Satan and throw him into the abyss.

God has given us power over Satan and greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world!

6- We see the power of God in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the main event in history that proves that Jesus is God and the only way of salvation!

Ephesians 1:18-21 says:

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe.

That power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

The resurrection revealed that Jesus has power over death, hell and the grave!

7- We see the power of God in salvation.

Every human being was created by God - but not everyone is a child of God. The only way to get into God's family is by being born again into it. You became part of the human family by your first birth but you become a member of God's family by your second birth when you are saved. John 3:1-3 says:

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with Him."

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

The invitation to be born again and become part of God's family is universal, but there is one condition: profession of faith in Jesus. Galatians 3:26 says:

For now we are all children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

No one is exempt from the need to be born again to be saved. In the passage from John 1, we saw Nicodemus was a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling council and a teacher. Yet Jesus told him, You must be born again.

This shows us several things:

1- Religion does not have the power to save you.

Nicodemus was a religious man, a Jew, but he still needed to be born again. You can be religious and church going, but you must be born again. Religion won't save you. Church won't save you.

2- Moral goodness does not have the power to save you.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee, which was one of the strictest sects. They were very careful to follow God's laws, but Jesus said Nicodemus needed to be born again. You can be a good person, not break laws and live a moral life, but you still must be born again.

3- Position, power and prestige can't save you.

Nicodemus was a member of the ruling council, the top of the ladder in his society, but Jesus said, you must be born again. You can have power, position and prestige, but you still must be born again.

4- Education can't save you.

Nicodemus spent his life learning. In fact, he was so educated he was called a teacher of Israel, but Jesus still told him he needed to be born again. So you can have a great education, but you still must be born again!

I tell you confidently that Nicodemus probably lived a more moral life than most of us, but Jesus said he needed to be born again.

only happens by the grace of God.
 We can't work our way in.
 We can never do enough on our own.
 We have absolutely no power to save ourselves!

Some people say that Christianity is a crutch for weak people. I tell them they've got it half right. We are weak people. In fact, we are so weak we need more than a crutch. A crutch implies we still have some of our own strength. A crutch implies we can limp our way to heaven – hobble our way in. No, Christianity is more like a stretcher because we have no strength of our own. We can't limp our way in – we must be carried.

We are like the lame man by the pool of Bethesda who could not walk on his own. We need the healing touch of Christ.

We are like the blind man on the side of the road yelling at the top of our lungs, Jesus, have mercy on me. We are blind without Christ.

No, we are more like Lazarus – dead and buried and bound by grave clothes. We can do nothing - absolutely nothing without the life and power of Christ.

You might feel like you're facing an impossible situation, but to our Almighty God – all things are possible!

You might feel like you're drowning, but our Almighty God can walk on water!

You might only have a little bread and fish, but our Almighty God can feed thousands with that!

That's because there's power in His name!
 There's power in His Word!

There's power in His blood!
There's power in His Spirit!
There's power in prayer!
There's power in praise!
There's power in unity!

So – that means there is real power released when God's people who are called by His name, saved by His blood, full of His Spirit, believing in His Word, unite in praise to bless the Lord God Almighty!

Has your life been changed by faith in Jesus Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Just as God was the first cause – the beginner of the beginning – He can be the beginner of a new life for you. This is one of the greatest miracles of all. Romans 1:16 says:

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

The power of God is a very important to understand at Christmas. At Christmas we celebrate Christ's first coming to earth in the form of a baby. Some people look at Jesus as a perpetual baby with no power. But we need to understand He's coming back again one day. And it will not be as a meek and gentle baby! He's coming back in power as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Are you ready to meet Almighty God?