

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Learning From What God Cannot Do

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To say God cannot do something seems to contradict the concept of an omnipotent or all-powerful God. Jehovah, in the face of laughing at His promising an old couple that they would have a child, challenges the doubters with, “*is anything too hard for Jehovah?*” (*Genesis 18:14*). When the Lord’s own apostles were wondering at their failure to cast out demons, Jesus looked to their “little faith” as the problem and said that if they had faith, even as small as a grain of mustard seed, they could miraculously remove mountains and “*nothing shall be impossible unto you*” (*Matthew 17:20*). Their abilities, in this context, their miraculous abilities were tied to God through their faith in the One who has the power to do all wonders.

While nothing is too hard for Jehovah, even miraculously removing mountains, or casting out demons, there are things the Scriptures point to that are impossible for God to do. These are not contradictions to tear down the truth that God is omnipotent, but instead provide important facts to complete the picture of God, and really strengthen our faith.

While God has the power to do all things, there are things

impossible for Him to do for they contradict His holy character. For example, “God cannot lie.” If He could lie, He would potentially contradict His character of always upholding the truth. Lies are the character of the Devil, and form the bleak picture of darkness, which has no place in God’s character: “*God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all*” (*John 8:44-47, I John 1:5*).

Because it is impossible for God to lie, we can have confidence in His promises. One of these promises is “*eternal life*.” Paul writes, “*in hope of eternal life, which God who cannot lie promised before times eternal...*” (*Titus 1:2*). The passing of time should not cause us to lose confidence in the proposition that eternal life in Heaven awaits us. Like Paul, we can focus upon God’s character of Truth. God cannot lie, so we continue to hope, knowing that the promise will be fulfilled. God promised Abraham that in Him all the nations of the earth would be blessed. His promise was accompanied by an oath. The Hebrew writer refers to these two things (his promise and oath) as “*immutable*” and in which “*it is impossible for God to lie*” (*Hebrews 6:18*).

Why should we be reminded of God’s promise to bless

and multiply Abraham’s seed which found ultimate fulfillment in Christ (*Genesis 22:16-18, Galatians 3:15*)? So that “*we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us; which we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast...*” (*Hebrews 6:18-19*).

Also, God “*cannot deny Himself*” (*2 Timothy 2:13*). His character is one of faithfulness, and to deny Himself would contradict the truth of His very being. In essence He is telling us that He exists, therefore we should remain faithful to him through life’s difficulties, trials, and hardships. Man can become weak and quit “*enduring*” with the Lord and even “*deny Him*.” It is at this moment of doubt that we need to be reminded of what God cannot do and rise to serve. “*If we endure, we shall also reign with Him: if we shall deny Him, He will also deny us: if we are faithless, He abideth faithful: for he cannot deny Himself*” (*2 Timothy 2:12-13*).

Learning what God cannot do, we can know for sure He will remain true to His promises and to His immutable self. This knowledge encourages us to remain faithful, looking forward to eternal life with no doubts.