

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37

(Sermon to the servants of the Most High God at Westboro Baptist Church on October 16, 2022)

In a continuing series of sermons on the attributes of God, and lately regarding his omnipotence, in an effort to establish the Bible truth and efficaciousness of these things concerning the true nature and attributes of God, to give us increased hope and faith, let me start with **Luke 1:37** today. *“For with God nothing shall be impossible.”* And in this particular instance, the most glorious work in the history of man and the events which manifest his omnipotence like none other event is unfolding before the eyes of Mary in which she has a part, as you can tell from the context: **Luke 1:35, 37**: *“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.... For with God nothing shall be impossible.”*

Along this same line concerning the omnipotence of God, you will find these verses: **Luke 18:27**: *“And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”* **Genesis 18:14**: *“Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”* **Numbers 11:23**: *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD’S hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.”* **Job 42:2**: *“I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”* **Jeremiah 32:17**: *“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[.]”* **Jeremiah 32:27**: *“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?”* **Zechariah 8:6**: *“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in mine eyes? saith the LORD of hosts.”* **Matthew 19:26**: *“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”* **Mark 10:27**: *“And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.”* **Philippians 3:21**: *“Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”*

God, through his Angel (messenger), tells Mary this in Luke Chapter 1 (*“For with God nothing shall be impossible”*) to strengthen her hope and her faith. What God can will, he can do; and how very unlike men. Those things that he wills which are consistent with his nature and perfections, with his counsels, purposes, and promises: everything that he has said, purposed, or promised, he is able to do, and will; every word that he has spoken, everything predicted by his prophets, or declared by his angels.

In light of this reality, it is imperative that we ask and search out the answer: “*What hath the Lord spoken?*” (**Isaiah 31:4; Jeremiah 23:35 & 37; 2 Timothy 2:15.**) So, we can and should boldly say (open up our mouths and enunciate it frequently): “**Thus saith the Lord!**” (Too many verses to cite here).

The point of it all for us is captured by Paul in describing a similar event to Mary’s, concerning Abraham and Sarah’s miraculous conception and the birth of Isaac: **Romans: 4:20-21:** “*He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.*” **Hebrews 11:11:** “*Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.*”

Having been persuaded in his own mind of the efficaciousness of God’s word of promise backed up by his omnipotence (i.e., he judged him faithful who had promised), our brother Paul declares at **2 Timothy 1:12:** “*For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.*”

And our answer should be the same as Mary’s: “[B]e it unto me according to thy word.” (**Luke 1:38**).

What cannot be done according to the nature of things, the laws, rules, and course of nature, may be done by the God of nature. He is above these, and not bound by them, and sometimes acts contrary to them; as in these examples:

*As when he stopped the sun in its course, in the times of Joshua. **Joshua 10:12-13:** “*Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.*”

*As when he made iron to swim by the hands of the prophet Elisha. **2 Kings 6:5-7:** “*But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed. And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he shewed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.*”

*As when he would not let fire burn in the furnace of Nebuchadnezzar, so that the three persons cast into it were not hurt by it, or their clothes so much as singed, or the smell of fire upon them. **Daniel 3:15-27:** *"Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them."*

Whereas, it is the nature of the sun to go on in its course, without stopping, nor can any creature stop it; and for iron, to sink in water; and for fire to burn. **James 3:5(b):** *"Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"* (If you have any doubt as to the power of a little fire, hang out at the office and let one cook popcorn a little too long in the microwave—it's time to vacate the place for hours.)

There are some things, indeed, which God cannot do, and which the Scriptures express as, that *"he cannot deny himself," 2 Timothy 2:13*. He cannot do anything that is contrary to his being, his honor and glory, or subversive of it. So, for instance, he cannot make another God, that would be contrary to himself, to the unity of his Being, and the declaration of his Word; *"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord", Deuteronomy 6:4*. He cannot make a finite creature infinite; that would be to do the same as make another God, and there would be more infinities than one, which is a contradiction. He cannot raise a creature to such dignity as to have divine perfections ascribed to it, which would be a falsehood; or to have religious worship and adoration given it, which would be denying himself, detracting from his own glory, and giving it to another. **Isaiah 48:11**: *"For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another."* He only is to be served and worshipped.

It is also said of him, that he "cannot lie." **Titus 1:2**: *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began[.]"* **Hebrews 6:18**: *"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us[.]"* This would be contrary to his truth and faithfulness.

He can do nothing that is contrary to his attributes. **Malachi 3:6**: *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."* I have previously provided sermons on that attribute of God called "Immutability."

He cannot commit iniquity, he neither will nor can do it; for that would be contrary to his holiness and righteousness. **Job 34:10**: *"Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: far be it from God, that he should do wickedness; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity."* **Job 34:12**: *"Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment."* **Job 36:23**: *"Who hath enjoined him his way? or who can say, Thou hast wrought iniquity?"*

He cannot do anything that implies a contradiction; he cannot make contradictions true; a thing to be, and not to be at the same time; or make a thing not to have been that has been. He can make a thing not to be, which is, or has been. He can destroy his own works; but not make that not to have ever existed, which has existed. For samples only, see these verses: **Psalms 102:27, Isaiah 41:4, Isaiah 45:5, Isaiah 45:18, Isaiah 45:22, Isaiah 46:4, Isaiah 48:12, Hebrews 1:12, Revelation 1:11, and Revelation 2:8**.

There are no accidents with him and his work: **Isaiah 14:24, 26-27**: *"The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: ... This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?"*

According to God's absolute power, he can do all things which are not contrary to his nature and perfections, and which does not imply a contradiction; even though he has not done them nor never will. Thus he could have raised up children to Abraham out of stones, though he would not (**Matthew 3:9**); and have sent twelve legions of angels to deliver Christ out of the hands of his enemies; but did not (**Matthew 26:53**). He that has made one world, and how many more we know not for certainty, **Hebrews 11:3**, could have made ten thousand. He that has made the stars in the heaven innumerable (**Psalms 147:4**), could have vastly increased their number; and he that has made an innumerable company of angels (**Hebrews 12:22**), and men on earth, as the sand of the sea (**Genesis 32:12**), could have added to them infinitely more.

The power of God has never been exerted to its uttermost; it is sufficient to entitle him to omnipotence, based upon that he has done, and does, whatsoever he pleases, and that whatsoever is made, is made by him, and nothing without him; or what he has willed and determined, is actually done; and of this there is abundant proof, as will appear by the following instances:

****In creation; the heaven, earth, and sea, and all that in them are, were created by God, is certain; and these visible works of creation are proofs of the invisible attributes of God, and particularly, of his "eternal power." Acts 4:24: "And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is[.]" Romans 1:20: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse[.]"** Creation is making something out of nothing; which none but omnipotence can effect; see **Hebrews 11:3: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."** No artificer, though ever so expert, can work without materials, whether he works in gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, stone, or in anything else: the potter can cast his clay into what form and figure he pleases, according to his art, and make one vessel for one use, and another for another; but God only created the first matter out of which all things are made; and which were made out of things not before existing by the omnipotent Being.

****Appears in the sustaining and support of all creatures, in the provision made for them, with other wonderful works done in providence: all creatures live, move, and have their being in God; as they are made by him, they consist by him; "he upholds all things by the word of his power," the heavens, the earth, and the pillars thereof, which none but an almighty arm can do. And the manner in which the world, and all things in it, are preserved, and continue, is amazing and surprising, and cannot be accounted for, no other way than by the attribute of omnipotence; for "he stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing; he bindeth up the waters in his thick clouds, and the cloud is not rent under him" (**Job****

26:7-8). See, for example: **Acts 17:28**: “*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*” **Colossians 1:16-17**: “*For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him, And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*” **Hebrews 1:3**: “*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high[.]*” **Psalms 75:3**: “*The earth and all the inhabitants thereof are dissolved: I bear up the pillars of it. Selah.*” **Job 38:10-12**: “*And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place[.]*” **Job 38:25-26**: “*Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder; To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man[.]*” **Acts 14:17**: “*Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.*” To which may be added these wonderful events, which things can only be accounted for by recurring omnipotence, and to supernatural power and aid: as the drowning of the whole world (**Genesis Chapters 6-9**); the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain (**Genesis Chapters 18-19**); the strange exploits of some particular persons, as Jonathan and David; the amazing victories obtained by a few over a multitude, sometimes by unarmed men, sometimes without fighting, and always by him that helps, whether with many, or with them that have no power, as the cases of Gideon (**Judges Chapters 6-8**), Jehoshaphat (**2 Chronicles Chapter 20**), and Asa (**2 Chronicles Chapter 14**) show. And, with various other things too numerous to mention, as the removing of mountains, shaking the earth, and the pillars of it, commanding the sun not to rise, and sealing up the stars. **Job 9:5-7**: “*Which removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger. Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble. Which commandeth the sun, and it riseth not; and sealeth up the stars.*”

Almighty power may be discerned in the conversion of sinners; that is a creation, which is an act of omnipotence. Men, in conversion, are made new creatures; “*created in Christ (Ephesians 2:10), and after the image of God (Colossians 3:10).*” They have new hearts and spirits (Ezekiel 36:26**), clean (**John 15:3**) and upright ones (**Song of Solomon 1:4**), created in them; and new principles of grace and holiness formed in them (**Ephesians 4:24**). They “*are turned from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God;*” (**Acts 26:18**) and are “[*made*] willing in the day of [*God’s*] power” (**Psalms 110:3**) upon them, to be saved by Christ (**Romans 5:10**), and serve him (**Zephaniah 3:9**). And to submit to his righteousness (**Romans 10:3**), and to part with their sins and sinful companions (**1 Peter 4:1**): all which are effects of

the exceeding greatness of the power of God towards them and upon them (**Ephesians 1:19**). They are quickened when dead in sins (**Ephesians 2:1**), and raised by Christ the resurrection and the life (**John 11:25**), to a life of grace, which requires an almighty power. And if we consider the means of it, generally speaking, "*the foolishness of preaching*", the gospel put into earthen vessels, for this end, "*that the excellency of the power of God may appear to be of God*", and not of men; and when these means are effectual, they are "*the power of God unto salvation*." (**2 Corinthians 4:7**: "*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*" **Romans 1:16**: "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*") The same creating power that made the star at the center of our galaxy is described as responsible for this work in this way at **2 Corinthians 4:6**: "*For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*"

And also the great opposition made to this work, through the enmity and lusts of men's hearts, the malice of Satan; the snares of the world, and the influence of wicked companions; it cannot be thought to be anything short of the omnipotent hand of God, that snatches men as a firebrand plucked out of the burning (**Amos 4:11; Zechariah 3:2**) and preserves them to eternal salvation. **2 Thessalonians 1:11**: "*Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power[.]*" **Zechariah 4:6**: "*Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*"

The final perseverance of every particular believer in grace and holiness is a proof of the divine omnipotence. It is because he is great in power that not one of them fails: **2 Peter 3:9: "*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*" **John 10:28-29**: "*And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*" Otherwise their indwelling sins and corruptions would prevail over them; Satan's temptations are too powerful for them; and the snares of the world, the flatteries of it, would draw them aside. But, praise be to God, they are "*kept by the power of God*", the mighty power of God, "*through faith unto salvation*," **1 Peter 1:3-5**. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*"

**The almighty power of God will be displayed in the resurrection of the dead; for what but the all-commanding voice of the almighty God can rouse the dead, and raise them to life,

and bring them out of their graves; "some to the resurrection of life, and some to the resurrection of damnation?" What else but his almighty power can gather all nations before him, and oblige them to stand at the judgment seat of Christ, to receive each of their sentences? And what but his vengeful arm of omnipotence can execute the sentence on millions and millions of devils and wicked men, in all the height of wrath, rage, fury, and rebellion? **Philippians 3:21:** "*Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*" **John 5:28-29:** "*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*" **Matthew 25:32-46:** "*And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*" **Revelation 20:8-10:** "*And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. ...And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*"

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. [I love you.] Amen."(Hebrews 13:20-21)