

GOD IS ABLE

God is. . . What a powerful statement? We did not say, “God was,” or God used to be. . .” We proclaim “God Is...”

Despite man’s arrogant pride, he is utterly unable to save himself or to make himself acceptable to God. He is not able to keep himself saved nor, above all, is he able to defeat sin and conquer death.

But God is able! The word “able” comes from the Greek word “dunamoi.” It is closely related to the word for “power,” which is the Greek word “dunamis.” Both are speaking of God’s spiritual dynamics. He is all powerful, His ability is w/o limit, and His power “works in us” according to Ephesians 3:20. Since God is “able,” that should indicate to us our great need for Him. Let’s look at some of the passages that tell us that God “is able,” and see what it means to us.

I. Daniel’s three friends (Dan. 3:17,18)

A. The God whom we serve can save us...

1. This is in response to the statement made in verse 15.
2. They were servants of the true God.
3. They were not ashamed of the true God.
4. Their answer showed
 - a. That they had no doubt of his “ability” to save them if he pleased;
 - b. That they believed he would do what was best in the case; and. . .
 - c. That they were entirely willing to commit the whole case into his hands to dispose of it as he chose.

B. If he chooses not to save us...

1. We will still serve God.
2. We will still do what is right, regardless of the outcome.
3. True religion is a determined purpose to do right, and not to do wrong, whatever may be the consequences in either case
4. It matters not what follows - wealth or poverty; honor or dishonor; good report or evil report; life or death; the mind is firmly fixed on doing right, and not on doing wrong.
5. God will still be God. What great faith!

II. Question asked by Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 6:20).

A. Is thy God able to save the?

1. Notice verse 20, “servant of the living God..”
 - a. The God who has life; who imparts life; and who can preserve life.
 - b. The God you serve continually.
2. Daniel’s response shows that God was indeed able to save.

III. God is able of these stones... (Matthew 3:9)

A. The meaning seems to be this:

1. They regarded it as sufficient righteousness that they were descended from so holy a man as Abraham
2. God, from these stones, (pebbles on the beach of Jordan), could more easily raise up those who should be worthy children of Abraham, or be like him, than simply, because you are descendants of Abraham, make you, who are proud and hypocritical, subjects of the Messiah’s kingdom.
3. John made short work of the pride of these individuals.

B. The thought is continued in Romans 11:23

1. The Jews had been cut off because of unbelief.
2. Paul states that God can graft them back in again if they do his will.
3. The crux of the matter was/is, God is able. (Cf. Rom. 4:21).

IV. God is able to make all grace abound.. (2 Cor. 9:8).

- A. The context is dealing with giving.
 - 1. Do not suppose that by giving liberally you will be impoverished and reduced to want.
 - 2. Note the use of the word “all.”
 - 3. We have no read to distrust the goodness of God.
- V. Able to do exceedingly abundantly above. . . (Eph. 3:20).
 - A. God can do for us more than we can dream of.
 - 1. God’s ability is “beyond everything.”
 - 2. His power has no limits.
 - 3. In his limitless ability he is able “to do beyond what we ask or think.”
 - 4. God can do for us not only more than we ask in our petitions and intercessions, but even more than we are able to think and conceive in our minds.
 - B. This is the strongest kind of an encouragement for us to ask Him.
 - 1. Power that works in us. (Rom. 1:16).
 - 2. I John 5:14,15... ask anything according to his will.
 - 3. Heb. 4:15f
 - 4. James 1:5-8
 - 5. Do we sometimes show our lack of faith in God?
- VI. Able to Keep You From Falling . . . (Jude 24).
 - A. The benediction of the book of Jude.
 - 1. Able to keep you from falling.
 - 2. (ASV) able to guard you from stumbling.
 - a. The word “guard” indicates the protection which the Lord extends to his saints who “keep themselves” in his love (v.21).
 - b. Keep us from stumbling.
 - c. II Peter 1:10
 - d. Notice in v.20, strong faith, prayer. . . v 21, love and mercy.
 - 3. Romans 16:25
 - 4. II Timothy 4:18
 - a. Why?
 - b. II Tim. 4:6-8
 - B. And to present you faultless..
 - 1. He will “cause you to stand” before the Lord.
 - 2. Without blemish, because you kept yourself from defilement and have lived in such fashion as to merit his approval (Col. 1:22f)
 - 3. Great joy over that!!
 - C. Jude offers his praise to the God who is able:
 - 1. To keep us from slipping.
 - 2. To make us stand blameless in the presence of his glory.
 - 3. He can bring us into his presence triumphant
- VII. One final verse (II Tim. 1:12). He is able to keep that. . .
 - A. Committed unto him.
 - 1. The word committed has an interesting background.
 - 2. It stood for something which had been entrusted to another, a “deposit.”
 - 3. It was a deposit committed to someone’s trust.
 - 4. In the ancient world there was hardly a more serious and sacred obligation than that of returning a “deposit” that had been entrusted for safekeeping.
 - 5. It is this confidence in this sacred trust that Paul says he has in God.
 - B. What is it that Paul has entrusted to God?
 - 1. Some say the gospel.
 - 2. Some say Paul’s teaching (v.14; I Tim. 6:20).

3. What seems reasonable to me is to understand it as his “soul.”
 4. A man has nothing of higher value to intrust to another than the interests of his soul.
 5. I Peter 4:19
 6. Notice that Paul affirms that his confidence is secured by his knowledge of the one to whom he has entrusted this treasure, and by the power of God to guard it faithfully.
- C. We learn then:
1. That religion consists in committing the soul to the care of the Lord Jesus.
 2. It is done by the true Christian with confidence, so that the mind is at rest.

Con: God is able...

...to deliver us..

...to save us.

...to make all grace abound

...to keep us from falling

...to keep our souls..