

The Power of God

Omnipotence

I. Power defined

A. Scientific definition

1. Energy is the _____ to _____

2. Power is the rate at which _____ is _____

B. An alternate definition: Power is the ability _____ what is _____

II. God's power can be seen in:

A. Creation and its cohesion

B. Past and future judgments

C. Affairs of governments

D. Salvation

III. Interdependence of God's attributes

A. Without power to execute, there would be no certainty of His:

1. Decrees

2. Knowledge / foreknowledge

3. Supremacy and sovereignty

4. Immutability

B. His powerful wrath is counterbalanced by His:

1. Faithfulness and patience

The Lord's loving kindnesses indeed never cease,

2. Goodness and love

for His compassions never fail. They are new every

3. Grace and mercy

morning. Great is Your faithfulness. (Lam. 3:22-23)

IV The power of the gospel for salvation is:

A. Power to "endure shame without being ashamed " *— John Piper

1. Jesus: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Heb.12:2)

2. Paul: Momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison. (II Cor.4:17) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Rom. 8:18)

3. For Jesus and Paul, it was remembering "short-term pain for long-term gain"— Piper

* For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it **the righteousness of God** is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the **righteous man** shall live by faith. (Rom 1:16-17)

These two verses could be called the thesis statement of the entire letter to the Romans. It implies that God imparts His righteousness to man and this theme is progressively developed throughout the epistle.

B. Power that converts people unto salvation.

⁴God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ ⁶and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph. 2:4-6)

¹⁸*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

C. Power that imputes righteousness that we don't have and cannot get.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes . . . for in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous *man* shall live by faith.' (Rom.1:17)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was to demonstrate His righteousness*, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Rom. 3:23-26)

D. Power for a believer's ongoing walk: "I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."

The gospel is not just for unbelievers, but for us who are believing as well. We need to preach the gospel to ourselves as a daily reminder of what the power of God is continuing to accomplish for us. Follow Paul's thread in Romans chapters 1-8.

E. Power to comprehend the incomprehensible.

[I pray] that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.* (Eph. 3:16-19)

F. Power to make good works possible.

What the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 1:3-4)

For by grace, you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Eph. 2:8-10)

This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds, which are good and profitable for men. (Titus 3:8)

In summary, the power of God for salvation is for saved and unsaved alike. We need to regularly be preaching the gospel to ourselves and be studying to be approved, unashamed workmen of God. Remember "There is power in the blood."