

**Pastor Paul Bawden**  
**Grace Evangelical Church**  
**Sunday, November 1, 2009**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**"God – All Power"**

**Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 19:6; Colossians 1:15-22; Ephesians 1:18-23; Hebrews 1:3**

There is a lot of power being exercised in our world today. We see Iran sending off missiles. We see North Korea flexing its muscles with sending off missiles. We see our government trying to exercise its power by getting more involved in the private sector.

But the ones who have more power than most may realize are babies. Even before a baby is born, the baby starts to affect the life of the mother and the father to be. There is the preparation for the babies arrival, the visits to the doctor, and even birthing classes may be attended. Once they are born they require constant care. They must be fed, changed, and loved. They change the entire schedule of their parents. When the parents go anywhere, the baby goes along. Yes, we all love babies, and they are wonderful gifts from the Lord, but oh the power that they have to change an entire household.

Power. Man has power to do certain things and come up with inventions that can thrust him into space, even land him on the moon. Babies have power. Certainly, we all have power to a certain degree to think, to speak, and to act.

The biblical God has power as well, or else He wouldn't be God would He? But God's power is different from man's power and baby power.

As we continue this series on the attributes of God, the characteristics of God, we discover that. . . .

### **I. The biblical God is the Almighty God (Genesis 17:1; Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 19:6; cf II Corinthians 6:18)**

**Genesis 17:1** – The LORD speaking to Abraham.

"I am God **Almighty**; Walk before Me and be blameless"

The word, "Almighty," in the Hebrew word is, "El Shaddai." It is derived from the word that means "mountain," picturing God as the overpowering ALMIGHTY ONE standing on a mountain.

**Revelation 1:8** - "I am the Alpha and the Omega (first and last letters of the Greek Alphabet- meaning Christ is the beginning and ending of all things), who is and who was and who is to come, the **Almighty**."

**Revelation 4:8** – The four living creatures around the throne of God praise God day and night (perhaps angels of some sort).

"Holy, Holy, Holy is the LORD GOD, the **Almighty**, who was and who is and who is to come."

**Revelation 19:6** "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the **Almighty**, reigns."

This expression is given as Christ prepares to come to earth at the end of 7 year tribulation period to put down all rebellion against Him and to establish His 1000 year kingdom on earth. Those in heaven who will come with the Lord, have already cried out 3 times, "Hallelujah" to the Lord for His salvation, glory, and power, that He is a God of judgment, and giving Him all worship.

Then, this last "Hallelujah" is given to the Lord for the marriage supper of the Lamb is about to happen, and the Lord is going to demonstrate that He **KINGS** of kings and **LORD** of lords" (Revelation 19:16).

**The word, "Almighty" is "pantokpator. It comes from two Greek words, "pas" meaning "all," and "kratos" meaning power, strength, or might.**

**Hence the word – all power or omnipotent.**

**That's why we know that the biblical God is distinguished from all other gods and ideas of men. He is the all-powerful, omnipotent, ALMIGHTY GOD.**

## **II. The biblical God is the Source of all power.**

That's why the Psalmist in Psalm 62:11 records these words,  
**"Once God has spoken; Twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God."**

That's why those in the book of Revelation 19 referred to above from verse 1 say,  
**"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."**

**The biblical God is the Source of all power, all power that is consistent with His eternal purity and knowledge.**

## **III. The biblical God displays His all power, His omnipotence.**

### **1. He displays His omnipotence as Creator (Genesis 1:1).**

**In the first verse of the Bible – He is the Creator of our world and all that is in it.  
 In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).**

**God created supernaturally, suddenly, and with superficial age, for example trees created looked like they had been around for awhile, even Adam and Eve would have appeared to have some age even at the time of their creation.**

And God saw that what He had created was good, which word is used 7 times in the first chapter of Genesis. God's creation of the world and all that was in it, including male and female, was good. **That is, it was all in accord with His perfect will. It was a perfect world with His stamp of approval on it.**

**Jesus Christ, as Colossians 1:16 tells us, was the agent of God's creation. "For by Him (Christ) all things were created, both in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or ruler or authorities – all things have been created through Him and for Him."**

### **2. He displays His omnipotence in His preservation of His creation.**

Something happened to the God's world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Man's sin caused the perfect world to be imperfect fill with sin against and disobedience to the true and living God.

The world came under the curse of the sin. There would be thorns and thistles. Man would work by the sweat of His brow. There would be a battle going on between the seed of Satan and the seed of the woman. Eventually the seed of the woman would defeat the Satan himself (Genesis 3:15).

God provided forgiveness for Adam and Eve through the blood sacrifice of the animals, and from the skins of the animals they were clothed. Still they had to leave the Garden of Eden, for in their state of sinfulness they must not eat of the Tree Of Life, and so live in a state of sinfulness forever.

**God could have left the world that He created go the way of all flesh, so to speak. His genuine creation was complete. In fact, because of sin, God's creation would have more disorder as time passed (the second law of thermodynamics).**

**But what does the omnipotent biblical God do? He continues to preserve His world that He has created.**

**Colossians 1:17 "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (consist)."**

Christ preserves the universe He has created and the universe man has messed up, and continues to mess up. He continues to keep order in his world.

If you go around a corner to fast with your car, you will go off the road. Gravity must be obeyed. When centrifugal force overtakes centripetal force that's when the old Burma Shave sign comes into play, "Around the corner, lickety split, a beautiful car wasn't it."

**The writer of Hebrews concurs, "He upholds (maintains continually – present participle) all things by the word (dynamite) of His power." (Hebrews 1:3).**

**Why is our world still running today, as we are in this building? Yes, the earth is rotating on its axis at about 1000 miles an hour, while revolving around the sun at about 67,000 miles per hour.**

**That only continues by the word of our LORD's omnipotent power.**

**3. He displays His omnipotence in His providential direction of His universe to accomplish His goals (Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 19:1-6).**

**(1) God in His omnipotent power, "works all things after the counsel of His will" (Ephesians 1:11).**

In this passage in Ephesians 1:11, the Apostle Paul is being directed by the Spirit of God to write about the administration, the household, the economy, the dispensation (1;10), of summing up everything in Christ in the millennial kingdom yet to come on earth.

**He is referring to the omnipotent power of God to direct His universe to His goals. The biblical God is the providential all-powerful God.**

**(2) One of our texts in Revelation 19:6 "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns."**

In that passage which we commented on above, the people in heaven are praise the LORD that He, in His omnipotent power, is working out His plan for the world by bringing His judgment on the rebellion and disobedience of mankind, while bringing to the world His 1000 year reign of peace on earth.

**Again there is the recognition that the Almighty God in His power knows where He is going with His plan for planet earth and it will be brought to fruition right on schedule according to His eternal calendar for time.**

Yes, our country and our world is rocky and rolling, but the omnipotent God as Creator, Preserver, and the God of Providence is carrying out His plan in His time for our good and His glory.

**But does God give us a summary and ultimate demonstration of His omnipotence? Definitely!!!**

**IV. The biblical God summarizes and manifests His omnipotence ultimately in the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We see the biblical God of all-power as Creator, as Preserver of His universe, and as He providentially works all things after the counsel of His own will.

**But where is the ultimate summary and demonstration of God's omnipotence?**

It's pictured here in this table, in these elements that represent our Lord's body and blood, His eternal redemption that He has won for us through His death, burial, and bodily resurrection.

Let me explain this a little more.

**1. We need to think about the on-going battle in time.**

Since Satan's fall, when he was Lucifer the Son of the Morning, he was angry at God. Perhaps his fall came, because he saw what God had created and now he thought if he were God, he could run this new world. Regardless, kicked out of heaven, Satan came to tempt Eve and Adam.

When they yielded to Satan's temptation, the stage was set for the greatest battle that would take place in history – the battle between the biblical God and Satan himself. That's why God in Genesis 3:15 gave the prophetic declaration that the seed of the woman would have the victory over the seed of Satan.

The rest is recorded for us in the Bible of Satan's attempts to somehow stop God's promise of a coming Redeemer. He started by getting Cain to kill Abel. Satan thought that he could be the winner by corrupting the human race in Noah's day. God sent a flood and saved Noah and the world from corruption through the flood.

God chose Abram who became Abraham. Satan tried his best to interrupt God's plan by influencing Sarah to have Ishmael. God intervened and the child of promise, Isaac was born.

A nation was born, the nation of Israel. Satan kept trying his best to thwart God's plan. In the time of Esther, he tried to have the Jews destroyed. Again God intervened.

Eventually the Savior, the promised seed of the woman was born. Satan did his best to try and have HIM destroyed, as all the male children 2 years and under at that time were ordered killed by Herod.

Knowing who Jesus was, Satan tried to tempt Christ to yield to his authority at the beginning of His ministry. It was to no avail. Satan did not have all power. Christ did.

Satan tried to use Peter to tempt the Lord, but that was to no avail as well.

Then the eternal moment came. Christ was getting ready to go to Calvary, but He had never been that way before. So He went into the Garden to pray to His heavenly Father regarding this upcoming sacrifice He was about to make for the world, for the sins of humanity.

He prayed 3 times that if it be the Father's will that this cup, the cup of death, would pass from Him.

At the end of the third prayer, Jesus Christ knew He must be the Sin-bearer of the world, and submitted His will to His Father to be your sin-bearer and mine.

He suffered greatly before being hung on Calvary's cross. But there He died between two thieves. The innocent Son of God, the Lamb of God being made sin for you and me. There He experienced the eternal wrath and justice of the Almighty God.

He was buried, and they thought that was the end of HIM. But, no, when they came to the Tomb on that third day, that first day of the week, the Tomb was empty. They could not believe what they saw. Jesus in His resurrection body started appearing to His disciples.

**Amazing, the Lord who died and was buried had conquered the grave bodily. It changed the lives of his disciples for all eternity.**

The book of Acts, the epistles, and the Revelation tell us about what the bodily risen Christ has done for us. But it is all based upon the omnipotent resurrection power of Jesus Christ

**This is the message of the gospel - Christ has died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose bodily from the grave as relevant today as it was then – the omnipotent power of the bodily resurrection Christ.**

The battle, though, is still raging today. Satan is still on the loose seeking to deceive and to thwart Christ's church and the kingdom of God.

But there is something here that we don't want to miss.

**2. The ultimate omnipotent resurrection power displayed in the victory of Christ over sin and death, and the evil one.**

What is the greatest enemy that we all face? Death – physical death and spiritual death – separation from God forever). It's the last enemy that Christ will destroy when time winds down (cf. I Corinthians 15:26).

**But through His death to pay the penalty for sin, which is death, and conquering the grave bodily, the omnipotent Christ has defeated our greatest enemy, death, for us. The omnipotent Christ is now the victory.**

**The resurrected Christ in His resurrection omnipotent power has won the battle against the father of death, the evil one, and death itself.**

Hear what Paul writes to the Ephesians in chapter 1:19ff:

**“What is the surpassing (beyond measure- super abundant - is the idea here) greatness (vastness) of His power (dynamite is the idea here) toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working (energy – word from which we get energy), of the strength (might, power – one the words used in the word, almighty), of His might (strength, might) which He brought about in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavens. Far 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.”**

**Yes, there is no greater summary and demonstration of the omnipotent power of the biblical God, that the unlimited power of the bodily resurrection Christ.**

**Now the risen Christ can fulfill all the promises in the Old Testament not yet fulfilled. He can minister to us in the present by offering us His forgiveness and resurrection life through faith in Him, and also fulfill God’s plan for the future. Everything God does for believers and the world is based upon the unlimited power of the bodily resurrected Christ.**

**For the resurrection power of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin which is spiritual death, defeated physical death, and rendered inoperative the evil one, who still is on the loose but he is a defeated for his day of judgment is coming. That is why he is working over time, thinking he can defeat the resurrected Christ.**

**But Christ’s death and bodily resurrection, bring together the ultimate summary and demonstration that God is the omnipotent God.**

**V. Through faith in Christ we participate in the resurrection life and unlimited power of Jesus Christ.**

**1. The believer in Christ has HIS resurrection life and power in his or her life.**

**I John 5:12-13 (cf John 3:16).**

**“He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”**

The individual has to recognize that he is a sinner before God, and see that Christ has died in his place to pay the penalty for His sin, which is death, and then ask Christ into His life to be His Savior.

**He who accepts Christ as Savior, receives the very life of God, resurrection life, and the power that Christ’s resurrection life contains. For the unlimited resurrection power is in Christ’s resurrection life that He gives the believer in HIM.**

**2. The believer is to use Christ’s resurrection life power that lives within him or her.**

**(1) Resurrection unlimited power operates in the midst of death, bringing life out of death in the believer’s life.**

**It takes the believer out of the kingdom of darkness, the kingdom of death, and places the believer in the kingdom of God’s dear Son, the kingdom of eternal light and hope.**

**It gives the believer who let’s the Holy Spirit work in his life, the power to say “no” to sin which brings death, and “Yes” to righteousness, to doing the will of God (Romans 6:1-14). Out of one’s life comes the fruit of the Spirit, like, love, joy, peace, kindness, self-control, rather than division, and selfishness.**

**When the believer’s body dies, his or her spirit (personality) goes to be with the Lord, with the promise that when the Lord returns, he will get a new body like unto the Lord’s glorious body.**

**(2) Resurrection unlimited power makes no noise as it works in the believer's life bringing changes slowly but surely as the believer is conformed to the image of Christ by obeying the indwelling Holy Spirit. (II Corinthians 3:18).**

It brings changes in the believer's life as the believer let's the Holy Spirit bring conviction, guidance, and direction. That means that all believers are in process of becoming like the Lord. We may be all at different stages of Christian growth, but we need to keep moving forward in Christ.

**Paul told the Corinthians, II Corinthians 3:18:**

**"But we all with unveiled face, beholding in a mirror the glory of the Lord (God's Word), are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit."**

**Sometimes those transformations take place slowly, but God is not finished with any of us yet, and continually prods us by the Holy Spirit to be more like HIM! He is faithful, even when we are not. He who has begun a good work in us will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

**(3) Resurrection power needs no props or support – It is sufficient in and of itself (II Corinthians 12:9-10).**

**That's why Paul when he was dealing with his thorn in the flesh, even asking God to remove it three times, and that didn't happen, Paul discovered this amazing truth as God spoke to him.**

**"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness" Then Paul responded by saying, "Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."**

**God's resurrection power for strength and endurance are always available to the believer regardless of what he or she is experiencing in life.**

**This doesn't mean that the believer has to live for Christ by himself or herself. That is what the local church, the body of Christ is all about. God uses other believers having Christ's resurrection power to gather around for support and prayer when the going is tough.**

**(4) Resurrection unlimited power is irresistible (Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 19:6; I John 4:4).**

**There is nothing that can stop God's resurrection power from working. Yes, Satan is giving it a good try, but God is the Victor in Jesus Christ, and His plan will be carried out. Even as we see the antichrist spirit taking on more influence in our government and the world, God is always in control with His power in tack (Ephesians 1:11; Revelation 19:6). \**

**Even in countries where the gospel is prohibited to be shared publicly, the gospel continues to flourish. Persecution causes the unlimited resurrection power of Christ to gain moment and have a greater impact.**

**For the believer, greater is He that is in him or her, than he that is in the world (I John 4:4). Even though the body grows older and breaks down physically, the resurrection life and power of Christ in the believer remains unchanged, guaranteeing the believer God's presence at the end of this life. Yes, even on beds of pain and sickness, God's resurrection and power remain constant and unchanged.**

**Through prayer the unlimited resurrection power of Christ is released in the world and in our lives.**

**At the same time, unbelief can keep an unbeliever from experiencing the unlimited resurrection power of Christ.**

**Unbelief in the believer's life can keep the believer from going forward in his or life to step out by faith and do the Lord's will. That's why the Scripture urges us to walk by faith not by sight.**

**Herbert Jackson told how, as a new missionary, he was assigned a car that would not start without a push. After pondering his problem, he devised a plan. He went to the school near his home, got**

permission to take some children out of class, and had them push his car off. As he made his rounds, he would either park on a hill or leave the engine running. He used this ingenious procedure for two years.

Ill health forced the Jackson family to leave, and a new missionary came to that station. When Jackson proudly began to explain his arrangement for getting the car started, the new man began looking under the hood. Before the explanation was complete, the new missionary interrupted, "Why, Dr. Jackson, I believe the only trouble is this loose cable." He gave the cable a twist, stepped into the car, pushed the switch, and to Jackson's astonishment, the engine roared to life. For two years needless trouble had become routine. The power was there all the time. Only a loose connection kept Jackson from putting that power to work.

As we come to the Lord's table today, may we give thanks to our Lord for winning for us His unlimited resurrection power. Then let's ask Him to keep us sensitive to the indwelling Holy Spirit so **we will use continually** His resurrection power to glorify HIM in all we think, do, and say.