

**King's Online Bible School**  
**Doctrine 101: Learning about God**

**13. The Omnipotence of God** (from R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith*)

As a theological term, omnipotence does not mean that God can do anything. The Bible indicates several things that God cannot do. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). He cannot die. He cannot be created. He cannot act against His nature. He cannot be God and not be God.

What omnipotence does mean is that God holds all power over His creation. No part of creation stands outside the scope of His sovereign control. God cannot build a rock so big that He could not move it. Why? If God ever built such a rock He would be creating something over which He had no power. He would be destroying His own omnipotence. God cannot stop being God; He cannot not be omnipotent.

When the Virgin Mary was puzzled by Gabriel's announcement to her of the conception of Jesus in her womb, the angel said to her: "For with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37). Here the angel was reminding Mary of God's omnipotence. What may be impossible for us is possible with Him.

To say that nothing is impossible with God means that He can do whatever He wills to do. His power is not limited by finite limitations. Nothing or "no thing" can restrict His power.

His power is only restricted by what and Who He is. Sin is impossible for Him because one cannot sin without willing to sin. God cannot commit sin because He never wills it.

Job got to the heart of this matter when he said: "I know that You can do everything and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You" (Job 42:2).

For the Christian God's omnipotence is a great source of comfort. We know that the same power God displayed in creating the universe is at His disposal to assure our salvation. He showed that power in the Exodus from Egypt. He displayed His power over death in the resurrection of Christ. We know that no part of creation can frustrate His plans for the future.

Though powers and forces of this world threaten to undo, we have no fear. We can rest in the knowledge that nothing can withstand the power of God. He is the One who is almighty.

**Summary**

1. Omnipotence does not mean that God can do anything. He cannot act against His nature.
2. Omnipotence refers to God's sovereign power, authority, and control over the created order.
3. Omnipotence, though a threat to the wicked, is a source of comfort to the believer.
4. The same power God exhibited in creation is displayed in our redemption.
5. Nothing in the universe can thwart or frustrate God's plans.

**Biblical passages for reflection:**

Genesis 17:1 Psalm 115:3 Romans 11:36 Ephesians 1:11 Hebrews 1:3