

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

Study Guide 5 Answers

1. Why does this lesson on the power of God focus so much on the will of God?

- Because the power of God is revealed in His actions and because they are never able to be resisted, His absolute power has direct implications with regard to His sovereign will.
- He only exerts His power according to His sovereign will.
- His infinite, absolute power guarantees the realization of all of His sovereign will.
- The knowledge of His infinite power leads us immediately to considerations of why He does not exercise it in ways we would expect.

2. How do Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 8:6 link the power of God and the will of God?

"There is only one God, the Father, from Whom are all things." God is One; He has no rival able to compete with Him. There is no will or power that even begins to compare with His. God's creation of all things establishes His power and reflects His will to create.

". . . and we exist for Him;" Our existence depends on His power. We are being sustained in life according to His will and whatever He purposes.

". . . and one Lord, Jesus Christ," Jesus Christ has all authority to bring about His will.

". . . through Whom are all things," Christ is the power that brought forth all the universe and all it contains. His power is what is always sustaining it all, and He does so in keeping with His will.

". . . and we exist through Him." It is His power by which we ever came into existence and by which it is possible for us to continue to live. This, of course, has nothing to do with our decision. It is only because He is always deciding about us.

3a. Why does discovering God's path for your life depend on obeying His commands and instructions in the Scriptures?

God's graciousness and love in allowing us to be aware of His will is never to be treated lightly, but to be received with care and love. The way we are living is evidence of how important we consider it is to follow His path. If our decisions show little regard for what He has already asked in our lives, we should not expect that He will entrust more of His will to us.

Disobedience sets us in ways of our own so that we are not even on God's path. These issues must be resolved before we can progress further.

Continuing in our own ways complicates our ability to receive from Him. "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God" (1 Cor 2:14). "I could not speak to you as spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it" (1 Cor 3:1-2).

3b. What does this question have to do with God's omnipotence?

If we understood how powerful this One is Who has decided about our lives, we would exercise attentive and excruciating care in conforming to His will and in discovering it.

4. In what ways is the doctrine of God's omnipotence a threat to unbelievers and a comfort to believers?

To those who have not accepted God's love and salvation in Christ the realization of His absolute power and the prospect of having to answer to Him should be terrifying.

Those who trust in Him have His promises that He will do them good, and they know that nothing can change or weaken the good He intends. When we know that He loves us we have unshakeable security.

5. Why may the statement "He can do whatever He wills to do" not be very impressive in its attempt to express God's omnipotence?

- because it is so close to a statement any number of people make about themselves or others
- because even those who do not will to do much probably can do everything they decide to do

6. Write down the words God says about Himself in Genesis 17:1. "I am God Almighty."

7. Please write out the words of Psalm 115:3.

"But our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever He pleases."

7a. What point is the first line making? (It will help to look at the surrounding verses).

God is unrivalled. There is no other being who can even come close to being like Him. He has a nature that has the power to fill the heavens with His presence and His rule.

7b. What point is the second line making? God possesses power that no one can rival. If it does not please Him for someone or something to exist, they won't. It is His power that enables all of His creatures' powers. They are helpless to resist Him, except to the extent that it pleases Him to endure their hostility and to triumph over their resistance.

8. Read Ephesians 1:11. What is the reason this verse can say what it does about God's work and God's counsel? God's absolute power and His control over what powers He will allow in each of His creatures allow Him to handle the events of this world and the universe with the same ease and decisiveness that a child plays with toy soldiers. He is absolutely unrestricted in accomplishing whatever He has decided in each situation and with regard to His ultimate goals.

9a. Read Hebrews 1:3. Write down the words that refer to God's omnipotence.

"He upholds all things by the word of His power."

9b. Identify the way these words are related to God's omnipotence.

They tell us that Jesus has and is always upholding everything that exists and making it possible for each created thing to go on existing as long as He wills. He is doing this by the word spoken at creation: "Let there be."

10a. What power of His does God present in Isaiah 55:11?

He declares the power of the words He sends to accomplish everything He intends.

10b. Where does this power exert itself? throughout the universe and in every human heart and mind that comes in contact with His words

11a. To what exertion of power does Jesus refer in Matthew 19:26?

the power of God to save a person

11b. What power is God's power opposing and overcoming here?

the resistance of the individual and whatever spiritual forces and influences attempt to hold out against Christ's saving work

12a. In what way do we see God resisting the proud in Matthew 11:25?

He does not reveal Himself or His truth to them. He hides it from them.

12b. In what way do we see Him resisting the proud in Daniel 4:29-31?

He takes action in Nebuchadnezzar's life, reducing him to the level of an animal, to break his pride.

13a. In what respect will all of God's secret will be realized? None of His hidden counsel will be frustrated or left unfulfilled. It will all come into its full realization and actuality.

13b. In what respect will all of God's secret will not be known? Even though all of His secret counsel will be accomplished, men may not be able to find out all the reasons He does what He does or discover the deepest motives of His heart. Only what He wills to reveal will be known.

The following questions relate to *The Omnipotence of God*, adapted from R. C. Sproul, chapter 13.

14. How is R. C. Sproul defining omnipotence?

Through most of his discussion, Sproul emphasizes that omnipotence means that God holds all power over His creation. But he also writes that "He can do whatever He wills to do."

15. Compare the wording you wrote down from Genesis 17:1 (#6).

Sproul's second statement carries a fuller meaning of God's statement that He is almighty. This is more than simply saying that God is more powerful than His creation.

16. Read the second summary statement. Is what he writes about omnipotence here exactly what it is? Please explain. No. Again, this is saying less than what omnipotence means. Omnipotence means having all power.

17a. Now look at the fourth paragraph. Is this a more exact and complete definition of omnipotence? Yes.

17b. Which sentence in this paragraph is expressing what omnipotence is most exactly? "His power is not limited by finite limitations."

18a. As he writes about God, R. C. Sproul makes a general statement about everyone who sins: "One cannot sin without willing to sin." Do you agree? Yes.

18b. Whether or not you agree, is Sproul right about this? Yes. Even when we are not conscious of sin, it is not because we sinned without being willing, but because we are so unaware of our deep motives and so blind to the habits of our hearts and to our selfishness that we condone the way we think and decide and act, and we consider it entirely appropriate.