

Thus far in our study of God's Glory we've considered, God's Glory as seen in His Knowability, Spiritually, Trinity, and last week His Knowledge, that brings us this morning to the glory of God as displayed in His Power.

But before I come to our topic, I want to first remind you of the big picture—the purpose of learning about God is that it would practically influence our hearts and lives. Let me suggest a deepened knowledge about God results in at least three things.

First, a deeper knowledge of God results in more adoration and love for God—to know God is to love God—you cannot love an unknown God. This is necessary as God is a perfect and glorious Being. There are some people, the more we get to know them, the less we like them. But this is not true of God. The more we know Him the more we love Him.

Secondly, a deeper knowledge of God results in more praise and worship of God, Ps.48:1—"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God." The more we know God the more our hearts will erupt in praise and adoration.

Thirdly, a deeper knowledge of God results in more service and commitment to God, Dan.11:32—"The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits." To know God is to be empowered and emboldened by God. Those who know God become like God.

Thus, let us remember brethren, the goal of these sermons is that we would behold God's glory and never be the same again!

Job 26 is Job's response to Bildad in the previous chapter. Job first contrasts God with man, showing how unlike God man is (vv1-4). Then, in vv5-15, he illustrates God's wisdom and power in creation. He holds the earth in its place. He gathers the clouds for rain. He stirs up the sea with His power.

Verse 14—"Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him!"—that is, though we behold His power in creation, we only see a small glimpse of it (we only hear a mere whisper). "But the thunder of His power who can understand?"—that is, no man can comprehend the full extent of His power. What He reveals is but a whisper—what He possesses is a loud thunder!

- I. The Nature of God's Power
- II. The Evidence of God's Power
- III. The Applications of God's Power

I. The Nature of God's Power

1. The Hebrew and Greek words rendered power bring together two closely related concepts—ability and authority.
2. (1) Ability—this is usually what we think about when we think of power—God has the ability to do what He wills.
3. This is what power entails (God can do as He wills)—thus, Scripture often associates power with strength and might.
4. Ps.21:13—"Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We sing and praise Your power" Ps.71:18—"O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."
5. Notice, God's strength and power and basically synonymous—power refers to God's strength or ability to act.
6. (2) Authority—this is a secondary meaning of the word power, but it's important to consider as we think of God.

7. Scripture often translates the same Hebrew and Greek words rendered power "authority," Matt.28:18—"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth."
8. It's interesting to notice, that the KJV renders this verse—"All power has been given to Me in heaven and earth."
9. But, I think it's best to render it authority because that's specifically what our Savior meant—"All authority has been given to Me."
10. But a person can have authority without ability—that is, they may have the right to do something but lack the power.
11. For example, think of a policeman who is directing traffic—he may have the authority to stop a car but not the ability.
12. If the police officer and car collided, the police officer would obviously lose—he would be easily flattened or killed.
13. Thus, when we speak of God's power, we must bring together both of these aspects—He has both authority and ability.
14. And so, I want to briefly suggest two things about God's power, as we are considering the nature of that power.
15. To say that God is all-powerful is to say, He possesses all-authority and all-ability to do as He wills or pleases.
16. (a) It's infinite with regards to God's will, Ps.115:3—"But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases."
17. Job 42:1-2—"Then Job answered the LORD and said: I know that You can do everything" Jer.32:17—"Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"
18. God is Almighty—He can do all that He pleases—no one can hinder Him—He has the ability to do as He intends.
19. Power is essential to God—70 times Scripture refers to God as the Almighty, Gen.17:1—"I *am* Almighty God"—I am God with all-mighty power.
20. Ps.62:11—"God has spoken once, twice I have heard this; that power belongs to God"—it's unclear what David means by hearing twice that power belongs to God.
21. Some have suggested that it refers to God speaking through the Law and Prophets, others to His testimony in creation and redemption.
22. Either way, it's something that God has spoken twice so that everybody hears and knows that "power belongs to God.
23. That is, power is His natively and essentially—God possess the strength or ability to do all that He will to do.
24. Thus, we make a distinction between God's power and will—His power concerns His ability, His will concerns desire.
25. Matt.3:9—"God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Matt.3:9)—the fact that God is ABLE refers to power.
26. God has the power or ability to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" whether He does or not, has nothing to do with His ability.
27. All that God wills to do He can do because He is infinite in power—nothing is too difficult or hard for God to do.
28. (b) It's limited with regards to God's nature—by this I mean, God can never will something contrary to His nature.
29. For example, God cannot will to die, change, lie, tempt people to sin, approve of evil, or deny His own nature.
30. In short, God cannot will to do or be anything other than He is essentially and eternally—He cannot act contrary to Himself.
31. Thus, God's power is not reckless or uncontrolled, but it's in full harmony, with His love, justice, wisdom, etc.
32. Now, some may be tempted to suggest that this limitation somehow detracts from God's infinite authority and ability.

33. But the fact that God cannot do certain things, such as die or lie, actually underscores His power and doesn't detract from it.
34. The ability to die and lie are expressions of weakness (creatureliness) and because God is all-powerful, He can do neither.

II. The Evidence of God's Power

1. Here I want to examine the works of God, and show you how each of them displays or evidences God's power.
2. (1) Creation—here I refer to the fact that God's power is evidenced in bringing into existence all things from nothing.
3. Jer.32:17—"Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."
4. Rom.1:20—"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."
5. God's power is evidenced in creation, because He created all things out of nothing—He brought into being that which had no being.
6. O brethren, behold the power of God! He created all things from nothing! He created the universe and filled it with stars and planets.
7. He created the earth and adorned it with water, vegetation, animals, and man. What a marvelous display of power!
8. (2) Providence—here I specifically refer to God's ongoing work of preserving and governing His creation (both moral and nonmoral).
9. Heb.1:3—"who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."
10. Here we find one evidence of Christ's divinity, the fact that He sustains all of creation by the power of His word.
11. According to the Greek gods, Atlas was the deity who upheld the world on his shoulders, sustaining creation.
12. But surely brethren, this fictitious deity was created as an imitation of Christ, who upholds all things by His power.
13. O what a grand truth! All things exist because God holds them together. God presently holds all things together.
14. Who is it who presently keeps the oceans in their place? Who upholds the earth, moon, sun, planets, and stars?
15. Someone may say gravity holds all of these in place—and I would say, yes you are right, but who holds gravity in its place!
16. Have you ever looked up the sun, moon, or stars, and thought—How powerful is God that He holds all these in place!
17. (3) Redemption—most of you know that Scripture often speaks of redemption as God's second and new creation.
18. And I suggest to you, that while God's power is manifested in the first creation, it's even more evident in the second creation.
19. A.W. Pink—"God proportions His power to the nature of His work. The casting out of demons is ascribed to His 'finger'; His delivering of Israel from Egypt to His 'hand'; but when the Lord saves a sinner it is His 'holy arm' which gets Him the victory."
20. In other words, the greatest display of God's power is evidenced not in creating the world, but in saving a soul.
21. And here's the reason—when God created the world out of nothing, there was nothing that opposed that creation.
22. But when He recreates a soul there is all kinds of opposition—both Satan and the sinner strongly oppose the work.

23. O my Christian, friend think of this—you and I are the greatest display of God's power in the entire universe.
24. The stars, moon, planets, oceans, Grand Canyon, all of these are beautiful displays of God's almighty power!
25. But they all fail in comparison to the salvation of one sinner—it's in the salvation of sinners where God's power is most prominently displayed.
26. Ps.106:8—"Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known."
27. While this verse refers to the redemption of Israel from Egyptian bondage, it typifies our salvation from Satan and sin.
28. Don't misunderstand—it took God's mighty power to liberate the nation of Israel from Pharaoh and divide the Red Sea.
29. He liberated them from slavery, brought them on dry ground through the Red Sea, and led them in the wilderness.
30. But dear brethren, what is this in comparison to our salvation from sin and Satan, and brought through the sea of God's wrath.
31. Rom.1:16—"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."
32. God works through the gospel to save poor sinners from their sins—the penalty, power, and presence of that sin.
33. Eph.1:15-19—"I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of your in my prayers...that you may know what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power."
34. O brethren, what an amazing statement! The exceeding greatness of His power...the working of His mighty power!
35. A.W. Pink—"Nothing but the almighty power of God can overcome the enmity of the carnal mind. To turn back the ocean from its course would not be such an act of power as to change the turbulent bent of man's wicked heart."

III. The Applications of God's Power

1. Here I want to suggest four practical exhortations in light of God's power—Let God's enemies tremble, Let poor sinners have hope, Let God's people be comforted, and Let God's people seek power from God.
2. (1) Let God's enemies tremble, Ps.99:1—"The LORD reigns; let the peoples tremble!"—that is, let God's enemies tremble.
3. Why? Because He reigns as an all-powerful King! He has all authority and ability to protect His beloved people.
4. I personally understand Ps.99:1 as specifically referring to Christ, who presently reigns and rules over His people.
5. O brethren, how foolish is native man, that He would afflict and harm His people, the very apple of God's eye.
6. Ps.90:11—"Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath"—can we even imagine the wrath of an all-powerful Being?
7. (2) Let poor sinners have hope—by this I mean, if God is all-powerful, and this power is found in the gospel, then let every sinner believe the gospel.
8. O dear friends, what a great encouragement this is for poor sinners, who are at present ensnared by Satan and sin.
9. I'm not sure who invented the lie this universe is controlled by two equally powerful beings, God and Satan, but nothing could be further from the truth!
10. All the power that Satan possesses has been given to Him by God, and that includes both concepts of power—authority and ability.
11. Because Satan is a created being, he is subject to creaturely limitations and dependent upon God for existence.

12. Simply put, Satan can only do what God allows Him to do, and is no match to the power of God in the gospel.
13. Lk.11:21-22—"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are undisturbed. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils."
14. Here our Savior refers to Satan as a "strong man" who keeps his goods undisturbed—that is, those under his power.
15. But notice He refers to Himself as "a stronger than he"—that is, He describes Himself as stronger than the strong man.
16. O dear brethren, what an amazing privilege we as Christians possess—we get to tell poor sinners the good news.
17. And what is that good-news, but in part, Christ is more powerful than Satan, and has defeated Him on the cross!
18. It's for this reason, the NT speaks about "the power of the cross" for it was on the cross Christ defeated Satan and sin.
19. Hymn—"Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's power in the blood, power in the blood; would you over evil a victory win? There's wonderful power in the blood. There is power, power, wonder-working power, in the blood of the Lamb; there is power, power, wonder-working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb."
20. (3) Let God's people be comforted, Ps.97:1—"The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad!"
21. The very same fact, while a cause of trembling for His enemies, is also a cause of comfort, adoration, and joy.
22. O dear brethren, what a wonderful truth we are reminded of this morning—we have a powerful refuge in God.
23. Isa.26:4—"Trust in the LORD forever, for in Yah, the LORD, is everlasting strength"—always trust the LORD because He is always strong.
24. Ps.91:1—"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."
25. O brethren, what a tremendous thought—what must God's people fear as they take refuge under the shadow of the Almighty!
26. God's power is a comfort for those who fear their weakness—who fear their proneness to wander and leave the God we love.
27. The Scriptures teach that every Christian has to endure to the end—we have to travel through this wicked world.
28. The Land of Promise lies on the other side of this wilderness—we are weak—our enemies are too powerful for us.
29. Think of the enemies who are against us—Satan, sin, the world—we are not able to defeat these in our strength.
30. Think of that sin that so easily entraps us time after time—think of the power of remaining corruption within us.
31. 1Pet.1:3-5—"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
32. Notice Peter describes our salvation as coming in two parts—there's a present aspect to it that takes place now.
33. V3—"who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope"—this has already happened.
34. V4—"to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"—this is future.
35. Our inheritance is nothing less than heaven (which includes a perfected soul and a glorified body)—this is our hope.

36. But notice it's something we must wait for! Peter is actually contrasting our inheritance with the OC inheritance.
37. The inheritance of the OC was the physical land of Canaan (the Promised Land)—this was corruptible, defiled, and faded away.
38. In contrast, our inheritance is incorruptible, undefiled, and does not fade away—our inheritance is the new heavens and earth.
39. But just like the OC member, we too have to first journey through this wilderness in order to enjoy our inheritance.
40. And here is the problem—this wilderness is long, hot, and dangerous—it's filled with many powerful enemies.
41. There are temptations that will entice us off the path—there are traitors who will infiltrate our camp to create division.
42. In short, all of our enemies, Satan, the world, and the flesh, will team up to put out that flame of faith in our souls.
43. To change the imagery from a wilderness to a turbulent ocean—how can this flame within us, endure to shore.
44. For example, children, what if I lit a candle put on some high-tech underwater gear, and walked under water from the East coast all the way to England.
45. What would be the odds that the candle would remain lit the entire 4,000 miles as I walked through the depths of the Atlantic Ocean?
46. Well this is similar to what's happened in our souls—God has lit a flame of faith within us and now we have to journey to the shores of the Promise Land.
47. And possibly can keep that flame burning all the way? "Who are kept by the power of God through faith"—that is, He keeps us in the way by keeping the flame burning.
48. (4) Let God's people seek power from God—that is, God is not only powerful in Himself, but He gives power to His beloved people.
49. Let me remind you of an important distinction within the attributes of God, and that's between noncommunicable and communicable attributes.
50. Noncommunicable attributes are those that God alone possesses, and that man, in no way or degree shares (all-presence, independence, etc.).
51. Communicable attributes are those that God alone possess perfectly, and yet, communicates them in measure to His people.
52. For example, knowledge, wisdom, goodness, grace, mercy, love, patience, and power are all communicable attributes.
53. O brethren, what an amazing thought—God's power is not only FOR us, but as Christians united to Christ, it's IN us!
54. 2Sam.22:33—"God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect" 1Chron.29:12—"Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all" Ps.68:35—"The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people" Isa.40:29—"He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength."
55. O Christian brethren! How much power there is in Christ for us! All we have to do is come to Him and ask for it!
56. Eph.6:10—"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" 2Tim.2:1—"You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."
57. God has deposited all the power we need in Christ! Power to love God. Power to obey God. Power to live for God!
58. Let us know and feel our weakness, that we might look to Him for strength—that in our weakness His power will be made perfect. Amen.