

# The Doctrines of Grace

## Doctrine 1-The Absolute Sovereignty of God

### Part A/Lesson Three

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## Part 1- The Character and Nature Of God- continued

### God is Omnipotent

**Genesis 17:1**

And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.

**Psalms 115:3**

But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

**Romans 11:36**

For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 1:11**

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

**Hebrews 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**Hebrews 6:18**

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

**The Revelation 19:6**

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Omnipotence means that the God of the Bible is Almighty. And most people assume that Omnipotence means that God can do *anything*. But, that is not true. The Bible reveals that there are several things that God *cannot* do precisely because He *is* God. For example-

- ✓ God *cannot* lie
- ✓ God *cannot* die
- ✓ God *cannot* be a "created" Being
- ✓ God cannot deny Himself
- ✓ God *cannot* sin in any capacity
- ✓ God *cannot* in any way or at any time *not* be Sovereign or *cease* to be God

These "limitations" on the God of the Bible do not *contradict* God being Omnipotent- but they simply explain what Omnipotence actually means. God *is not able* (He does not possess the Power or the Ability) to act or think in any way that is contrary to His Own Holy and Righteous Nature. So God is not "limited" by anything other than His Own Perfectness.

What Omnipotence *does* mean is that God is the One Who holds all Power over everything that He created. Nothing that was created exists outside God's realm of Control and Ownership. God's Power extends way beyond *anything* that His creatures or Creation possess. God can do whatever He *Wills* to do- yet God will never *Will* to do anything that is wrong. And, Omnipotence means that God's Power is never limited by finite things. In other words- God being Omnipotent means that no part of Creation can in any way frustrate or defeat God's Plan for the future.

Omnipotence also means that while no created thing has the ability to limit God's Power- God is fully restricted within Who He is- so God *cannot* be tempted with evil at any time; nor can He sin; nor can He contribute in any way to our sin.

While God's Omnipotence strikes fear into the heart of evil doers- it gives genuine Christians great comfort. God has all power over Death, Hell, and the Grave. And the very same Power that God manifested in creating all things is at His disposal to *guarantee* our eternal Salvation.

The devil, and all those in allegiance with him, may fight against God- but they are doomed to fail as God's Omnipotence *assures* that He will *always* prevail. God Alone is Almighty!

## **God is Omniscient**

### **Psalms 147:5**

**Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.**

### **Ezekiel 11:5**

**And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.**

**The Acts 15:18**

**Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.**

**Romans 11:33-36**

**33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!**

**34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?**

**35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?**

**36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.**

**Hebrews 4:13**

**Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**

The word, "Omniscient" means: *all knowing*. This term means that God knows everything about everything. God's intellectual capabilities are without *any* limitation and God uses those capabilities *fully* and *perfectly- at all times*. God *never* operates at half speed. Omniscience means that there is *nothing* that can be known about *anything* that God does not know in perfect fullness. God never learns new things. God is never at a loss as to what to do and nothing ever takes God by surprise. God is never nervous due to His lack of knowledge and God never worries about the future because He Alone *controls* the future.

Omniscient also means that God is not limited by space or time as far as knowledge is concerned. And that means that the God of the Bible knows in fullness- everything that has *ever* happened; everything that is happening right now; and everything that *will ever* happen at any point in time with or to anyone and anything in the future.

Omniscient also means that absolutely nothing is hidden to God. God knows the secrets of every Man who has ever or who will ever live- fully and completely and is able to answer the prayers of all of His people *simultaneously*- without conflicting or contradicting His Own Will in any way. God knows the entirety of time past, present, and future all at once without conflict or confusion and is able to use this Knowledge to such an extent- to *assure* that His Will is always carried out *exactly* as He Alone has determined.

**God is Omnipresent****1Kings 8:27**

**But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?**

**Job 11:7-9**

**7** Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?

**8** It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

**9** The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

**Jeremiah 23:23&24**

**23** Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?

**24** Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

**The Acts 17:22-31**

**22** Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.

**23** For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

**24** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

**25** Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

**26** And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

**27** That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

**28** For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

**29** Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

**30** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

**31** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Our human spirits are *finite* spirits and are not now, nor ever will be, capable of being in more than one place at the same time. Only an *infinite* Spirit is capable of Omnipresence.

When Omnipresence is taught- it is usually understood to mean that God's Presence is in all places. There is no place in the Universe where God is not.

**Psalms 139**

**1** O LORD , thou hast searched me, and known me.

**2** Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

- 3** Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.
- 4** For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD , thou knowest it altogether.
- 5** Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.
- 6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.
- 7** Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
- 8** If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.
- 9** If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
- 10** Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.
- 11** If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.
- 12** Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.
- 13** For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
- 14** I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.
- 15** My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
- 16** Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.
- 17** How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!
- 18** If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.
- 19** Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.
- 20** For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain.
- 21** Do not I hate them, O LORD , that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?
- 22** I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.
- 23** Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
- 24** And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Yet, as Spirit, God does not occupy any place in the sense that physical objects occupy space. God has no physical qualities that can occupy tangible space. The barrier between God and Man is *not* a barrier of space or time. To meet God- there is not a "where" to go or a "when" to occur.

There is a second aspect to God's Omnipresence that is often overlooked. The "omni" relates not only to the *places* where God is- but also to *how much* of God is in any given place. To understand that the one true living God of the Bible is Omnipresence is not only to comprehend that God is present in all places at once- but also that God is *fully* present in every place at the same time. This is another Doctrine about God called "God's Immensity".

For example, believers in New York enjoy the fullness of God while at the same time- believers in Moscow enjoy the very same fullness at the very same time. God's Immensity, then, does not refer to God's *physical* size- but to His Divine Ability to be fully present everywhere simultaneously.

The Doctrine of God's Omnipresence appropriately fills us with awe. In addition to the reverence that this Truth brings forth in us- it also proves to be very comforting. We can always be certain of God's undivided attention. We don't ever need to stand in line or to make an appointment with God. When we are in God's Presence- He is not preoccupied with events on the other side of the earth.

This Doctrine is not, however, comforting to the lost. Omnipresence means that there is no place to hide from God. There is no corner of the universe where a wicked man can hide his sin. The wicked in Hell are not separated from God- only from His Benevolence. God's Wrath is with them constantly. King David said this in **Psalms 139:7-10**:

**7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?**

**8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.**

**9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;**

**10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.**

## Recap of Lesson Three

1. What does God's Omnipotence mean? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does God have any limitations? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the limitations based on? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Complete the sentence, "God can do anything that He Wills to do- but He will never Will to do anything... \_\_\_\_\_ "
5. God's Power is never limited by (choose one)
  - a) The Constitution
  - b) The Doctrine of the Trinity
  - c) finite things
  - d) infinite things
6. What does that actually mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does God's Omnipotence relate to sin and evil? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why would it be true to say that God's Omnipotence strikes fear into the heart of evil doers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Why would this same Truth bring great comfort to genuine believers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Why does God's Omnipotence assure that God will always prevail? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. How might this Truth of God's Omnipotence conflict with what you have been taught about how the devil fights against God and us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. Finish this sentence: "Omniscient means that God knows... \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Finish this sentence, "Omniscience also means that God is not limited... \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Finish this sentence, "Omniscience also means that absolutely nothing.... \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_

15. How does God's Omniscience work together with God always having His Will carried out? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. What does God's Omnipresence mean? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How does God's Omnipresence work together with Him being Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. What is the "second aspect" of God's Omnipresence? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. What is The Doctrine of God's Immensity? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. What does the correct understanding of The Doctrine of God's Omnipresence do to us? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. Why would this Truth bring comfort to genuine believers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

22. Why is this Doctrine frightening to the lost? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

23. How has what you have learned so far about the one true living God of the Bible changed your view of God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

24. Explain how you think Omnipotence; Omniscience; and Omnipresence would work together in Salvation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.