

SICK LIST:**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

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AM - NEIL MYERS

PM - NEIL MYERS

CAMPAIGNERS WILL LEAVE JULY 13TH FOR LINCOLN, AL. THE MEETING WILL BE JULY 14-17 AND WE WILL BE CALLING MON-WED. COME JOIN IF YOU CAN!

PLEASE REMEMBER CHUCK WINDHAM'S SISTER JANICE BAILEY. HER ADDRESS IS 490 HIGHLAND WYANDOTTE, MI 48192

THANKS TO THOSE WHO DONATED TO ICYC!

BIRTHDAYS:

July 11: Ruby Harrison

12: Steven Windham

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HWY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

Bible Class 9:30

Worship 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827
Carlton Myers 221-0637
Neil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213
Barry Lawson 272-1211
David Preston 300-1927
Kevin Richardson 295-8864
Chris Robbins 388-1354
Vince Roden 924-4062

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

Can God Do Everything?

Dave Miller

Both Christians and atheists generally have assumed that if the God depicted in the Bible exists, He can do **anything**—since He is represented as being allpowerful. However, this assumption is incorrect. The Bible does not claim that the omnipotence of God implies that He can do anything and everything. In reality, “omnipotence” by definition does not, and cannot, apply to that which does not lend itself to power. Skeptics and atheists have posed queries that they feel nullify the notion of omnipotence, thereby demonstrating the nonexistence of God. For example, “Can God create a boulder so large that He, Himself, cannot lift it?”

Separate and apart from the fact that God is not, Himself, physical, and that He created the entire physical Universe, though He is metaphysical and transcendent of the Universe, the question is a **conceptual absurdity**. It’s like asking, “Can God create a round square or a four-sided triangle?” No, He cannot—but not for the reasons implied by the atheist: that He does not exist or that He is not omnipotent. Rather, it is because the question is, itself, **self- contradictory and incoherent**. It is nonsensical terminology. Rather than saying God **cannot** do such things, it would be more in harmony with reality to say that such things simply **cannot be done at all**. God is infinite in power, but power meaningfully relates only to what can be done, to what is **possible** of accomplishment—**not** to what is **impossible!** It is absurd to speak of any power (even **infinite** power) being able to do what simply **cannot** be done. Logical absurdities do not lend themselves to being accomplished, and so, are not subject to power, not even to **infinite** power (see Warren, 1972, pp. 27ff.).

Further, to suggest that God is deficient or limited in power if He cannot create a rock so large that He cannot lift, is to imply that He **could** do so if He simply had **more** power. But this is false. Creating a rock that He, Himself, cannot lift, or creating a four-sided triangle, or making a ball that is at the same time both white all over and black all over, or creating a 90-year-old teenager, or making a car that is larger on the inside than it is on the outside—to propose such things is to affirm logical contradictions and absurdities. Such propositions do not really say anything at all. Though one can imagine logical absurdities that cannot be accomplished, they do not constitute a telling blow against the view that God is infinite in power.

So, no, the concept of “omnipotence” does not mean that there are no limits to what an omnipotent being can do. While God **can** do whatever is **possible** to be done, in reality, He **will** do only what is in harmony with His nature. In fact, the Bible pinpoints specific things that God **cannot** do. For example, the Bible states unequivocally that God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19; 1 Samuel 15:29; 2 Timothy 2:13; Titus 1:2). He is a Being whose very essence entails truthfulness. Falsehood is completely out of harmony with His divine nature.

Another impossibility pertaining to God's power is the fact that He shows no partiality or favoritism (Deuteronomy 10:17; Romans 2:11; Colossians 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17). He is "open and above board"—evenhanded—with all His creatures. He can be counted on to interact with human beings as He said He would. His treatment of us centers on our own self-chosen behavior— not on our ethnicity or skin color (Acts 10:34- 35; 1 Samuel 16:7).

A third instance that qualifies the meaning of "omnipotent" is seen in God's inability to forgive the individual who will not repent and forsake sin (Joshua 24:19; Proverbs 28:13; Matthew 6:15; 18:35; Luke 13:3,5). As great and as magnificent as the mercy and forgiveness of God are, it is impossible for Him to bestow forgiveness upon the person who does not seek that forgiveness by meeting the pre- conditions of remission. God is literally powerless to bestow forgiveness through any other avenue than the blood of Jesus and obedience to the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17; John 3:5).

The more one studies the Bible, examining the attributes and characteristics of the God depicted there, the more one is struck with (1) the inspiration of the Bible—since its skillful handling of such matters places it beyond the charge of successful contradiction, and (2) awe at the infinitude of God. Not one of the factors discussed in this article reflects adversely upon the reality of God's omnipotence. But it is abundantly clear that a person may so live as to render the God of heaven incapable of coming to that person's aid. It is imperative that every human being recognizes the need to understand His will and to conform one's behavior to that will. It is imperative that every individual avoid placing self in the precarious position of being in need of **that which God cannot do**.

REFERENCE

Warren, Thomas B. (1972), *Have Atheists Proved There Is No God* (Jonesboro, AR: National Christian Press).

(from www.apologeticspress.org)