

## **“MY GOD IS STRONGER THAN YOUR GOD.”**

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**First Christian Reformed Church, Lynden, WA**

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**Text for the Sermon: Psalm 33:6-11; Jeremiah 32:17, 26-27**

### **Introduction.**

We are familiar with the playground taunt, “my father can beat up your father.” To a small child dad is omnipotent, there’s nothing he can’t do and what a comfort that is. Our father’s power was our security.

I thought about titling my sermon, “My God can beat up your god” but decided that might come off as a bit too irreverent.

How powerful is God? The rhetorical question is asked in Scripture, “Is anything too hard for God?” and the reply comes back, “Nothing is too hard for God” (Jeremiah 32:26-27; 17).

One of the most frequent designations or titles for God is Lord God Almighty (used over fifty times in Scripture and only of God). Almighty just means all powerful and the Latin word for that is omnipotent. Almighty is might to the superlative degree. God isn’t just strong, He is most strong, the strongest. Yes, our God is stronger than any other god, our God can beat up any other god.

He has all the power to do whatever He decides to do. And if He doesn’t do something, it isn’t because He can’t. With God nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37) and all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

Certain branches of the military like to boast that the difficult they can do immediately, the impossible will take a little longer. For God hard, difficult and impossible are all the same, instantly easy. He can do anything as easily as anything else.

It takes God the same time and effort and energy to create a galaxy and a daisy. In fact, God’s power is effortless, He never breaks a sweat to do everything He does.

In fact, He is able to do far more than He even does. He could raise up children from stones or make stones into bread or make rocks sing if He chose to.

And here we have to make a quick clarification, there are some things God can't do. That's why I said God's omnipotence is His ability to do whatever He wills to do. God cannot will or do anything that is contrary to His nature or His other attributes.

God can't sin or be tempted (James 1:13), God can't lie (Hebrews 6:17), God can't contradict Himself or deny Himself (II Timothy 2:13), God can't cease to exist and God can't do something illogical or irrational like make a rock so large He can't lift it.

The statement is nonsense. God can't make a round square or a four-sided triangle or a house that is larger on the inside than on the outside. Those are non-realities, they are nothing. To say God can't do these things doesn't negate that God can do whatever He wills to do.

The power of God in Scripture is seen and described in many ways. Let me focus our attention on just two ways.

### *First, in creation.*

To make something takes power. Any of you who have ever made anything know the power and energy needed, the tools and instruments, whether we are talking about making a house or an engine or a lasagna or an afghan.

God's power in creating is infinite, He needs no tools or instruments, He doesn't even need any materials or supplies. He creates matter out of nothing, and He works on that matter without tools and without labor or effort.

In creation we see God's power in divine fiat or divine command. He spoke and it was accomplished. How many times do we have to speak to accomplish something, get someone to obey or follow through?

He spoke once (Psalm 62:11) and there was a created universe. He spoke and there was life. He spoke and a legion of demons fled. He spoke once and a lifetime of disease or disability was healed. He spoke once and the storm fell silent.

**Psalm 33:6** By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,  
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

**Psalm 33:9** For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

All of creation and nature reveal the infinite and eternal almighty power of God. We know God has power and because God is infinite His power is infinite, without limit.

He can make the sun stand still or even move backwards ten degrees. He can seal up the mouths of lions, make a fire that doesn't burn and make heavy metal float (II Kings 6:1-7). He can make water pile up and stand in a heap (the Red Sea and the Jordan River). He can frustrate the plans of kings, wipe out whole armies with a word, bring down a nation with a glance (Exodus 14:24).

God's power is a mighty power, an irresistible power (Romans 9:19), an inexhaustible power, is an everlasting power,

**Isaiah 40:28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary

*God sustains the universe.*

**Hebrews 1:3** he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

At this very moment in time God is actively and purposefully continually sustaining every single action of every galaxy and every molecule, of every whale and every ant, of every dust particle and every hair on every head.

**Colossians 1:16-17** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, ... all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and *in him all things hold together*.

God fuels the sun so it burns, God directs the earth in its orbit, God takes personal responsibility to feed the lions and ravens and salmon. He sends the rain and stills the storm.

As God upholds and preserves and sustains the physical universe so He also actively, continually and personally upholds our lives, physical and spiritual.

**Acts 17:28** In him we live and move and have our being.

The heart of a king like a stream of water He directs wherever He will. Every heartbeat, every breathe we take is by God and apart from Him we would not continue to breath. The food on your table at every meal is from Him. The energy

and strength you have to work and play is from Him. The number of your days is from Him.

God didn't rest on the seventh day in the sense of lying down and taking a nap. He finished His creative work, but never His sustaining work. If He had literally rested, everything He made would have fallen apart.

If God ceased His sustaining power for one second, we would all cease to exist. We are that completely dependent on God's power.

### *Second, in salvation.*

God has power and authority over the spiritual realm as well as the physical.

The same power that created the universe also raised Christ from the dead. And that same power is at work in us to bring us to salvation (Ephesians 1:19-21).

Now, which is greater, creating the universe or saving souls? Which is a greater reflection of God's infinite power? If I said saving souls, would you be surprised? Why is salvation a greater display of power than creation?

When God made the world He faced no opposition, there were no hindrances. When God sets out to save a soul He meets the fierce opposition of Satan and the resistance of the human heart which is inclined to darkness and evil. Salvation is accomplished in a battle, against principalities and powers and weapons of cosmic proportions.

Satan had to be subdued, death had to be conquered, sin had to be dealt with. Creation was accomplished with a word, salvation is the work of countless miracles, making the blind to see and the deaf to hear and the dead to rise.

It is the most miraculous mystery of all how God's mighty power saves a soul, forms a new creation and delivers one from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. What a sweet violence God works in a human will to bring us to humility and submission turning us from children of wrath into children of light.

God doesn't just save us, He sustains us in our salvation, He keeps and preserves us to the end.

We could go on and show the power of God in the spiritual realm, His supreme power over Satan, sin, evil and death. We could show God's final power exercised in judgment and in the eternal destinies of all souls.

## **Practical implications and Application.**

If considering this truth this morning doesn't change us then we have not yet thought deeply enough about this and we have not yet fruitfully applied this yet. Our better knowledge of the vast and infinite power of God should bear practical fruit in our hearts, and homes and lives.

We should use it to *combat fear*. If God is God and if God is in control, then what should I fear? Our Father's power is our security.

This was how Jesus could sleep through a storm. He had absolute and total trust in His heavenly Father. Don't you want the kind of peace in your life? Don't you want that kind of confidence in the midst of your storms?

**Matthew 6:26, 31-32** Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.

**Matthew 10:29-31** Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Use this truth in your daily life to combat the enemies attempts to get us to be afraid, to be worried or nervous. Use this truth to calm your heart, to rest in God's power and goodness, to know that He controls the future, the destiny and outcome of all our lives, of our children's lives and grandchildren's lives, of our nation.

Trust God with an unhesitating confidence and assurance.

Think of something in your life right now that has a hook in you or has you wrapped around the axle or has you lying awake at night or is making you anxious. Now how would this truth about God change the way you think about that?

As we watch wickedness increase in our nation, do we feel despair in face of changes, in the face of *Supreme Court decisions*? Do we question why God is allowing this free fall into sin? We must remind ourselves that God is in complete

control, that He not only allows it but even sends it to humble us and bring us to repentance and prayer.

The decision on Friday was as wicked and immoral as Roe v. Wade in 1973. It will led to great sin and evil, to inescapable pain and suffering, and to a loss in our religious freedoms over the next decade.

Satan's unrelenting attack on marriage and children is His attack on God's potency as it is reflected and shared with us our ability or power to create and give life. Children are a reflection of how we are made in God's image. The many children in this church is a sign of God's potency among us. Don't take them for granted, a godly seed is our greatest contribution to this world and a display of God's power.

Remember, God is in His holy temple and we must remain confident in the rule and reign of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the power of the Gospel that shines the brightest in the darkest places and at the darkest times.

Use this truth to *resist lies* that rob God of His glory.

There is no such thing as luck or chance or fate or karma or misfortune. All things come about by the personal providence of our sovereign and almighty God. Don't buy the impersonal view of the universe that so many people have. This universe is created by a personal God who is personally and actively present and involved. See God's hand in everything and see that by God's hand all things will and in fact must work together for the good of those who love Him and fear Him.

There is no such thing as superstition. Nothing you can do, not little rituals you can try, that will bring you better luck or keep you from worse luck. Stepping on a crack will not break your mother's back, knocking on wood will not change the course of your future. Your lucky socks are not lucky, they don't effect the God of the universe. They diminish and rob God of His glory. Trust Him and not your good luck charm, even if it's a cross.

Everything in all creation is for God's glory and reveals something of His glory. Where in your life do you rob God of His glory by failing to think more deeply and seriously about what is going on around you? Where do you casually dismiss things as just bad luck or some misfortune or accident?

Use this truth to *strengthen your faith* and help you walk in faithfulness and righteousness.

A Christian accountant who was told by his boss to falsify company records. Being afraid of losing his job we complied and then ended up in jail without a job. He didn't trust the power of God, he didn't give God an opportunity to show His power if he had taken a step of faith. Learn the lesson of Kina Asa who because he relied on foreign armies rather than God lost the war.

There is great power in righteousness and holiness. We are given power by God's grace to overcome sin, continually relying on His power.

The omnipotence of God is a source of *great comfort and hope for the believer*. Do you ever find yourself thinking you don't have enough strength or power to face or handle a situation?

**Philippians 4:13, 19** I can do all things through him who strengthens me.  
19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

God's great power is available and sufficient for every need.

If God can create and sustain, if God can raise the dead and save a sinner like me, if God can control the whole universe, then He is big enough to handle whatever comes my way. He is worthy of our confidence and trust. Knowing this has sustained countless Christians to endure the greatest suffering.

Use this truth to *empower your prayers*. We are praying to the sovereign powerful almighty God who is creator and sustainer of the universe. He can do more than we ask or imagine. All the good things around us are from Him.

"No prayer is too hard for Him to answer, no need too great for Him to supply, no passion too strong for Him to subdue; no temptation too powerful for Him to deliver from, no misery too deep for Him to relieve" (Pink).

*The omnipotence of God is cause for love and adoration and worship.*

**Exodus 15:11** "Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"

We know and love and worship the God who possesses absolute power, for whom nothing is too difficult or even impossible. He can do whatever He wills to do.

Apart from Him we can do nothing but through Him we can do all things. For all He calls us to do, for that He gives power and strength.

Our God can beat up all other gods. Our Father in heaven is strong to save and strong to deliver, and if He is for us who can be against us. Our heavenly Father's power is our security and peace and hope and confidence.