OMNIpotence

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you had the power to do anything?

You might make your kids behave perfectly all the time. You might solve world hunger. Or "get rid" of every bad person. Or make them good...get them saved!

Every movie I've ever seen where a person becomes all powerful ends up bad. Power in the hands of evil just creates more evil. Power in the hands of good, like a superhero, can do some good but they still always leave some path of destruction behind.

People don't have what it takes to handle that kind of power. Why? Because our soul (mind, will, emotions) would drive most of our decisions. We'd get what we want which would affect the will of others. Ultimately our decisions would come from our character, one that even if it's good, it's still not perfect.

Today we're looking at God's omnipotence.

Omni - all, Potence - power, might

God is all powerful. How many of you believe that? I bet some of you doubt it.

Our problem in believing that God is all powerful is that we wonder why He hasn't done the things that WE would do if we were all powerful. They're GOOD things! He's good, He's all powerful, why doesn't He do them?

Because He's God. He's not like you. He knows everything. He knows how one thing affects another. He knows what things would affect free will. He knows what things (even seemingly good things) go against His character.

Can I tell you something that might blow your mind? God is all powerful, but there are things He can't do. Hear me out...

- God cannot lie Titus 1:2
- He cannot deny Himself 2 Timothy 2:13
- God cannot be tempted by evil James 1:13
- He cannot change His basic nature Numbers 23:19

There are several other things the scripture says God cannot do. But this doesn't make Him not omnipotent. See it's not that He's not ABLE to do them, it's that He chooses not to...

He chooses not to because He will never do anything contrary to His own righteous, holy, unchanging character.

God is so powerful, He can do anything He CHOOSES to do. He's everywhere. He knows everything. When we wonder where His power is...it's in His plan:

Isaiah 14:27 (HCSB)

The Lord of Hosts Himself has planned it; therefore, who can stand in its way? It is His hand that is outstretched, so who can turn it back?

If He chooses to make a universe, He just says "let there be light" and there is light. If you aren't impressed, let's see you do it! But remember, when God did it, light didn't even exist yet.

Look at one more aspect of His omnipotence:

Revelation 19:6 (NKJV)

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Omnipotent - Greek word pantokrator (pah-tah-krah-tor) He who holds sway over all things, ruler of all, almighty. This means He has dominion over all things. Hold on to that for a bit...

As we continue in Psalm 139, David has highlighted God's omniscience, His omnipresence, and now as we get to His omnipotence, I find the focus really interesting.

He could have use the example of creating the earth, the ten plagues in Egypt, parting the Red Sea, kicking satan and ½ of the angels out of heaven...lots of displays of His power...but look at what He chose:

Psalm 139:13-16 (HCSB)

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I will praise You

because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made.

Your works are wonderful,

and I know this very well.

15 My bones were not hidden from You

when I was made in secret.

when I was formed in the depths of the earth.

16 Your eyes saw me when I was formless;

all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

David focuses on his own life as an example of the power of God at work.

Have you ever considered that the two greatest displays of God's power in your life are

- 1. Him creating you.
- 2. Him saving you.

Psalm 139:13 (HCSB)

For it was You who created my inward parts; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

God created your inward parts. Those two words, inward parts, have a literal meaning and a figurative meaning in the Greek. It means kidneys, so your actual physical inward parts.

But it also means your soul, your mind, the seat of the desires, affections, and passions. God actually created your mind, will, emotions at the start.

Before you were even identifiable to man, God created your personality, the passions in your heart, the way you think, how you are wired. The eternal piece...first.

Then He began to knit your soul and your body together in your mother's womb. When it was a speck of watery matter smaller than the dot over an i, all of your future characteristics were already programmed.

He knit it all together, interweaved like a basket. What a display of God's power. Not that He couldn't just speak "Let there be soul. Let there be body." Isn't it even more powerful to knit that all together in a tiny speck?

God put great detail into creating you. Why do you think the devil spends so much time trying to tear you down, make you feel insecure, inadequate, unworthy?

Psalm 139:14 (HCSB)

I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and I know this very well.

No matter how I feel...I will praise Jesus! Why? Because I am remarkably and wonderfully made!

Now turn to someone and say "You are remarkable." Now keep your remarks to yourself.

What does this mean? David is saying I am in awe of You, God. For your creation. It's wonderful.

In Genesis 1:26 God said "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness." Church, you were made in the image of Jesus! How wonderful.

Every single person is unique. No duplicates. Even identical twins have different fingerprints. Over 100 billion people have existed and every single one is unique. Every single one had differences inward and out. Every single one created by God the Creator, in His image!

WOW! Are you convinced of His wonderful works? Somebody say "Praise Jesus!"

Psalm 139:15 (HCSB)

My bones were not hidden from You when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth.

"My bones" speak of your actual bones but it indicates more in the original language. It means strength. What will become. Even when you are most vulnerable, tiny, weak, in your mother's womb, your strength that had not yet been uncovered and activated was present in God's sight.

He saw not only what you were but what you would be. He "put it in your bones"

Colossians 1: 16-17 (HCSB)

For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.

Jesus creates and He also sustains. He is the One who holds things together.

Psalm 139:16 (HCSB)

Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

He saw you when you were formless. After He knit you together, put those little bones in there infused with strength for the future, He continued to guide the formation of your life in the womb.

See He's never been a God of abandonment! He doesn't create and leave, He creates and guides!

all my days were written in Your book and planned before a single one of them began.

This doesn't speak of the "book of life" but more of the book of a designer. Like a draft book where he draws his plans, sketches it all out.

God has had plans for you since before you were formed! You were created on purpose for a purpose!

Ephesians 2:10 (HCSB)

For we are His creation, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time so that we should walk in them.

Are you walking in them? Are you doing the things God created you to do?

It's a different way of thinking but it's a biblical way of thinking. God didn't create things for you to do, He created you to do things! His things!

The creation of man is a display of God's omnipotence. His power. Why would David use this example of all things?

I'm going to personalize this and where we'd typically say "man", we're going to say "you".

- You are God's greatest creation.

How do we know this? In Genesis 1 after God created each thing, He looked at it and said it was good. After He created man, He looked at him and said it was VERY good.

God created you, formed you, knit you together, before you were recognizable, and He looked at you and said you were very good.

- This world was created for you

Again in Genesis, after God created everything, He told Adam to take dominion over all God had created.

Remember what I told you to hold on to? pantokrator (pah-tah-krah-tor) He who holds sway over all things, ruler of all, almighty. This means He has dominion over all things.

And He has given that dominion to you! See, one of the great things about being the One who holds power over all things...delegating power.

- He created you to display His power through you.

It's like God said "I created you for me, but I created this earth for you." He said "YOU subdue it." That means conquer it, overcome it.

We've kind of messed that up, haven't we? Aren't you thankful that Jesus is all knowing? He knew we would. He knew He would have to come and save us. To reconnect us with the Father. To empower us by the Spirit.

He's an all powerful God who gives US the power to overcome sin. The work on the cross gave it to us.

Romans 8:11 (HCSB)

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you.

- At creation we were given dominion over the earth. At salvation we are given dominion over everything else. (sin, death, spirits, sickness, bondage, etc)

God is all powerful. All power belongs to God. He possesses it all. He can do anything and everything. He never gets winded, and He never grows weary. His strength is never zapped, and he never has to take a nap. We may see impossible things in front of us, but with God, all things are possible.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

It's the power of the Holy Spirit that is in you, working in you. In Christ, you are all powerful because He has given you His authority over the natural and over the supernatural.

Are you walking in it?