



GOD IS ABLE, Part 1
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

Let's examine and consider how God's power and ability is revealed and released through us, not on us or around us. In Genesis 18:14, God asks Abraham an important question, in the face of a humanly impossible situation, "Is anything too difficult for me?" Even today, the Lord is asking us the very same question.

As we consider the ability of God and the all-sufficiency of His power, we need to ask that question regarding the most difficult situations in our lives. This week, we will examine the three major ways in Scripture that this process of empowering takes place. Let's take this revelation and turn it into practical application!

So, if you're feeling delayed, dismayed, or discouraged, or even if you have just feel like you have been waiting on God for a prolonged time, here are practical ways, from the Word of God, to prepare for the release of God's power in your life.

SCRIPTURE

[Jeremiah 32:17-20] (Faith Declaration)

“O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you! 18 You show unfailing love to thousands, but you also bring the consequences of one generation’s sin upon the next. You are the great and powerful God, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies. 19 You have all wisdom and do great and mighty miracles. 20 You performed miraculous signs and wonders in the land of Egypt—things still remembered to this day! And you have continued to do great miracles in Israel and all around the world. You have made your name famous to this day.

It is so important for our faith confession to align with the character of God. Practically, the breakdown in our faith journey is usually found at the disconnect between our knowledge of God’s ability and our experience. Take a moment to separate your life circumstances from what we know of God's capability.

So the question is not really "Is God Able?," but "Is God able *in my situation*?"

[Ephesians 3:20]

God is able to do much more than we can ask or think, according to His mighty power that works in us.

Here is the key thought: God’s ability is most often revealed as He works through us, not independent of us. As pointed out in the Ephesians verse, God goes beyond what we hope for or anticipate, but His power is still released in "His work in us."

3 Main Ways His Ability is Released in our Disability:

God’s ability is revealed when we:

1. Say “Nevertheless...Not my will, but yours.”

How did Jesus' “nevertheless” release the power of God in our lives?

How did Simon Peter’s “nevertheless” change, that day, his career and his life?

When the will of God is made clear and it conflicts with your will, the “nevertheless” is the release point of God’s ability!

God's ability is revealed when we:

2. Embrace our weakness

[2 Corinthians 12:8-10]

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

("Strength" / "Dunamis" (in Greek) = miraculous power, "To be Able")

10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God's ability is revealed when we:

3. Trust Irrevocably

[Daniel 2]

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. 18 But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."

What are some areas in our lives where we have to make a decision to trust God irrevocably or face some sort of "fire" because we are unwilling to compromise? Stand strong with your conviction and face the fire. Promotion comes through that refinement!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you known folks that were looking for God to do a "drive-by miracle:" knowing what He can do, and believing for answered prayer, but not seeking any direct involvement? What was the situation, and what resulted?
2. What miracle do you, or your family, need right now? What is it in your life where God's ability can invade your disability or inability?
3. When was a time that you praised God when a strength of yours was highlighted? When was a time that you had to "embrace your weakness" so that the strength of God could be seen? How did He show up?
4. How are you setting yourself up now to see God's miraculous healing, provision, deliverance, or restoration?
5. How can you develop irrevocable trust, where your confession of faith includes, "even if He doesn't, I will still praise Him?" (Consider Daniel's friends)