

Some Things That God Won't (Can't) Do

Introduction:

- A. Occasionally we hear someone ask the question: "Is there anything that God can't do?" or "Can God make a rock so big that He cannot lift it?" These are usually asked to discredit God, rather than for gaining information. But have you ever stopped to consider that there might be some things that God can't do?
- B. We know that Jesus, in Matt. 19:26, made the statement, "...with God all things are possible," so doesn't that prove God can do anything He wants? When looking at the context of the statement we understand Jesus to be talking about the impossibilities of man in the physical realm as opposed to the possibilities of God. However, in the spiritual realm, there are some things that God will not, in fact cannot, do because such would violate His character or nature as God (2 Tim. 2:13, Heb. 6:17-18). So, God cannot deny Himself, neither can He lie. Both actions would be contrary to His nature or character.
- C. Man, in his own way of thinking and hoping, seems to think that there is nothing impossible with God; Therefore, man will live as he pleases, and God, being able, and being the merciful God that He is, will save him in the end. But, in His word, there are revealed other things which God will not do.

I. *God Will Not Renounce His Promises To Man*

- A. God made promises to man from beginning
 - 1. When man sinned, a Savior was promised - Gen. 3:15
 - 2. That promise was kept - Acts 13:23; Gal. 4:4-5
- B. Many promises made Abraham and Sarah, and He did what He promised - Heb. 11:11; Rom. 4:21
 - 1. The Old Testament is full of God's promises
 - 2. He always did what He promised
 - 3. We have assurance - Heb. 10:23
- C. Peter said God keeps His promises - 2 Pet. 3:9
- D. Need the faith of Paul concerning the promises of God - Acts 27:25
- E. No, God will not renounce His promises

1. Must realize most of God's promises are **CONDITIONAL** in nature
 - a. IF we confess Christ, He will confess us before His Father - Matt. 10:32
 - b. IF we deny Him, He will deny us - Matt. 10:33
 - c. IF we confess our sins, He will forgive – 1 Jn. 1:9
2. The promise of the joys of heaven are conditional - Matt. 25:46

II. *God Will Not Hear The Prayers Of Alien Sinners*

- A. God's hearing is not poor, but He will not "heed" the prayer of the sinner - Isa. 59:1-2
 1. People think God will hear their prayers no matter what they do or how they live
 2. Must realize when one rebels against God, God will not hear him - Prov. 1:24-28; 28:9
- B. God has placed conditions on hearing - Jn. 9:31
 1. Must be righteous (worship God) - Jas. 5:16
 2. Must do His commandments - 1 Jn. 3:22
- C. Unless we are willing to hear God's instructions, and mold our lives by them, we make it impossible for Him to hear and answer our prayers

III. *God Will Not Save The Unbeliever*

- A. Not God's fault some are not saved - Isa. 59:1
- B. Man's salvation is predicated upon faith - Heb. 11:6
 1. God sent His Son to die for all men - Heb. 2:9; Jn. 3:16
 2. No salvation promised for those who do not believe - Jn. 8:24
 5. We are "justified by faith"; "Saved by grace through faith"; and "live by faith", Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 1:17
 6. It is impossible for God to save us without faith
- C. Jesus told the apostles, "Go preach" - Mk. 16:15-16
 1. When the message of salvation is preached, hearers are to believe it - Rom. 10:17
 - a. Paul reason for diligence in proclaiming the gospel - Rom. 1:16-17
 - b. The gospel has no power to save unbelievers

2. When people reject the gospel message, they make it impossible for God to save them

IV. ***God Will Not Save Those Who Do Not Obey Him***

- A. Some don't put their faith to work - Jn. 12:42-43
- B. Faith apart from works is dead - Jas. 2:14-20
- C. Faith must produce obedience to make us acceptable to God - Jas. 2:21-24
 1. Look at the great heroes and heroines of faith - Heb. 11:4-30
 2. In every case, faith led to obedience before the promised blessing was received - Heb. 5:9
- D. 1 Pet. 1:22
 1. Paul echoed the same thing - Rom. 6:16-18
 2. Until faith leads us to do what God commands, we remain lost
 - a. Jesus promised salvation upon belief and baptism - Mk. 16:16.
 - b. He also asked them: "Why do you call Me, Lord, Lord, and do not do what I say?" - Lk. 6:46.
- E. By refusing to do what God commands us, we make it impossible for Him to save us - Eccl. 12:13

Conclusion:

- A. There are some things that God cannot do: He cannot lie. Nor can He deny Himself. Don't expect God to go back on His word by saving someone in unbelief or disobedience.
- B. God wants to save us (1 Tim. 2:4). But there are some things that we **MUST DO**, or we will find there are things God cannot do.