

Limiting God

God is "omnipotent", which literally means that He is "all powerful." Sometimes we express this idea by saying that "there is nothing God cannot do." That statement can lead to certain difficulties. For example:

- Hebrews 6: 18 says that " ... it was impossible for God to lie." Here we have something that God CANNOT do.

- Hebrews 13:5 gives God's promise to his faithful children: " ... for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. " Again, this is a thing that God CANNOT do - He cannot desert His own.

- James 1 :13 tells us that " ... God cannot be tempted with evil, neither does He tempt any man." To tempt or be tempted is contrary to the very nature of God.

With these things in mind, we can be more specific in describing God's "omnipotence." God has the power to do everything that is in harmony with His basic nature and His expressed will. But, He can never do anything that would contradict His promises or violate His holy and just character.

Often when discussing the subject of miracles we reference certain Scriptures which show that no miracles are being performed today (e.g. 1 Corinthians 13:8-13). Sometimes someone will object by saying that such a view "limits God" and that "God can do anything." These statements expose a misunderstanding of God's power. He IS limited. There are some things that He CANNOT do (such as perform miracles today). But, we are not the ones who limit God. He has limited Himself. He has taught us in His word that He will not do these things in our time.

Let us praise and honor our God. He has the power to do ALL things that are according to His will.

Greg Gwin