

What God Cannot Do

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We serve an awesome God. The Scriptures speak repeatedly of His great power, beginning with the incredible declaration, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1). David tells us, “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands” (Psalms 19:1). Truly, God is awesome in power, love, patience, mercy, holiness, and so many other wonderful characteristics.

As powerful as God may be, not many people realize there are some things God cannot do. No, we are not talking about the silly things some ask, such as, “Can God create a rock so big He could not lift it?”

It is sometimes argued, “God can do whatever He wants.” I know what is meant by that statement, but the reality is God cannot do whatever He wants. There are some things God cannot, and thankfully, will NOT do.

God Cannot Lie

One thing God cannot do is lie. The Scriptures are very clear about this aspect of God’s character. The apostle Paul wrote:

*In the hope of eternal life, **which God, who cannot lie**, promised long ages ago.* (Titus 1:2 Emphasis Mine)

The Hebrew writer gave us the same wonderful truth:

*So that by two unchangeable things in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.* (Hebrews 6:18 Emphasis Mine)

Lying is something God cannot do. Knowing this, ironically, we can rejoice in something God cannot do. The fact that God cannot lie means we can fully trust His promises. We can fully trust the word of God (cf. John 17:17).

God Cannot Say “Yes” to a Prayer that Would Violate His Word

The apostle John gave us some important, and confidence building instruction, in regards to our requests in prayer.

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

If our requests in prayer are according to the will of God, we can confidently know we have those requests. However, if we are asking for something that is contrary to His will, we cannot have this same confidence.

God’s will states that it is appointed for men to die once. God cannot answer “yes” to a prayer that would ask Him to change His will in this matter. We cannot pray with confidence asking to

avoid death all together, and live forever in this world. God cannot favorably answer such a request as it would violate His will.

It is not God's will that human beings grow wings to fly like birds. Much as one might like to be able to fly, praying about it is not going to cause God to give the person wings to fly.

God Cannot Save Sinners Outside of Jesus Christ

God's will states that sinners can only find salvation in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). God cannot, and will not change His mind. Even though we pray without ceasing for another way for men to be saved, it simply will not happen. In fact, John tells us we ought not even pray for such things (cf. 1 John 5:16).

God told His own Son, "no," when He asked if there was a way for the cup to pass from Him (Matt. 26:36ff). If God were to suddenly change His will in this matter, Jesus died in vain!

Further, if God changed His mind and allowed people outside of Christ to be saved, all those who have suffered and sacrificed in the proclamation of the Gospel, did so in vain.

If God changed His mind about this the Bible could not be trusted. Take example, these words from the inspired pen of Paul:

*But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you **a gospel contrary to what we have preached** to you, he is to be accursed! (Galatians 1:8 Emphasis Mine)*

Paul himself said of Israel,

For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh. (Romans 9:3)

Paul realized there was no way, outside of Christ, for his kinsmen according to the flesh, to be saved. He knew this was something God could NOT do.

God Cannot Fellowship Sin

The Scriptures declare that God is Holy (Isa. 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15). Fellowshiping sin would cause Him to lose His Holiness. Long ago, the people of Judah were told:

*Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And **your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.** (Isaiah 59:1-2 Emphasis Mine)*

The sins of the people had brought about a separation between them and God. The same will take place on the Day of Judgment, when sinners will be told, "Depart from Me" (Matt. 7:23).

If God were no longer Holy, He could no longer be trusted. This would mean we could no longer rely on His word being truth. If God were not Holy, He could lie.

It is in the protection of His holiness, that God's must punish sinners. On the cross, we see the love of God working with His wrath, to punish sin, and make possible fellowship with mankind through the blood of Jesus Christ.

What an awesome God we serve. Even the things He cannot do are awesome, and a great benefit to us!