

## ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

LIFE ON PURPOSE: FULLY PERSUADED THAT ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD

God is 'unreasonably' good, a miracle working God. There is evidence of miracles all around; Biblical include axe heads, crows, donkeys, fish, weather, the lame, issue of blood, leprosy cured, water to wine, unbroken colt, the ability to walk through, Luke 4.

All things are possible – can you teach an old dog to do new tricks, yes; can a leopard change its spots? Can a man's heart change, yes (prodigals)? Most would like to think this and believe God could, but will He? Will He move, or are we the move?

Romans 4:18-21 NKJV: Abraham:

'who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."<sup>19</sup> And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.<sup>20</sup> He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,<sup>21</sup> and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.'

V19: he 'considered not' the facts. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18: 'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory,<sup>18</sup> while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Abraham was convinced, fully persuaded that God was able to perform what He promised. He had great confidence in God and placed no confidence in his flesh (what he could see, what apparently wasn't happening). Romans 8:31, 28.

Could there have been another outcome – que sera sera, whatever will be will be? Predestined? Predetermined?

Can we limit God? Absolutely. **Psalm 78:41:**

**'Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel. <sup>42</sup>They did not remember his power-'**

See Numbers 13.

Mark 6:4-6;

'But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house."<sup>5</sup> Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed *them*.<sup>6</sup> And He marvelled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching'

Matthew 13:58;

'And He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith...'

Could have been a completely different outcome. Abraham & Romans 4 give us some clues. Abraham was fully persuaded that God had the power to do what He promised; had great faith in God's Word/promises. He chose to believe in God, not facts, failures, feelings, false futures. Fear is believing, but in the devil. Abraham was totally unreasonable and persistent – this didn't come about without action on his and Sarah's part.

**Think of miracles that required action of faith – required simple obedience.**

Scripture is clear – we can limit God.

Scripture is clear – we can change.

How can we limit God?

1. In our **relationship**: Romans 1:21 'for although *they knew God*...'

From the passage in Mark – they saw Jesus how they grew up with Him; they had natural reasons and feelings to treat Him as a friend. John 21 – ‘do you love Me Peter?’ What counts is love mixed with faith; Eph 6 teaching us that there is grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. (Rev 2 – the Church in Ephesus did not adhere to their relationship with Christ, to their first love) ... ‘with’ God all things are possible. There is a passionate relationship required which results us approaching the throne of grace boldly. A passionate love that springs from a great understanding of the right standing we have in Christ Jesus.

From CS Lewis ‘Screwtape Letters’:

‘He says to his nephew: ‘humans rarely pray for the things God wants them to pray for. They simply want enough grace to see them through some moment or time of trouble. They conure up a vision of the future they want and then appeal for that outcome. They persist in wrapping their anxious hands around the steering wheel of life convincing themselves that this time it’s going to work! This time! If only I can clutch the wheel more tightly.’

God knows the plans and purposes He has for us. Joshua 1. Jeremiah 1. Neither age could be an excuse for God not being able to fulfil His plan and purposes. ‘With God’ – relationship; He would give Jeremiah (‘child’) what to say; ‘with God’ and Joshua’s vigour (at 85), the land would be his.

2. In our **prayers**:

- a. James 4:3 ... when you ask – ask with right motives
- b. James 5:16 ... the effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much – are we double-minded about our righteousness
- c. James 1:2-7 ... when we ask in faith, it must be without doubt; double-mindedness is unstable and can be tossed around

Ephesians 3:20: ‘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...’

3. In our **action/practice**: We must act on our belief.

Philippians 4:4-9: <sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—**put it into practice**. And the God of peace will be with you.’

Galatians 6:8-10: ‘Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> **Let us not become weary in doing good**, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.’ James 2:17 – faith not accompanied by action is dead.

Joshua 1 - “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Keep the Word; meditate on it; speak it; apply it. I can’t recall any miracle that didn’t require a physical movement and sometimes persistence for many years. All things are possible with God; in relationship, in prayer and in practice.